

# **BIRTHS**

**AUSTRALIA**

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 31 OCT 2001

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070, or Katrina Phelan on Canberra 02 6252 6573.

## NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication brings together statistics and indicators for births in Australia.

### DATA IN THIS PUBLICATION

This publication contains birth registration data for live births, except where otherwise stated.

The 2000 population data used in the calculation of the rates for 2000 is based on the revised estimated resident population at 30 June 2000.

In 2000, Tasmanian births and fertility rates were relatively low because of registration delays. Although there is usually a delay between the occurrence and registration of a birth, for Tasmania a higher than usual number of December 2000 births were not registered until January 2001 and therefore not registered in 2000.

### ROUNDING

In commentary based on the statistics in this publication, it is recommended that 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. These data have had small values randomised to protect confidentiality. No reliance should be placed on statistics with small values.



### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASFR	Age-specific fertility rate
ERP	Estimated resident population
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not published
MCEB	Mean number of children ever born
NCHS	National Centre for Health Statistics
NPSU	National Perinatal Statistics Unit
p	preliminary
SACC	Standard Australian classification of countries
SD	Statistical Division
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas
SLA	Statistical Local Area
TFR	Total fertility rate
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 3)

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

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## CHAPTER 1

## MAIN FEATURES .....

### BIRTHS INCREASE

- There were 249,600 births registered in Australia during 2000, an increase of 0.3% compared to 1999 and the first increase since 1992 (see page 11).

### FERTILITY STABILISES

- While the increase in the number of births registered in 2000 was enough to hold the decline in fertility, it was not enough to increase it. In 2000, Australia's fertility rate was 1.75 babies per woman, at the same level as in 1999 (see page 8).
- Australia's fertility is higher than that of Canada (1.6 babies per woman), Japan (1.3) and many European countries (for example, Italy and Greece, each 1.2) and lower than New Zealand (2.0) and the United States of America (1.9) (see page 15).
- In 2000 women aged 30–34 years continued to experience the highest rate of fertility, at 110.5 babies per 1,000 women, followed by women aged 25–29 years (107.0) (see page 9).
- The fertility levels of women appear to be inversely related to their attachment to the labour force, educational attainment and income, with this relationship strongest among younger women (see Special Article, Fertility Differentials on page 27).

### REGIONAL FERTILITY

- The total fertility rate in 2000 varied substantially across the States and Territories from 1.61 births per woman in the Australian Capital Territory to 2.22 for the Northern Territory (see page 10).
- Over the past twenty years the total fertility rate for each State and Territory has declined, with the largest falls evident in the Australian Capital Territory (–19%), Victoria (–12%) and Tasmania (–9%) (see page 10).
- Of all the capital cities Melbourne had the lowest fertility (1.56 babies per woman) (averaged over 1998, 1999 and 2000), followed by Canberra and Adelaide (each 1.61). Darwin had the highest (1.94) (see page 49).
- Generally the State balances had higher fertility than the capital cities. Moreton SD (1.67) had the lowest fertility of all State balance SDs while South West SD in Queensland had the highest (2.56) (see page 49).

### CHILDLESSNESS

- If current rates continue, 24% of Australian women would remain childless at the end of their reproductive life. On these rates it is estimated that 33% of women in the Australian Capital Territory and 31% of Victorian women (see page 39) may remain childless.

## AGE OF PARENTS OF NEWBORNS

- The median age of mothers (that is where half of the mothers were younger and half were older) in 2000 was 29.8 years, compared to 26.6 years in 1980. The median age of known fathers (fathers whose details are given on the birth registration form) was 32.2 years (see page 12).
- Women who had an exnuptial birth in 2000 were approximately five years younger (26.2 years) than women who had a nuptial birth (see page 12).
- The oldest mothers giving birth in 2000 were in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, followed by South Australia. The median age of mothers from Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory were 30.5 years and 30.3 years, respectively. Mothers in the Northern Territory (27.8 years) and Tasmania (28.7 years) had the lowest median age (see page 11).
- The proportion of fathers aged 40 years and over has grown substantially over time, from 5% of known fathers in 1980 to 11% in 2000. Some fathers may have delayed parenthood while some could be starting their second family with a different partner (see Special Article, Older Fathers on page 23).

## INDIGENOUS

- As in previous years, Indigenous women had higher levels of fertility (2.2 babies per woman) than all women (1.7) (see page 18).
- Indigenous women in the Northern Territory had the highest fertility rate of any State or Territory, at 2.8 babies per woman on current rates. For all women in the Northern Territory the rate was 2.2 (see page 19).
- Indigenous mothers tend to be younger than all mothers. In 2000, the median age of Indigenous mothers was 24.5 years, compared to 29.8 years for all women (see page 21).
- In 2000, for two-fifths (42%) of the total Indigenous births only the mother was Indigenous, for 33% both parents were Indigenous, and for 26% only the father was Indigenous (see page 21).
- Indigenous babies are generally smaller than all babies. The average birthweight of babies of Indigenous mothers in 1998 was 3,169g, some 194g lower than the average for all babies (3,363g) (see page 22).
- A higher proportion (12%) of babies of Indigenous mothers were of low birth weight (less than 2,500g), compared to all births (7%) (see page 22).

## MULTIPLE BIRTHS

- The number of confinements resulting in multiple births continued its upward trend. In 2000, 3,900 mothers had a multiple birth, compared to 2,200 in 1980 and 3,200 in 1990. This trend is even more pronounced among older women (see Special Article, Confinements Resulting in a Multiple Birth on page 35).

## COUNTRY OF BIRTH

- Australia-born women who registered a birth in the three years 1998 to 2000 had higher fertility (1.75 babies per woman) than overseas born women (1.74). Women born in Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt had the highest fertility, while women born in Hong Kong, Poland and Malaysia had the lowest (see page 51).

INTRODUCTION

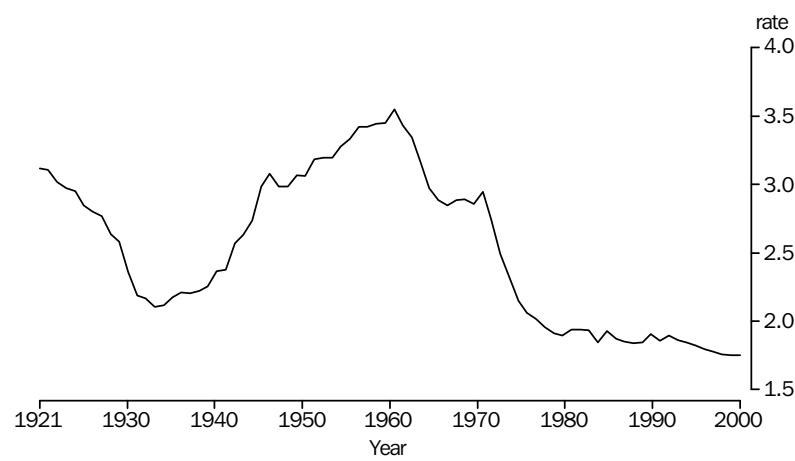
During 2000, 249,600 births were registered in Australia from 245,700 mothers (confinements), 7,800 of the births were multiple births (from 3,900 mothers). Of all births, 73,000 (29%) were exnuptial which include 8,600 (3%) exnuptial where the paternity of the child was not acknowledged. The number of births registered during 2000 was 770 more (0.3%) than the number registered during 1999 (248,900).

TRENDS IN FERTILITY

The total fertility rate (TFR), that is the average number of babies that a woman could expect to give birth to in her reproductive life, for 2000 was 1.75 babies per woman. This rate remained similar to the rate in 1999 but was much lower than the rates in 1990 (1.91) and 1980 (1.90).

From a peak of 3.1 during the early 1920s, the TFR troughed during the 1930s to 2.1 before gradually rising to peak at 3.5 babies per woman in 1961. Another smaller peak occurred in the early 1970s at 2.9. The reinterpretation of abortion law in New South Wales in late 1971, in a ruling by Justice Levine in the case of *R v Wall et al.*, had a substantial impact on women's ability to control their fertility, and contributed to a fall in births to young women contributing to a decrease in the total fertility rate and an increase in the median age of mothers (Carmichael, 1998). After this, fertility continued to fall as more women chose to delay or not to have children. Since the late 1970s, the TFR has fluctuated around 1.8 to 1.9 babies per woman, but the 1990s have seen a steady small decline.

**2.1 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES**





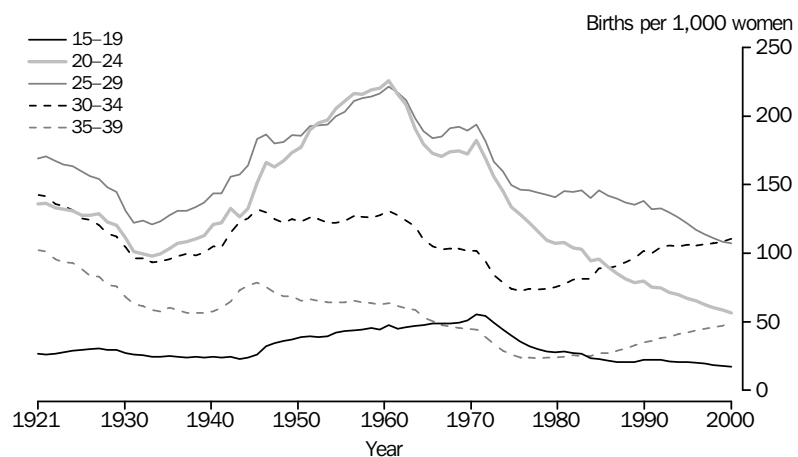
### Age-specific fertility

After overtaking 25–29 year olds in 1999, women in the 30–34 years age group continued to experience the highest fertility rate of 110.5 babies per 1,000 women in 2000. Women aged 25–29 years had the second highest fertility, at 107.0 babies per 1,000 women followed by women aged 20–24 years (at 56.5) and women aged 35–39 years (at 49.1).

Between 1921 and 1976, there have been varying levels of fertility at each age group, with each age group peaking and troughing together, although the peaks in some age groups were not as pronounced as in others. During the 1930s all age groups experienced low levels of fertility which gradually increased through to the early 1960s. By 1984 the level of fertility of women aged 35–39 years had increased to become higher than that of the 15–19 year olds, as it previously had been up until 1967. In 1987, 30–34 year old women had experienced a higher fertility rate than 20–24 year old women for the first time since the early 1970s.

The main decline in the fertility rate over the period 1980–2000 (by –8%) occurred among younger women. Between 1980 and 2000, fertility of women aged 20–24 years and 25–29 years declined by –47% and –24% respectively. In contrast, fertility rose for women aged 30–34 years (47%) and 35–39 years (107%). The age-specific fertility of women aged 40 years and over also increased during the period, as the trend towards older motherhood continued.

### 2.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES, Selected ages



## Replacement fertility

Since 1976, Australia has had below replacement level fertility. That is, the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her reproductive life (the total fertility rate) has been insufficient to replace herself and her partner. Although the total fertility rate 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, the replacement level would still be 2.05 (1.05 male and 1.0 female babies) — considerably higher than the 2000 total fertility rate of 1.75 babies per woman.

## STATE AND TERRITORY

### Fertility

The total fertility rate in 2000 varied substantially across the States and Territories, from 1.61 births per women in the Australian Capital Territory to 2.22 for the Northern Territory. In 2000, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory all experienced fertility rates higher than the national level (1.75) while Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory were all below the national level.

The low fertility in the Australian Capital Territory (1.61) and Victoria (1.63) in 2000 is related to their low first birth fertility of 0.67 and 0.69 babies per woman respectively (0.76 for Australia), and higher mean age of mothers at the birth of their children (30.3 years each in the ACT and Victoria, 29.6 years for Australia). These low first birth order fertility rates, if continued into the future, would yield 33% childlessness among women of reproductive ages in the Australian Capital Territory and 31% in Victoria, compared to 24% for Australia.

In 2000, Tasmanian births and fertility rates were relatively low because of registration delays. Although there is usually a delay between the occurrence and registration of a birth, for Tasmania a higher than usual number of December 2000 births were not registered until January 2001 and therefore not registered in 2000.

Over the past twenty years the total fertility rate for each State and Territory has declined with the Australian Capital Territory showing the largest decline of –19%, followed by Victoria (–12%) and Tasmania (–9%).

### Fertility and age

The States and Territories recorded varying levels of fertility at each age group, particularly in the younger ages. During 2000, all States and Territories, except the Northern Territory, experienced low levels of fertility in the age groups under 30 years, with Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory showing the lowest. In contrast, the Northern Territory experienced the highest levels of fertility in these age groups. The age-specific fertility rate for women aged 15–19 years in the Northern Territory (69.6 births per 1,000 women) was over six times higher than that of women in Victoria (10.8).

### Median age of parents at confinement

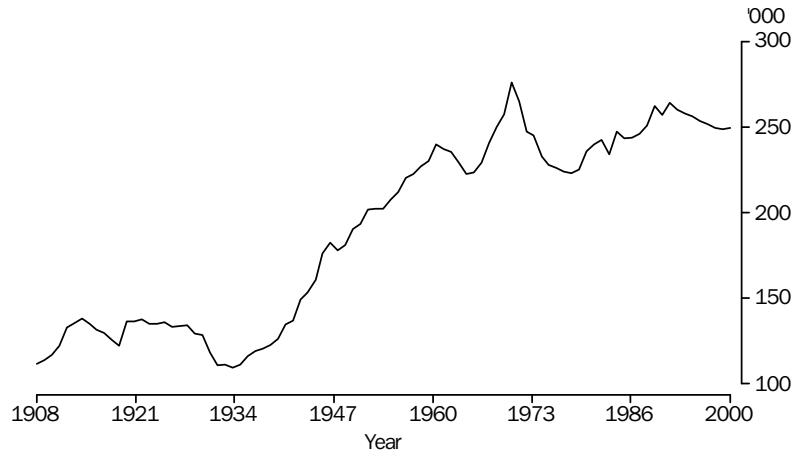
Across the States and Territories, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory had the oldest mothers giving birth, followed by mothers in South Australia, while the Northern Territory and Tasmania had the youngest mothers. The median age of mothers from Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory were 30.5 years and 30.3 years respectively, compared to 29.8 years for Australia. Mothers from the Northern Territory (27.8 years) and Tasmania (28.7 years) had the lowest median age.

While the Northern Territory had the youngest mothers giving birth in 2000, the Territory also had the second youngest fathers (31.4 years), Tasmania had the youngest fathers (31.0 years). Victoria had oldest fathers (32.7 years), though only marginally older than other States and Territories.

## BIRTHS

For most of the first half of this century, the number of registered births in Australia remained under 140,000, troughing in the early 1930s during the Great Depression. Since then the number of registered births in Australia has grown to reach a peak in 1971 (276,400), then fluctuated for the next two decades before reaching the next peak in 1992 (264,200). The number of births registered each year had been declining since 1992 until 2000 when there was an increase of 770 births on the previous year. This rise in the number of births is due to the increasing number of women moving into the childbearing age groups.

### 2.3 REGISTERED BIRTHS



There were 249,600 births registered in Australia during 2000. The three most populous States accounting for over three-quarters of births registered are: New South Wales (86,800 births or 35% of all births), Victoria (59,200 births or 24% of all births) and Queensland (47,300 births or 19% of all births). These proportions reflect the distribution of the female population in the reproductive ages in these States, 33% of women aged 15–49 years lived in New South Wales, 25% in Victoria and 19% in Queensland in 2000.

Just over half (51%) of all births registered during 2000 were male babies. Every State and Territory recorded slightly more male than female babies born in the year.

## NUPTIAL AND EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS

In 2000 almost three-quarters (71%) of the mothers who registered a birth were married. (Marriage in this publication refers to a registered marriage unless otherwise indicated). Many of the remaining 29% of mothers may have been in de facto marriages. The proportion of exnuptial births has been increasing since the 1950s, with a sharp increase over the last two decades.

## Paternity-acknowledgment

With exnuptial births comes the possibility that the father may not acknowledge the birth (that is, the father has not signed the birth certificate). However, the increase in exnuptial births has been associated with an increase in paternity-acknowledged births. Paternity-not-acknowledged births have fallen from 5% of all births in 1980 to 3% in 2000.

## Age of parents at confinement

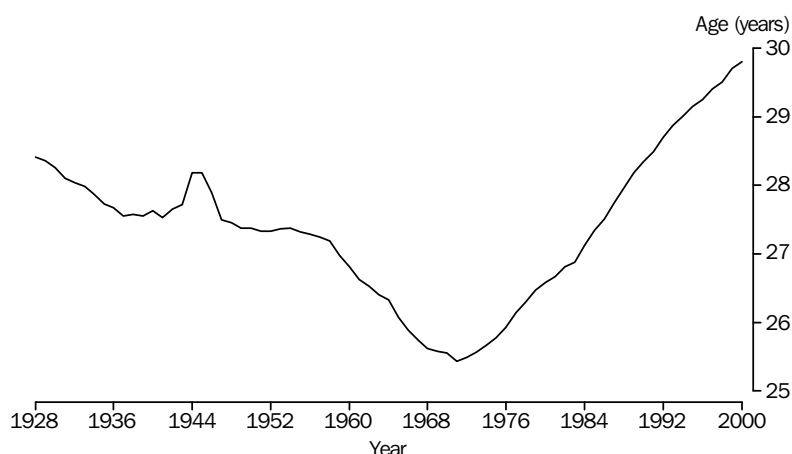
During 2000, the median age of mothers was 29.8 years and the median age of known fathers was 32.2 years. Women who registered an exnuptial birth in 2000 were approximately five years younger (26.2 years) than women who registered a nuptial birth (30.8 years). Meanwhile, the median age of mothers registering the first child of the current marriage was 29.5 years. In 2000, the median age of those women who gave birth outside of a registered marriage, where paternity was not acknowledged (24.5 years), was younger than those where paternity was acknowledged (26.4 years).

## Median age of parents this century

Prior to the 1930s the median age of mothers giving birth had been in decline before plateauing during the 1930s and then rising during the Second World War, after which it fell substantially. The lowest median age of mothers was reached in 1971 (25.4 years). 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. Since then the median age of mothers has been increasing each year, reaching the highest level so far in 2000 (29.8 years).

As the age-specific fertility rates indicate, young women deciding not to have children or delaying having children, together with the effect of second marriages and second families at later ages, affect the median age of mothers.

## 2.4 MEDIAN AGE OF MOTHERS



### Median age of parents this century *continued*

The median age of all fathers in 2000 was 32.2 years, continuing an upward trend that has been evident over the past two decades. Between 1980 and 2000, the median age of married fathers increased by 2.7 years from 29.6 years to 33.1 years. The median age of unmarried fathers who acknowledged the birth of their child also increased, from 26.0 years in 1980 to 28.9 years in 2000.

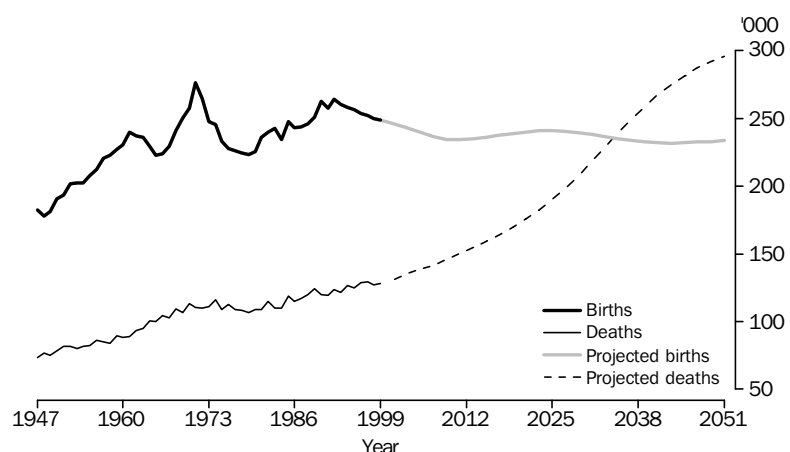
### CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN A MULTIPLE BIRTH

During 2000, the number of confinements resulting in a multiple birth continued its upward trend in Australia (3,900). There were 73% more confinements resulting in a multiple birth than in 1980, 23% more than in 1990 and 4% more than in 1999. For more information see the special article on page 35.

### BIRTHS AS A COMPONENT OF POPULATION GROWTH

Births form an important component of population growth. Each year, about a quarter of a million births occur. This is roughly twice the number of deaths, resulting in the natural increase of around 120,000 to 140,000 persons each year. From 1976, Australia has had below replacement level fertility, that is, the number of births required to replace a woman and her partner (currently 2.1). On current fertility rates, on average, women can expect to have 1.75 babies each throughout their life time, well below the 2.1 needed to replace her generation. Despite this, natural increase is still positive because of the relatively young age structure of the population. While women are not having very many babies each, there are enough women in child-bearing ages to keep the total number of births relatively high. Conversely, there are relatively few people in the older ages where death rates are high, which results in Australia having a relatively low number of deaths per year. As the population ages, the gap between the number of births and deaths will decrease, and assuming a TFR of 1.6 and net overseas migration of 90,000 persons annually, natural increase is projected to fall below zero around the 2030s.

### 2.5 ACTUAL AND PROJECTED(a) BIRTHS AND DEATHS



While net overseas migration makes a significant contribution to population growth, natural increase has been the larger contributor in every year since 1950 except 1987, 1988 and 1989.

## 2.6 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

<i>Period(b)</i>	<i>Live births(a)</i>	<i>Deaths(a)</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>	<i>Net overseas migration</i>	<i>Population at end of period</i>	<i>Population increase</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000(c)	%
1980	225.5	108.7	116.8	100.9	14 807.4	204.9	1.4
1981	235.8	109.0	126.8	123.1	15 054.1	246.7	1.7
1982	239.9	114.8	125.1	102.7	15 288.9	234.8	1.6
1983	242.6	110.1	132.5	55.0	15 483.5	194.6	1.3
1984	238.5	111.9	126.6	59.8	15 677.3	193.8	1.3
1985	242.9	116.8	126.1	89.3	15 900.6	223.3	1.4
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	18 423.6	227.6	1.3
1997	251.1	128.8	122.3	72.4	18 618.3	194.7	1.1
1998	248.3	127.4	120.8	103.1	18 842.2	223.9	1.2
1999r	250.2	128.2	122.0	88.4	19 052.6	210.3	1.1
2000p	250.2	130.0	120.1	104.5	19 277.2	224.6	1.2

(a) Births and deaths are as recorded for population estimation purposes.

(b) Calendar years.

(c) Total growth will not necessarily equate to the difference between the population in consecutive periods. This difference is known as intercensal discrepancy. See Glossary for more information.

## INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY

According to the United Nations, the world average TFR for 2000–2005 stands at 2.6 babies per woman, declining from the relatively constant five births per woman that existed until the late 1960s and early 1970s. However, TFRs for individual countries vary remarkably. 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 usually have lower fertility rates.

Australia's TFR for 2000, of 1.75 babies per woman, is one of the lowest in the world and well below the world's average, although compared to other developed countries, Australia's TFR is among the middle ranked nations. According to the United Nations projected average TFR for 2000–2005, the lowest fertility in developed countries are for European countries such as Spain with an estimated fertility rate of 1.1, Italy (1.2), Germany (1.3) and Hong Kong (1.2). The Middle Eastern and African countries have the highest fertility rates with Niger (8.0), Yemen (7.6) and Somalia (7.3) some of the highest.

## 2.7 INTERNATIONAL TOTAL FERTILITY RATES, Selected years

	1950-55	1955-60	1960-65	1965-70	1970-75	1975-80	1980-85	1985-90	1990-95	1995-2000	2000-2005
Australia	3.2	3.4	3.3	2.9	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8
Canada	3.7	3.9	3.6	2.5	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.6
China	6.2	5.4	5.9	6.0	4.8	2.9	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.8
France	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
Greece	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2
Hong Kong	4.4	4.7	5.3	4.0	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
India	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.4	4.8	4.5	4.1	3.4	3.1	3.0
Indonesia	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.6	5.1	4.7	4.1	3.5	2.9	2.6	2.3
Italy	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Japan	2.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3
Korea, Republic of	5.4	6.3	5.6	4.7	4.3	2.9	2.5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5
Malaysia	6.8	6.9	6.7	5.9	5.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.6	3.2	2.9
New Zealand	3.5	4.0	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
Papua New Guinea	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.4	5.2	5.1	4.6	4.3
Singapore	6.4	6.0	4.9	3.5	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.5
Sweden	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.3
United Kingdom	2.2	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6
United States of America	3.5	3.7	3.3	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.9
Viet Nam	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.6	4.7	4.2	3.4	2.6	2.3
World(a)	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.6

(a) The projected 2000–2005 total fertility rate for the world uses the medium variant.

Source: United Nations, World Population 1998 Fact Sheet. Population Division, United Nations Secretariat, United Nations, World Population Prospects, 1998 (world total fertility rate) and 2000 Revisions.

### INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

In 2000, on current rates, it is estimated that Indigenous women will have at least 2.2 babies each, compared to 1.7 babies for all women. The total fertility rate for Indigenous women is derived using the number of births registered to Indigenous mothers in 2000 and the 2000 population from the 1996 Census-based population projections (low series). It was estimated that the coverage of Indigenous births had increased from 90% in 1999 to 92% in 2000. Indigenous women in the Northern Territory had the highest fertility rate of any State or Territory, at 2.8 babies per woman on average in 2000. For all women in the Northern Territory the total fertility rate was 2.2. For further information see Chapter 3, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births.

## 2.8 SUMMARY

	1980	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
FERTILITY							
Age-specific fertility rate							
15–19	27.6	22.1	20.1	19.5	18.5	18.1	17.4
20–24	107.0	79.4	65.2	62.4	60.2	58.7	56.5
25–29	141.0	137.9	117.1	113.9	111.4	108.5	107.0
30–34	75.1	101.7	105.7	106.7	107.4	108.8	110.5
35–39	23.7	34.7	43.7	45.0	45.7	47.1	49.1
40–44	4.4	5.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	8.5	8.8
45–49	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Total fertility rate	1.896	1.908	1.797	1.776	1.758	1.751	1.749
Net reproduction rate	0.901	0.908	0.861	0.854	0.842	0.842	0.838
BIRTHS							
Total births	225 527	262 648	253 834	251 842	249 616	248 870	249 636
Males	115 948	135 194	130 572	129 179	128 016	127 357	128 190
Females	109 579	127 454	123 262	122 663	121 600	121 513	121 446
Sex ratio	105.8	106.1	105.9	105.3	105.3	104.8	105.6
Nuptial births (%)	87.6	78.1	72.6	71.9	71.3	70.8	70.8
Exnuptial births (%)	12.4	21.9	27.4	28.1	28.7	29.2	29.2
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.5
Crude birth rate	15.3	15.4	13.9	13.6	13.3	13.1	13.0
CONFINEMENTS							
Total confinements	223 318	259 435	250 363	248 246	245 898	245 108	245 697
Nuptial	195 492	202 585	181 549	178 279	175 162	173 263	173 571
First nuptial	78 680	84 228	73 873	73 356	72 276	72 828	74 648
Exnuptial	27 826	56 850	68 814	69 967	70 736	71 845	72 126
Paternity-acknowledged	16 020	43 825	57 911	59 793	61 616	63 402	63 634
Median age of mother (years)							
All confinements	26.6	28.3	29.2	29.4	29.5	29.7	29.8
Nuptial	27.0	29.0	30.2	30.4	30.5	30.6	30.8
First nuptial	25.2	27.6	28.7	29.0	29.1	29.3	29.5
Exnuptial	21.9	24.0	25.1	25.4	25.7	25.9	26.2
Paternity-acknowledged	22.8	24.5	25.3	25.6	25.9	26.1	26.4
Median age of father (years)							
All fathers, where age is known	29.4	30.9	31.9	32.0	32.0	32.1	32.2
Nuptial	29.6	31.4	32.7	32.8	32.9	33.0	33.1
Paternity-acknowledged	26.0	27.3	27.9	28.1	28.4	28.5	28.9
Median duration of marriage (years)							
Nuptial	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5
First nuptial	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
Previous confinements of current relationship							
0	106 398	84 228	113 372	114 296	114 550	116 649	119 069
1	66 308	68 301	78 235	77 540	76 952	76 137	75 266
2	34 190	34 026	33 027	31 945	31 271	30 661	29 554
3	11 090	11 179	10 150	9 783	9 538	8 949	9 056
4	3 209	3 089	2 918	2 749	2 734	2 595	2 564
5 and over	2 066	1 761	1 758	1 759	1 733	1 674	1 696
Average number of confinements of the current relationship	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8



## 2.9 STATE AND TERRITORY SUMMARY

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
FERTILITY									
Age-specific fertility rate									
15–19	16.7	10.8	22.7	15.2	20.9	25.7	69.6	10.9	17.4
20–24	59.5	41.4	66.3	54.0	61.6	80.5	98.6	38.5	56.5
25–29	110.2	98.3	112.9	104.8	108.3	113.3	111.3	100.4	107.0
30–34	113.6	113.1	103.9	110.7	109.8	95.9	99.4	111.5	110.5
35–39	51.7	52.2	43.5	48.2	46.5	36.3	49.7	53.0	49.1
40–44	9.7	8.8	7.3	9.2	8.1	6.5	13.7	8.2	8.8
45–49	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.4
Total fertility rate	1.809	1.625	1.784	1.713	1.777	1.792	2.216	1.614	1.749
Net reproduction rate	0.864	0.780	0.854	0.825	0.861	0.843	1.063	0.781	0.838
BIRTHS									
Total births	86 752	59 171	47 278	17 859	25 093	5 692	3 685	4 065	249 636
Males	44 705	30 326	24 291	9 164	12 763	2 985	1 862	2 074	128 190
Females	42 047	28 845	22 987	8 695	12 330	2 707	1 823	1 991	121 446
Sex ratio	106.3	105.1	105.7	105.4	103.5	110.3	102.1	104.2	105.6
Indigenous births	2 991	452	3 172	632	1 721	336	1 530	57	10 895
Estimated coverage 1996 Census-based (%)	86	67	93	97	106	72	106	57	92
Nuptial births (%)	73.5	76.2	66.1	67.4	66.0	59.6	39.3	74.5	70.8
Exnuptial births (%)	26.5	23.8	33.9	32.6	34.0	40.4	60.7	25.5	29.2
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	3.3	1.7	4.4	3.3	3.3	4.4	22.7	3.4	3.5
Crude birth rate	13.4	12.4	13.3	11.9	13.3	12.1	18.9	13.1	13.0
CONFINEMENTS									
Total confinements	85 348	58 226	46 540	17 589	24 694	5 605	3 642	4 012	245 697
Nuptial	62 676	44 338	30 682	11 843	16 251	3 334	1 427	2 988	173 571
First nuptial	27 059	19 457	12 737	5 095	6 884	1 523	610	1 274	74 648
Exnuptial	22 672	13 888	15 858	5 746	8 443	2 271	2 215	1 024	72 126
Paternity-acknowledged	19 825	12 905	13 795	5 167	7 631	2 027	1 385	891	63 634
Median age of mother (years)									
All confinements	29.8	30.5	29.1	30.1	29.6	28.7	27.8	30.3	29.8
Nuptial	30.6	31.1	30.3	31.1	30.7	30.2	30.8	30.8	30.8
First nuptial	29.4	29.9	29.1	29.9	29.6	29.1	29.5	29.6	29.5
Exnuptial	26.3	27.5	25.3	26.6	25.6	24.6	24.9	27.4	26.2
Paternity-acknowledged	26.5	27.5	25.5	26.7	25.9	24.8	25.9	27.0	26.4
Median age of father (years)									
All fathers, where age is known	32.4	32.7	31.4	32.4	31.9	31.0	31.4	32.3	32.2
Nuptial	33.2	33.3	32.5	33.3	33.1	32.4	33.3	33.0	33.1
First nuptial	31.7	31.8	31.1	32.0	31.8	30.8	31.8	31.4	31.6
Exnuptial paternity-acknowledged	29.0	29.7	28.1	29.3	28.4	27.9	28.6	29.1	28.9
Median duration of marriage (years)									
Nuptial	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.4	3.9	4.4	4.5
First nuptial	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.5	2.5
Previous confinements of current relationship									
0	40 687	28 474	22 412	8 602	12 021	3 544	1 423	1 893	119 069
1	26 619	18 533	13 749	5 499	7 533	1 152	859	1 310	75 266
2	10 352	7 312	5 509	2 070	2 985	460	352	504	29 554
3	3 302	2 031	1 880	583	890	131	118	118	9 056
4	943	517	568	154	269	44	37	30	2 564
5 and over	598	376	359	102	184	30	23	24	1 696
Average number of confinements of the current relationship	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8

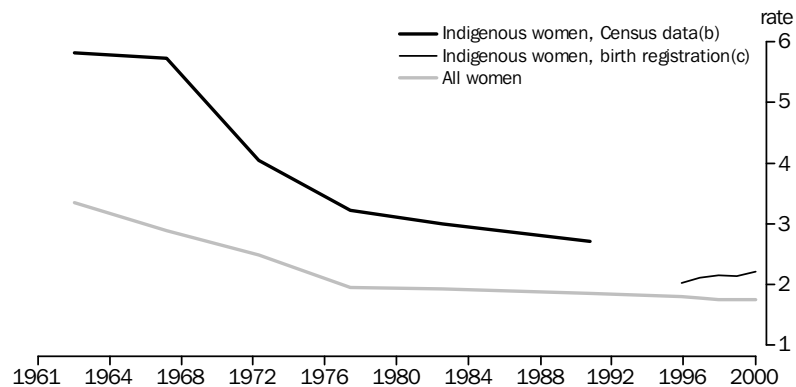
In birth registrations, a birth is classified as Indigenous (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander birth) where at least one of the parents is of Indigenous origin. Indigenous fertility, on the other hand, only refers to births of Indigenous mothers. This chapter analyses the number and characteristics of Indigenous births and fertility in each State and Territory where the number of births registered is regarded as being reasonable. Data for the Australian Capital Territory is not presented separately because of small numbers and poor coverage.

The estimated coverage of Indigenous birth registrations in 2000, based on the 1996 Census, was 92% for Australia. The coverage for the States and Territories ranged from 57% in the Australian Capital Territory to 106% each in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. (See Chapter 11, table 11.9).

**TRENDS IN INDIGENOUS FERTILITY**

In the 1960s, the fertility of Indigenous women, (5.8 babies per woman) was nearly twice the rate of that for all women in Australia (3.5 babies). Since then, fertility levels of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women have declined substantially, with the largest decreases recorded during the 1970s. While the fertility of non-Indigenous women began a decline in the 1960s which continues today, the fertility levels of Indigenous women remained relatively stable during the 1960s only to be followed by a sharp decline during the 1970s. It is estimated that in the fifteen years to 1996, the fertility of Indigenous women declined and after troughing at 2.0 babies per woman in 1996, increased slightly. In 2000, Indigenous fertility is estimated at 2.2 babies per woman, compared to 1.75 babies for all women.

Due to the poor quality of historical birth registration data, the fertility rates of Indigenous women up to 1996 were derived using data collected in the censuses. From 1996 onwards, birth registration data has been used.

**3.1 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a)**

Source: A. Gray, *The Explosion of Aboriginality: Components of Indigenous Population Growth 1991–96*, CAEPR, Discussion Paper no. 142/1997, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Canberra, 1997; *Australian Demographic Trends, 1997* (Cat. no. 3102.0); *Births, Australia, 2000* (Cat. no. 3301.0).

(a) Births per woman.

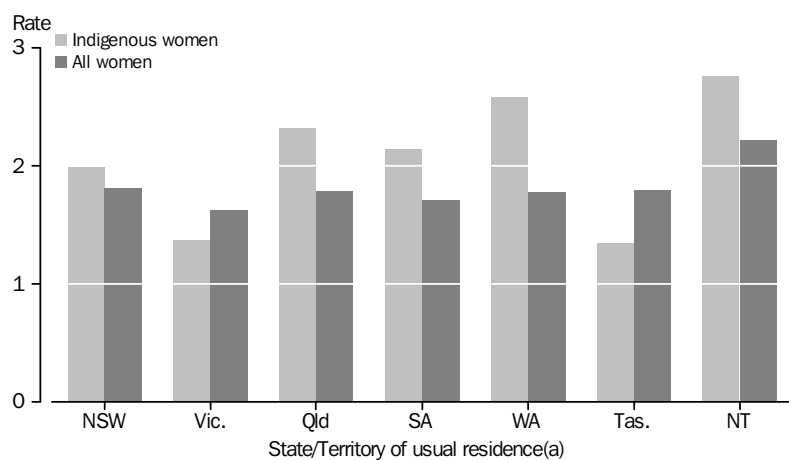
(b) Five-year total fertility rates (from 1961–66 to 1981–86) and ten-year total fertility rate (1986–96), published by A. Gray using Census data, plotted against the mid-point.

(c) Annual total fertility rates calculated from birth registrations and 1996 Census-based projected population for each year (low series).

**STATE VARIATIONS IN FERTILITY**

The total fertility rate for Indigenous women is derived using the number of births registered to Indigenous mothers in 2000 and the 2000 population from the 1996 Census-based population projections (low series).

The Indigenous total fertility rate varies across the States and Territories. The highest fertility in 2000 occurred in the Northern Territory (2.8 babies per woman), followed by Western Australia (2.6), Queensland (2.3), South Australia (2.1) and New South Wales (2.0). Fertility rates in Victoria (1.4) and Tasmania (1.3) are unrealistically low reflecting poor coverage of Indigenous births (see table 11.9).

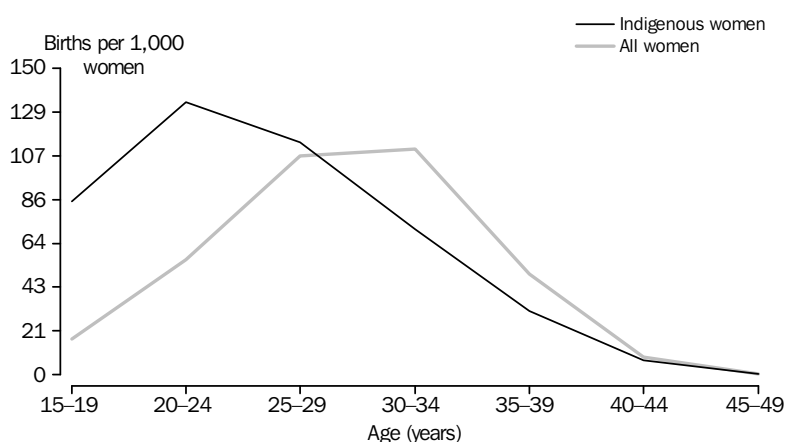
**3.2 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE, Indigenous women and all women**

(a) Data for the Australian Capital Territory is not publishable.

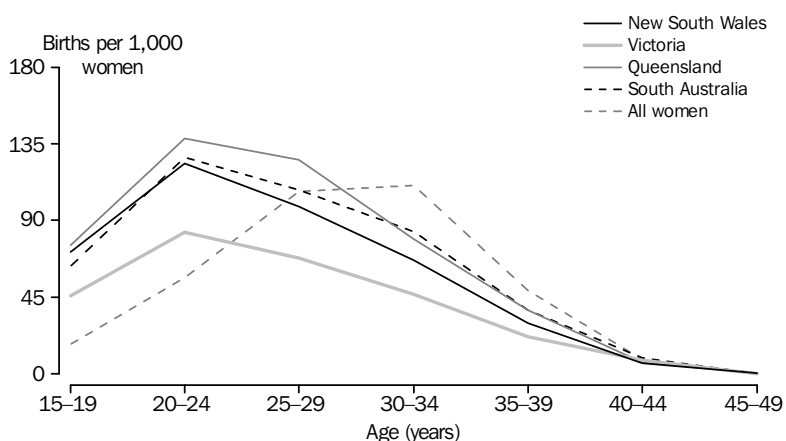
## Age-specific fertility

The very high rates of fertility at younger ages influence the relatively high fertility of Indigenous women. In 2000, three-quarters of the total fertility of Indigenous women was accounted for by women under 30 years of age, compared to just over half of the fertility for all women.

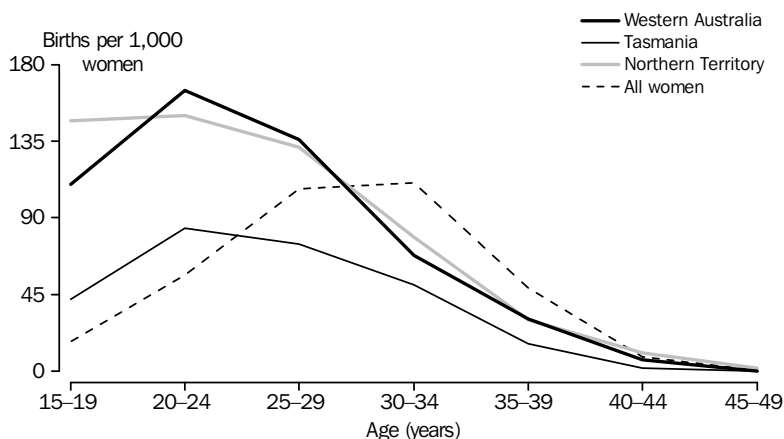
For Indigenous women, those in the 20–24 years age group (133 births per 1,000 women), experienced the highest fertility, followed by those aged 25–29 years (114 births). In comparison, for all women, those aged 30–34 years (111 births) experienced the highest fertility, followed by those aged 25–29 years (107 births). The fertility of Indigenous women aged 20–24 years was more than twice the fertility of all women (57 births) in this age group.

**3.3 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES, Indigenous women and all women**

Overall, the fertility of Indigenous teenage women (85 births per 1,000 women) was five times that of all teenage women (17 births). Those living in the Northern Territory (147 births) and Western Australia (110 births) experienced the highest fertility in 2000, with rates two and five times that of all teenage women in their respective State or Territory (70 and 21 births, respectively).

**3.4 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES, Indigenous mothers—Selected States/Territories**

## 3.5 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES, Indigenous mothers—Selected States/Territories



## INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

There were 10,900 births registered in Australia during 2000 where at least one parent was of Indigenous origin. Overall, Indigenous births registered in 2000 accounted for 4% of total births. Queensland, the second most populous State in terms of Indigenous population after New South Wales, had the largest number of Indigenous births in 2000 (3,200) followed by New South Wales (3,000), Western Australia (1,700) and the Northern Territory (1,500). Indigenous births have been the highest in Queensland since 1996, except in 1999 when births in New South Wales outnumbered those in Queensland. This may be associated with a decline in estimated coverage of Indigenous births in Queensland in 1999, down to 89% from 93% in 1998.

## Median age of mother

Indigenous women give birth at younger ages than all women. In 2000, the median age of Indigenous mothers was 24.5 years, compared to 29.8 years for all women. Indigenous mothers living in the Northern Territory had the lowest median age at 23.4 years. Fathers of Indigenous births also tend to be younger (median age of 27.6 years in 2000) for Australia as a whole, than fathers of all births for Australia (32.2 years). The youngest fathers of Indigenous births were in Western Australia (27.0 years).

## Indigenous status of parents

For two-fifths of the total Indigenous births (42%) only the mother was Indigenous (including births where paternity was not acknowledged and those where the father's Indigenous status was unknown), for 33% both parents were Indigenous, and for 26% only the father was Indigenous (including births where the mother's Indigenous status was not stated). Western Australia (53%) and the Northern Territory (38%) had the highest proportions of Indigenous births where both parents were Indigenous. The Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of births (7%) where only the father was Indigenous.

### Nuptiality

Indigenous births are predominantly exnuptial. In 2000, eight out of every ten Indigenous births registered in Australia were exnuptial (81%), compared to 29% for all births. At the State and Territory level the highest proportions of exnuptial Indigenous births occurred in the Northern Territory (95%) followed by Western Australia (87%). Australia wide, paternity-acknowledged exnuptial births accounted for almost two-thirds (65%) of all Indigenous births while one-sixth of all Indigenous births (16%) were paternity-not-acknowledged. In the Northern Territory, nearly half of Indigenous births (47%) were paternity-not-acknowledged exnuptial births.

### BIRTH WEIGHT

Birth weight is a useful indicator of the 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 Statistics Collection (AIHW, 2000), the average birth weight of babies of Indigenous mothers in 1998 was 3,169g, 194g lower than the average for all babies (3,363g). The average birth weight varied across the States and Territories, ranging from 3,045g in the Australian Capital Territory to 3,315g in Tasmania. A higher proportion (12%) of babies of Indigenous mothers were of low birth weight (less than 2,500g), compared to all births (7%).

### INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FERTILITY

In 1997, the total fertility rate of Australian Indigenous mothers (2.1) was marginally above that of the American Indians (2.0), but lower than that of the New Zealand Maori women (2.7). New Zealand Maori women had higher fertility in all age groups than Australian Indigenous women and American Indian women, except for teenage fertility. Australian Indigenous teenage fertility was marginally higher at 85.6 births per 1,000 women compared to that of New Zealand Maori women (82.6). New Zealand Maori women's fertility was much higher in the 20–24 year age groups, it was 18% higher than Australian Indigenous women and 16% higher than the American Indians.

#### 3.6 INDIGENOUS FERTILITY RATES, 1997—Selected countries

	American Indian women	New Zealand Maori women	Australian Indigenous women
Age specific-fertility rates (per 1,000 women)			
15–19 years	71.8	82.6	85.6
20–24 years	134.9	155.9	132.4
25–29 years	100.8	139.4	109.5
30–34 years	64.2	96.6	62.4
35–39 years	29.3	47.5	27.1
40–44 years	6.4	11.2	5.3
45 years and over	0.4	0.6	0.2
Total fertility rate (per woman)	2.039	2.676	2.113

Source: United States National Centre for Health Statistics for American Indian data. Statistics New Zealand for New Zealand Maori data.

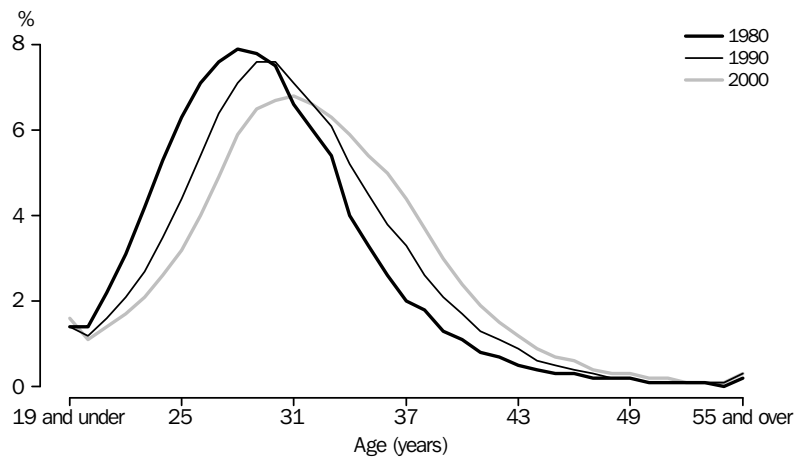
INTRODUCTION

Over the past twenty years, the median age of known fathers (fathers whose details are given on the Birth Registration form) has increased. In 1980, the median age of fathers was 29.4 years increasing to 32.3 years in 2000. This increase is partly due to the growing proportion of fathers aged 40 years and over. Some fathers may have just delayed parenthood or some could be starting their second family with a different partner.

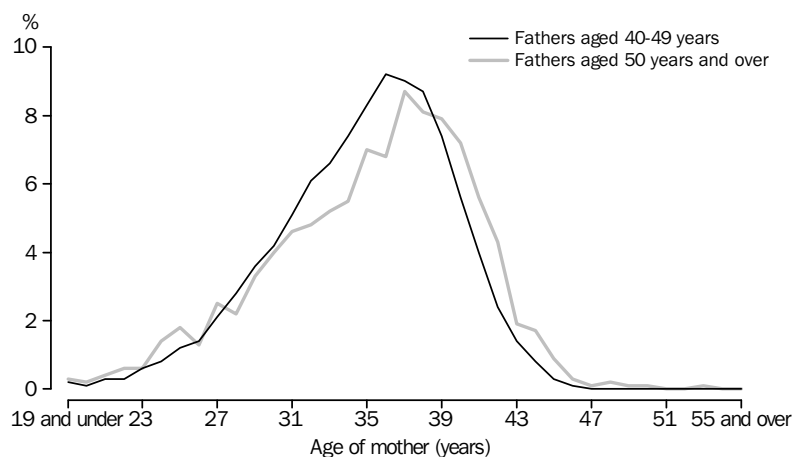
AGE

During 2000, there were 249,600 births registered by 245,700 mothers (confinements) for 237,200 known fathers. The majority of fathers were aged between 25–39 years (78%) while 10% (24,100) were aged 40–49 years and 1% (2,400) were aged 50 years and over. The proportion of fathers aged 40 years and over has been increasing over the past twenty years from 5% in 1980 to 8% in 1990 and 11% in 2000.

4.1 AGE OF FATHERS, Confinements



Males aged 40–49 years who fathered a baby registered in 2000 tended to partner mothers aged 30–39 years (72%), increasing from 68% in 1980. The majority of fathers aged 50 years and over also partnered women aged 30–39 years (63%), increasing from 58% in 1980. Almost half (48%) of fathers aged 50 years and over did not have any previous children in their current relationship.

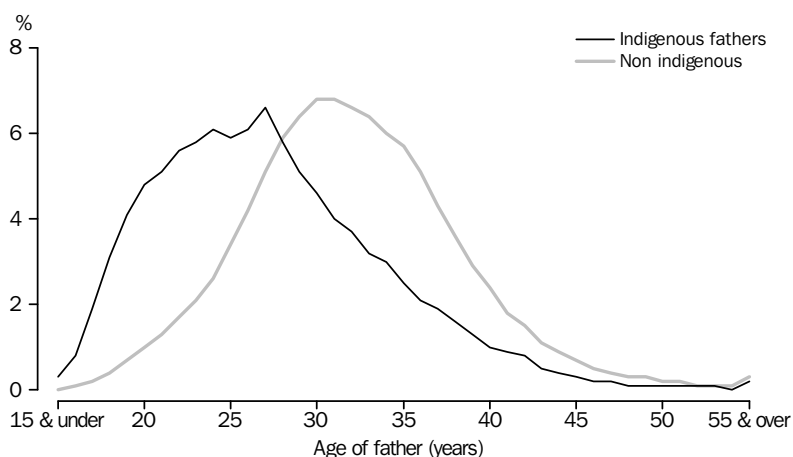
**4.2 AGE OF MOTHERS, By age of father—Confinements****Previous children**

The majority of older males aged 40 years and over, who fathered a baby registered in 2000, already had one or more children in their current relationship (60%). Nearly one-third (32%) had one previous child, 16% had two previous children and 13% had three or more. The remaining 40% did not have any previous children from their current relationship.

Some older fathers may well be raising their second family as those who marry at ages 40 years and over are generally remarrying and have children from their previous marriage (ABS Marriage Collection, 2000).

**INDIGENOUS FATHERS**

The age structure of Indigenous males who fathered a baby registered between 1998 and 2000 was vastly different to non-Indigenous fathers. Indigenous fathers tended to have children at younger ages than non-Indigenous fathers, with only 5% of Indigenous fathers aged 40 years and over compared to 11% of non-Indigenous fathers. The median age of Indigenous fathers was 27.1 years while the median age of non-Indigenous fathers was 32.2 years.

**4.3 FATHERS INDIGENOUS STATUS(a), Confinements by age of father**

(a) This graph uses Birth Registrations for 1998 to 2000.



## COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF FATHERS

In 2000, there was a higher proportion of older fathers (aged 40 years and over) born overseas (39%) than those aged under 40 years (24%). This is related to the higher proportion of overseas-born males in the population aged 40 years and over (35% of all males aged 40 years and over) compared to overseas born males aged under 40 years (16% of all males aged under 40 years). Of the top ten countries of birth of fathers aged 40 years and over, Australia was followed by the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Viet Nam. After that, the remaining top six countries of birth vary substantially for those fathers aged under 40 years compared to those aged 40 years and over.

For every 1,000 males aged 40–59 years, there were an estimated 12 males who fathered a baby registered in 2000 (confinements), compared to 59 fathers for every 1,000 males aged 15–39 years. Of the top ten countries of birth, Lebanon-born fathers showed the highest number of confinements per 1,000 for fathers aged 15–39 years (150 confinements per 1,000 Lebanon-born males) and those aged 40–59 years (30 confinements per 1,000 Lebanon-born males). For fathers aged 40–59 years, those born in Italy showed the lowest rate of confinements (6 per 1,000 Italy-born males), less than the Australia-born fathers (10 per 1,000 Australia-born males).

## 4.4 CONFINEMENTS(a), Country of birth of fathers

		Confinements.....		Estimated male resident population as at 30 June 2000p.....		Confinements per 1,000 males.....
Top Ten	Country of birth	no.	%	no.	%	rate
MALES AGED 15–39 YEARS(b)						
1	Australia	159 412	75.7	2 796 843	78.0	57.0
2	United Kingdom	9 978	4.7	157 442	4.4	63.4
3	New Zealand	5 972	2.8	90 568	2.5	65.9
4	Viet Nam	3 680	1.7	49 028	1.4	75.1
5	Lebanon	2 668	1.3	17 816	0.5	149.8
6	China	2 463	1.2	32 704	0.9	75.3
7	Former Yugoslavia(c)	1 852	0.9	27 992	0.8	66.2
8	India	1 314	0.6	27 392	0.8	48.0
9	Philippines	1 263	0.6	23 264	0.6	54.3
10	South Africa	974	0.5	17 183	0.5	56.7
	<i>Total Overseas born</i>	51 216	24.3	788 940	22.0	64.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>210 628</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 585 783</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58.8</b>
MALES AGED 40–59 YEARS						
1	Australia	16 013	60.9	1 661 944	66.2	9.6
2	United Kingdom	2 175	8.3	244 477	9.7	8.9
3	New Zealand	851	3.2	65 545	2.6	13.0
4	China	712	2.7	27 816	1.1	25.6
5	Viet Nam	690	2.6	28 452	1.1	24.3
6	Lebanon	513	2.0	16 940	0.7	30.3
7	Former Yugoslavia(c)	302	1.1	45 120	1.8	6.7
8	Italy	291	1.1	49 496	2.0	5.9
9	India	220	0.8	19 681	0.8	11.2
10	United States of America	203	0.8	14 489	0.6	14.0
	<i>Total overseas-born</i>	10 291	39.1	848 595	33.8	12.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26 304</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 510 539</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>

(a) Confinements count all single births and only the first child of a multiple birth.

(b) Confinements data includes all fathers aged under 15 to 39 years.

(c) Former Yugoslavia consist of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Serbia and Montenegro.

## FATHERS COUNTRY OF BIRTH RELATIVE TO MOTHERS

An estimated 61% of males aged 40 years and over, who fathered a baby registered in 2000, were born in Australia with the remaining 39% born overseas. Nearly 79% of Australian-born fathers aged 40 years and over, partnered Australian-born women.

Of the overseas-born fathers, aged 40 years and over, 46% were born in the same overseas country as their partner, 33% partnered an Australia-born woman and 21% were born in a different overseas country to their partner.

Asian-born fathers aged 40 years and over, were less likely to partner Australian-born women, with only 1% of Viet Nam-born, 2% of China-born and 9% of Sri Lankan-born fathers doing so. The majority of these fathers partnered women born in the same country, 89% of Viet Nam-born, 89% of China-born and 81% of Sri Lankan-born.

Fathers aged 40 years and over, born in the United Kingdom (60%), other European countries (such as Italy 63%), New Zealand (57%) and the United States of America (60%) were more likely to partner Australian-born women. Fathers born in Italy (12%) and the United States of America (13%) were the least likely to partner women born in the same overseas country.

## 4.5 COUNTRY OF BIRTH, Fathers aged 40 years and over

Country of birth of father	Mother born in Australia.....		Mother born in same overseas country as father...		Mother born in different overseas country to father....		Total
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.
<b>Top ten</b>							
Australia	12 798	79.4	—	—	3 316	20.6	16 124
United Kingdom	1 312	59.7	422	19.2	460	20.9	2 196
New Zealand	487	57.2	192	22.5	173	20.3	852
China (exc. SARs & Taiwan Province)	16	2.2	634	88.7	63	8.8	715
Viet Nam	8	1.2	619	89.2	65	9.4	694
Lebanon	54	10.4	408	78.6	57	11.0	519
Former Yugoslavia(a)	79	25.6	135	43.7	95	30.7	309
Italy	190	62.7	36	11.9	77	25.4	303
India	43	19.5	132	60.0	45	20.5	220
United States of America	121	59.6	27	13.3	55	27.1	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 260</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>4 750</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>5 471</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>26 525</b>

(a) Former Yugoslavia consist of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Serbia and Montenegro.

## CAPITAL CITY/BALANCE OF STATE OR TERRITORY

The majority (62% overall in 2000) of each State/Territory male population aged 40 years and over resided in the capital city, except for Queensland (56%), Tasmania (60%) and the Northern Territory (51%) where the majority lived in the balance of the State/Territory. Accordingly, the majority (69%) of males aged 40 years and over, who fathered a baby registered in 2000, lived in the capital city. In Queensland and Tasmania the majority of fathers aged 40 years and over lived in the balance of the State, while for the Northern Territory the majority of fathers aged 40 years and over lived in Darwin.

CHAPTER **5**

**SPECIAL ARTICLE: FERTILITY  
DIFFERENTIALS** .....

INTRODUCTION

At the 1996 Census, the mean number of children ever born (MCEB) to women aged 15 years and over was 1.8. This overall figure disguises the fertility variation that exists among women of different ages and socio economic characteristics. This special article examines the fertility of women aged under 30 years and of women aged 30 years and over against a number of characteristics: Indigenous status, marital status, labour force status, religion, income and educational attainment.

At the 1986 Census, the number of children ever born was not reported for 10% of women aged 15 years and over. For women under 30 years of age there was a higher proportion of not stated (13%), while for women aged 30 years and over 8% did not state the number of children ever born. At the 1996 Census, there was a considerable drop in the proportion of not stated, with 6% of women aged 15 years and over not stating the number of children ever born. Women under 30 years of age had a higher likelihood of not stating the number of children ever born (7%) than women aged 30 years and over (6%). The analysis in this chapter excludes not stated and overseas visitors.

FERTILITY BY AGE

There has been an overall decline in the MCEB, from 1.9 children per woman in 1986 to 1.8 in 1996. Over the same period there has been an increase in the proportion of women of all ages who have not had any children, from 30.5% in 1986 to 31.4% in 1996. For women of all ages there has been an increase in the proportion of women who have had two children only, from 25% in 1986 to 26% in 1996. The popularity of the two-child family in Australia was evident in both the 1986 and 1996 Censuses.

The decline in fertility is most noticeable among women under 30 years of age, reflecting their decision to either delay having children or not to have children at all. For these younger women, the MCEB declined from 0.5 in 1986 to 0.4 in 1996. Furthermore, over three-quarters of women under 30 years of age (77%) in 1996 had not had any children, compared to 70% ten years earlier. The proportion of younger women who have had more than one child has also declined dramatically, by 32% (for those having two children), by 33% (for those having three children), and by 25% (for those having four or more children) between 1986 and 1996.

For women aged 30 years and over, the MCEB has also declined, from 2.5 children per woman in 1986 to 2.3 in 1996. In 1996, 14% of women over the age of 30 had not had any children, compared to 13% in 1986. The proportion of women aged 30 years and over who have had between one and three children has risen from 65% to 67% between 1986 and 1996, reflecting the preference for smaller families and the fact that women are choosing to have children later. This is further illustrated by the decline in the proportion of women in this age group who have had large families (four or more children), down from 22% in 1986 to 18% in 1996.

## 5.1 WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, Age of woman

CHILDREN EVER BORN.....							
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Total women(a)	MCEB(b)
Age of women	%	%	%	%	%	'000	per woman
.....							
	1986						
Under 30 years(c)	70.0	13.4	11.4	3.9	1.3	1 662.9	0.54
Over 30 years	13.1	11.5	30.6	22.9	22.0	3 782.1	2.50
All women(c)	30.5	12.1	24.7	17.1	15.7	5 445.0	1.90
.....							
	1996						
Under 30 years(c)	76.9	11.7	7.7	2.6	1.0	1 814.4	0.39
Over 30 years	14.4	12.0	32.6	22.8	18.3	4 836.4	2.33
All women(c)	31.4	11.9	25.8	17.3	13.6	6 650.8	1.80

(a) Excludes not stated children ever born.

(b) MCEB is calculated by assuming that women with 6 or more children had an average of 7.16 children at the 1986 Census and 7.0 children at the 1996 Census (Carmichael G., 2000).

(c) Excludes females aged less than 15 years.

## FERTILITY BY INDIGENOUS STATUS

In 1996, approximately half of younger Indigenous women (aged under 30 years) had no children, compared to more than three-quarters of non-Indigenous women of the same age. For Indigenous women of all ages the most common number of children was four or more, while for non-Indigenous women the most common number of children was two.

In both the 1986 and 1996 Censuses the average number of children ever born was considerably higher for Indigenous women than for non-Indigenous women. The MCEB of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women measured at these two censuses declined considerably, from 2.5 children to 2.3 children for Indigenous women and from 1.9 to 1.8 children for non-Indigenous women.

Between 1986 and 1996 Indigenous MCEB declined at a faster rate (10%) than non-Indigenous fertility (5%), although this varied considerably by age. The decline in the MCEB of women under 30 years of age was smaller for Indigenous women (with an 11% decline) than for non-Indigenous women (with a 28% decline) but the reverse was true for older women. Between 1986 and 1996, Indigenous women aged 30 years and over experienced a 16% decline in MCEB, compared to 7% for non-Indigenous women of the same age.

## 5.2 WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, Indigenous status

CHILDREN EVER BORN.....							
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Total women(a)	MCEB(b)
Indigenous status	%	%	%	%	%	'000 per woman	
.....							
1986							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Indigenous	45.5	20.8	16.0	9.7	7.9	30.3	1.19
Non-Indigenous	70.5	13.2	11.3	3.8	1.2	1 627.1	0.52
Women aged 30 years and over							
Indigenous	9.5	8.7	14.4	16.3	51.2	29.7	3.85
Non-Indigenous	13.1	11.5	30.7	23.0	21.7	3 715.8	2.49
.....							
1996							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Indigenous	49.9	19.8	15.1	8.8	6.4	45.2	1.06
Non-Indigenous	77.6	11.5	7.5	2.5	0.8	1 760.0	0.38
Women aged 30 years and over							
Indigenous	10.3	10.2	19.4	20.3	39.9	54.7	3.24
Non-Indigenous	14.4	12.0	32.8	22.8	18.0	4 724.0	2.32

(a) Excludes not stated children ever born and not stated Indigenous status.

(b) MCEB is calculated by assuming that women with 6 or more children had an average of 7.16 children at the 1986 Census and 7.0 children at the 1996 Census (Carmichael G., 2000).

(c) Excludes females aged less than 15 years.

## FERTILITY BY MARITAL STATUS

In both the 1986 and 1996 Censuses ever married women had considerably higher fertility than those who had never been married and in both censuses, the vast majority of never married women had not had any children. Nevertheless, the increasing propensity for women to have babies outside of a registered marriage is illustrated in the increasing fertility of never married women over time. The MCEB for never married women under 30 years of age increased from 0.1 children per woman in 1986 to 0.2 in 1996, and from 0.3 to 0.5 for women aged 30 years and over. Conversely, while ever married women had higher fertility, this had declined since 1986.

Divorced women of all ages had lower fertility than other women who had been married, perhaps reflecting the fact that divorce interrupts or delays child-bearing. Widowed women had the highest levels of fertility, particularly those aged 30 years and over. In 1996, more than three-quarters of these women (78%) were aged 65 years and over and were likely to have completed their childbearing while still married.

## 5.3 WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, Marital status

CHILDREN EVER BORN.....							
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Total women(a)	MCEB(b)
Marital status	%	%	%	%	%	'000	per woman
1986							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Never married	92.2	5.3	1.7	0.5	0.3	995.6	0.12
Married	37.3	25.2	26.0	8.9	2.6	595.6	1.15
Separated but not divorced	30.7	25.5	27.6	11.3	4.9	37.9	1.36
Divorced	37.9	27.8	22.0	8.6	3.6	31.0	1.14
Widowed	26.1	28.3	26.6	11.2	7.8	2.7	1.53
Total ever married	36.9	25.3	25.9	9.0	2.8	667.3	1.16
Women aged 30 years and over							
Never married	84.8	7.9	3.4	1.7	2.1	220.7	0.31
Married	7.7	10.5	34.0	25.6	22.2	2 611.6	2.63
Separated but not divorced	8.8	12.4	30.0	22.4	26.5	118.3	2.75
Divorced	13.2	16.4	30.1	20.6	19.6	258.7	2.35
Widowed	10.8	15.2	25.4	19.6	28.9	572.8	2.78
Total ever married	8.6	11.7	32.2	24.2	23.2	3 561.4	2.64
1996							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Never married	89.3	6.7	2.8	0.9	0.4	1 338.7	0.17
Married	43.4	26.2	21.3	7.0	2.2	413.9	0.99
Separated	31.4	25.2	26.8	11.7	4.9	34.3	1.36
Divorced	40.6	26.0	20.4	8.9	4.2	24.4	1.12
Widowed	23.1	21.1	24.0	14.7	17.1	3.1	2.01
Total ever married	42.2	26.1	21.6	7.5	2.6	475.7	1.03
Women aged 30 years and over							
Never married	73.4	11.8	8.0	3.8	3.1	426.2	0.54
Married	8.0	11.0	36.9	25.8	18.2	3 118.5	2.48
Separated	8.5	13.2	33.5	24.0	20.9	206.5	2.53
Divorced	13.2	16.3	32.6	21.3	16.7	451.7	2.24
Widowed	8.6	13.6	27.1	21.5	29.2	633.6	2.83
Total ever married	8.7	12.0	34.9	24.6	19.8	4 410.2	2.51

(a) Excludes not stated children ever born and not stated marital status.

(b) MCEB is calculated by assuming that women with 6 or more children had an average of 7.16 children at the 1986 Census and 7.0 children at the 1996 Census (Carmichael G., 2000).

(c) Excludes females aged less than 15 years.

## FERTILITY BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS

The fertility levels of women appear to be inversely related to their attachment to the labour force. Women who were not in the labour force had higher MCEB at all ages, although the effect was more pronounced amongst younger women (aged under 30 years) where the MCEB of those not in the labour force was nearly three and a half times greater than that of those who were employed. In 1996, 86% of women under the age of 30 years who were employed had no children, compared to 79% of those who were unemployed and 61% of those who were not in the labour force.

FERTILITY BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS *continued*

Overall, for women aged 30 years and over the inverse relationship between fertility and labour force attachment is less well-defined. In 1996, 19% of women aged 30 years and over who were employed had no children compared to 18% for those who were unemployed and 10% for those who were not in the labour force. For women aged 45 years and over, who may be assumed to have completed their childbearing, there was little difference in MCEB between those who were employed, unemployed and not in the labour force. For these women it appears that their current labour force status (at the time of the census) bears little relationship to their lifetime fertility.

**5.4 WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, Labour force status**

CHILDREN EVER BORN.....							
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Total women(a)	MCEB(b)
Labour force status	%	%	%	%	%	'000	per woman
.....							
1986							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Employed	83.1	8.3	6.3	1.7	0.4	909.2	0.28
Unemployed	76.3	11.5	8.3	2.8	1.0	142.6	0.41
Not in Labour Force	49.2	21.3	19.5	7.3	2.6	593.2	0.94
Women aged 30 years and over							
Employed	16.3	10.4	33.8	23.3	16.1	1 443.0	2.23
Unemployed	15.7	12.0	30.9	22.0	19.4	99.5	2.36
Not in Labour Force	10.9	12.2	28.4	22.6	25.9	2 199.0	2.68
.....							
1996							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Employed	86.0	8.2	4.5	1.1	0.3	1 067.9	0.22
Unemployed	79.3	11.2	6.5	2.1	0.8	143.3	0.34
Not in Labour Force	60.7	18.0	13.6	5.4	2.2	593.4	0.71
Women aged 30 years and over							
Employed	18.8	12.0	36.0	22.0	11.2	2 219.1	2.00
Unemployed	18.3	14.7	31.8	20.6	14.6	149.3	2.09
Not in Labour Force	10.1	11.8	29.5	23.6	25.0	2 435.0	2.65

(a) Excludes not stated children ever born.

(b) MCEB is calculated by assuming that women with 6 or more children had an average of 7.16 children at the 1986 Census and 7.0 children at the 1996 Census (Carmichael G., 2000).

(c) Excludes females aged less than 15 years.

## FERTILITY BY RELIGION

Religious affiliation appears to have some effect on the fertility levels of women. For women aged 30 years and over in 1996, the highest values of MCEB were recorded by Muslim women, who had an average of three children, followed by Christian women (2.4 children). In contrast, women with no religion had the lowest MCEB at 1.9 children per woman. Catholic women over the age of 30 years had on average 2.5 children.

For women under 30 years of age, Muslim women again had the highest MCEB, with an average of 0.8 children, while Jewish women had the lowest at 0.2. MCEB levels for Christian and Hindu women were at the national level of 0.4, the same as for women with no religion and Catholic women in this age group.

**5.5 WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, Religion**

CHILDREN EVER BORN.....							
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Total women(a)	MCEB(b)
Religion	%	%	%	%	%	'000	per woman
.....							
1986							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Christian	70.4	13.0	11.4	3.9	1.3	1 227.5	0.53
Buddhist	66.1	16.8	11.6	3.7	1.7	9.1	0.59
Hindu	66.3	19.2	10.3	2.6	1.6	2.5	0.55
Jewish	78.7	11.6	7.0	1.8	0.8	4.9	0.35
Muslim	48.1	19.1	17.7	8.6	6.5	12.5	1.11
Other religion	59.5	18.2	12.8	5.7	3.7	4.5	0.79
No religion	69.4	14.7	11.3	3.5	1.0	244.1	0.52
Women aged 30 years and over							
Christian	12.3	11.1	30.2	23.4	22.9	3 016.2	2.56
Buddhist	19.6	14.8	22.8	14.9	27.9	15.4	2.64
Hindu	15.5	16.6	36.1	17.4	14.5	4.0	2.16
Jewish	13.5	18.3	41.1	19.5	7.6	20.8	1.94
Muslim	8.1	8.2	23.8	21.9	38.0	14.7	3.28
Other religion	17.1	13.1	25.0	19.2	25.5	8.6	2.54
No religion	18.9	14.2	32.5	19.4	14.9	308.5	2.10
.....							
1996							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Christian	77.2	11.6	7.7	2.6	1.0	1 261.1	0.39
Buddhist	81.9	11.1	5.2	1.3	0.5	26.5	0.28
Hindu	72.5	18.4	7.8	1.1	0.3	7.3	0.39
Jewish	88.7	6.6	3.3	0.7	0.6	6.6	0.18
Muslim	60.4	16.7	14.2	5.8	2.8	25.5	0.75
Other religion	72.7	14.3	8.2	2.9	1.8	12.2	0.48
No religion	76.9	12.1	7.6	2.5	0.9	364.1	0.39
Women aged 30 years and over							
Christian	13.2	11.3	32.4	23.7	19.4	3 811.3	2.40
Buddhist	20.1	16.8	27.3	15.4	20.4	52.6	2.28
Hindu	12.7	19.0	42.5	15.3	10.5	15.8	2.04
Jewish	12.9	16.3	42.7	20.7	7.4	25.6	1.97
Muslim	8.6	9.9	27.1	21.9	32.5	33.4	3.01
Other religion	21.2	14.3	28.9	18.5	17.2	27.1	2.13
No religion	20.9	15.4	33.5	18.6	11.5	564.6	1.92

(a) Excludes not stated children ever born.

(b) MCEB is calculated by assuming that women with 6 or more children had an average of 7.16 children at the 1986 Census and 7.0 children at the 1996 Census (Carmichael G., 2000).

(c) Excludes females aged less than 15 years.



## FERTILITY BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Irrespective of the age of women, the higher their educational attainment, the lower their level of fertility. The relationship is strongest, however, among younger women. In 1996, women under 30 years of age with no qualifications had three times the MCEB of women with a degree or higher. In 1996, approximately 90% of women in this age group with a degree or higher had not had any children, compared to 75% of women with no qualifications.

For women aged 30 years and over the difference was also evident, though not as pronounced. In 1996, women with no qualifications had, on average, one and a half times the number of children of those with a degree or higher. Almost one-third (29%) of women aged 30 years and over with a degree or higher had not had any children, compared to 12% of women with no qualifications.

## 5.6 WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, Educational attainment

CHILDREN EVER BORN.....							
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Total women(a)	MCEB(b)
Educational attainment	%	%	%	%	%	'000	per woman
1986							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Degree or higher	83.7	10.3	4.9	0.9	0.2	76.7	0.24
Diploma	73.1	14.6	9.6	2.3	0.4	54.1	0.42
Certificate	68.7	15.4	12.0	3.2	0.7	217.4	0.52
Other qualification	75.7	11.9	9.0	2.7	0.8	67.0	0.41
No qualification	68.5	13.4	12.1	4.4	1.5	1 133.7	0.58
Women aged 30 years and over							
Degree or higher	30.7	14.6	29.2	16.5	9.0	141.7	1.64
Diploma	20.1	11.2	31.8	22.0	14.8	163.0	2.10
Certificate	16.0	11.9	33.1	23.1	15.9	445.6	2.22
Other qualification	14.7	13.4	32.0	22.1	17.7	139.3	2.29
No qualification	11.0	11.1	30.3	23.4	24.2	2 556.5	2.63
1996							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Degree or higher	89.6	7.4	2.6	0.4	0.1	204.5	0.14
Diploma	81.5	11.7	5.3	1.3	0.3	115.0	0.27
Certificate	73.6	15.1	8.7	2.1	0.5	139.1	0.41
Other qualification	77.3	11.8	7.5	2.4	1.0	131.5	0.39
No qualification	74.7	12.1	8.7	3.2	1.2	1 224.4	0.44
Women aged 30 years and over							
Degree or higher	28.6	14.9	31.1	17.0	8.4	505.5	1.66
Diploma	18.7	12.2	33.1	22.5	13.6	369.3	2.08
Certificate	15.7	13.2	36.5	22.5	12.1	311.2	2.09
Other qualification	14.1	13.2	32.6	22.2	17.9	466.8	2.31
No qualification	11.5	11.2	32.3	23.8	21.1	3 183.6	2.50

(a) Excludes not stated children ever born.

(b) MCEB is calculated by assuming that women with 6 or more children had an average of 7.16 children at the 1986 Census and 7.0 children at the 1996 Census (Carmichael G., 2000).

(c) Excludes females aged less than 15 years.

## FERTILITY BY INCOME

The MCEB of women varied according to their individual income: generally, the higher the income, the lower the fertility. An exception to this, however, is the group of women under 30 years of age who had negative and nil income. For these women MCEB was very low in 1996 with an average of 0.19 children per woman, compared to 0.39 for all women under 30 years of age. This could be associated with the fact that most of these younger women (74%) were students (both full and part-time) and their low fertility may reflect their decision to postpone having children while undertaking study.

For women aged 30 years and over, the pattern was clearer; women with higher incomes had lower fertility. Indeed, more than one-third of women (36%) who earned more than \$52,000 per year had not had any children, compared to 15% for all women in this age group. These high earners had an average of 1.6 children compared to 2.3 for all women in the 30 and over age group.

Conversely, only 11% of women with negative and nil income had no children, and overall had on average 2.4 children per woman.

## 5.7 WOMEN BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, Individual income, 1996

CHILDREN EVER BORN.....							
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Total women(a)	MCEB(b)
	%	%	%	%	%	'000	per woman
.....							
Women aged under 30 years(c)							
Nil income(d)	88.6	6.1	3.7	1.2	0.4	228.3	0.19
\$-\$10,399	72.2	13.9	9.9	3.1	0.9	605.8	0.47
\$10,400-\$20,799	65.0	17.1	11.6	4.5	1.8	418.3	0.62
\$20,800-\$31,199	86.6	7.8	3.9	1.1	0.6	329.1	0.22
\$31,200-\$51,999	89.7	6.6	2.8	0.7	0.3	148.7	0.16
\$52,000 and over	84.9	7.4	4.6	1.8	1.2	15.1	0.28
Women aged 30 years and over							
Nil income(d)	10.6	11.4	34.9	24.9	18.1	322.0	2.41
\$-\$10,399	9.4	12.0	31.1	23.8	23.7	1 799.0	2.63
\$10,400-\$20,799	11.4	12.0	34.1	24.1	18.4	1 233.2	2.40
\$20,800-\$31,199	19.3	12.1	35.0	21.6	12.1	686.0	2.02
\$31,200-\$51,999	31.2	12.6	30.7	17.3	8.2	501.2	1.63
\$52,000 and over	35.5	12.8	27.1	15.5	9.0	114.6	1.55

(a) Excludes not stated children ever born and not stated individual income.

(b) MCEB is calculated by assuming that women with 6 or more children had an average of 7.16 children at the 1986 Census and 7.0 children at the 1996 Census (Carmichael G., 2000).

(c) Excludes females aged less than 15 years.

(d) Includes negative and nil income.

## CHAPTER 6

### SPECIAL ARTICLE: CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN MULTIPLE BIRTHS .....

#### INTRODUCTION

While the number of pregnancies (confinements) resulting in a live birth has been declining over the past ten years, the number resulting in the birth of more than one child has been increasing. The increase in confinements that result in a multiple birth has been attributed to factors such as the increased use of assisted conception technologies and the increasing number of births to older women.

#### INCIDENCE OF MULTIPLE BIRTHS

While the number of confinements resulting in multiple births remains relatively low, there has been a steady increase since the 1970s. In 2000, 1.6% (3,900) of the 245,700 confinements in Australia resulted in a multiple birth, up from 1.0% in 1980 and 1.2% in 1990. Of these, 3,800 produced twins, while the remaining 100 confinements resulted in triplets or higher order multiple births.

Since 1980, the number of confinements resulting in the birth of twins has increased by 71% (from 2,200 confinements to 3,800 in 2000), and the number resulting in the birth of triplets has increased by 257% (from 30 confinements to 100). Among older women this trend is more pronounced. In 1980, there were 730 confinements resulting in multiple births to women aged 30 years and over, constituting 1% of all confinements among women over 30. By 2000, this number had increased to 2,300 (2%).

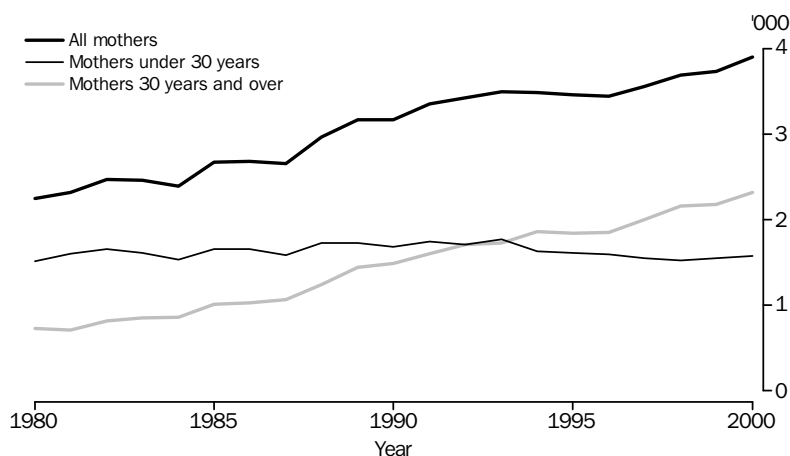
#### 6.1 CONFINEMENTS

CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN MULTIPLE BIRTHS.....					
Year	Singletons	Twins	Triplets or higher order	Total multiples	All confinements
1980	221 069	2 219	30	2 249	223 318
1985	241 999	2 622	51	2 673	244 672
1990	256 267	3 074	94	3 168	259 435
1995	249 249	3 359	100	3 459	252 708
1996	246 914	3 345	104	3 449	250 363
1997	244 689	3 450	107	3 557	248 246
1998	242 208	3 592	98	3 690	245 898
1999	241 370	3 630	108	3 738	245 108
2000	241 795	3 800	102	3 902	245 697

#### International comparison

The proportion of confinements ending in a multiple birth in New Zealand was 1.6% in 1998 (Statistics New Zealand, 2000, p.70), slightly higher than in Australia (1.5% in 1998). In the United States of America, 2.7% of all confinements resulted in a multiple birth in 1996 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1999, p.80).

## 6.2 CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN MULTIPLE BIRTHS



## REASONS FOR THE INCREASE IN CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN MULTIPLE BIRTHS

The two related factors widely regarded as the primary catalysts behind the increased number of confinements producing multiple births are older age at child bearing and the increased use of assisted conception techniques (AIHW 2000, p. 15; NCHS 1999, p. 5).

Provided that current trends towards delayed parenthood and the increased availability of fertility treatments continue, it is likely that the incidence of multiple births will increase further, at least in the short-term (NCHS, 1999, p. 6).

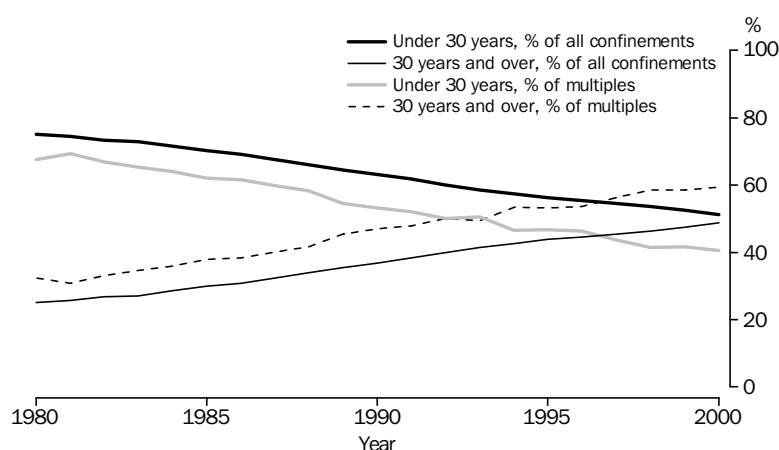
## Age of mothers

Multiple births are more common among older mothers due to physiological reasons (NCHS, 1999, p. 5). With the median age of all mothers approaching 30 years, the increased age at childbearing has obvious implications for the incidence of confinements resulting in multiple births. The increase in confinements resulting in multiple births among older mothers (aged over 30 years) is disproportionate to the increase in the total number of confinements for the same age group. Between 1980 and 2000 the number of confinements resulting in multiple births to mothers aged 30 years and over increased two-fold (by 1,590 confinements) compared to a 4% (62 confinements) increase for mothers aged under 30 years. While the total confinements for mothers aged 30 and over increased by 115% (64,000), total confinements for mothers aged under 30 years decreased by 25% (41,700) between 1980 and 2000.

### 6.3 CONFINEMENTS, By age of mother

AGE OF MOTHER.....							
	Under 30 years.....		30 years and over...		Total.....		Median age of mothers
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	years
1980							
All confinements	167 562	75.0	55 736	25.0	223 318	100.0	26.6
Multiples	1 519	67.5	730	32.5	2 249	100.0	27.7
1990							
All confinements	164 015	63.2	95 326	36.7	259 435	100.0	28.3
Multiples	1 681	53.1	1 487	46.9	3 168	100.0	29.7
2000							
All confinements	125 904	51.2	119 715	48.7	245 697	100.0	29.8
Multiples	1 581	40.5	2 320	59.5	3 902	100.0	31.3

### 6.4 AGE OF MOTHERS



The increasing tendency for women to have children at increasingly older ages reflects a general shift in attitudes towards family formation, reproduction and female participation in the labour force. The changing nature and longevity of partnerships may also be a factor. (ABS, 2001).

#### Assisted conception

The increased popularity and success of assisted conception (techniques such as in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) and gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT)) is believed to be a major factor in the increase in confinements resulting in multiple births. Between 1992 and 1999 there was a 105% increase in the number of viable pregnancies resulting from assisted conception. There were 3,900 births (including live births and still births) from assisted conceptions in Australia in 1998, an increase of 9% (360) from the previous year (AIHW 2001, p.26). In the same year, 690 (20%) of the 3,400 pregnancies of at least 20 weeks gestation (including pregnancies resulting in either a live birth or a still birth) from assisted conceptions resulted in multiple births; a

*Assisted conception continued*

figure far higher than the 1.5% of all pregnancies that resulted in multiple births in 1998. The occurrence of multiple births does not seem to differ greatly between IVF and ICSI pregnancies, although GIFT pregnancies result in a higher incidence of multiple births. In 1998 multiple pregnancy occurred in 28% of GIFT pregnancies, 20% of IVF pregnancies and 19% of ICSI pregnancies.

## PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN MULTIPLE BIRTHS

As well as the added stress and financial burden faced by a family caring for more than one baby, there are a number of medical conditions associated with multiples. Multiples tend to be born "earlier and smaller than singletons, are less likely to survive the first year of life, and are more likely to suffer life-long disability when they do survive" (NCHS, 1999, p. 2). The risks of problems such as pre-term birth, low birth weight, developmental brain damage, and cerebral palsy rise sharply for twins when compared to singleton births, and are magnified even further for triplets and higher-order births (Population Reference Bureau, 1999, p. 2).

## Low birthweight

Babies are defined as being of low birthweight when their birthweight is less than 2,500g (AIHW, 2000, p. 28). According to 1998 statistics released by the AIHW low birthweight was experienced in almost half (49%) of all twin births. This figure was almost ten times higher than for singletons (5%). In triplets and higher order multiple births low birthweight was almost always experienced (94% for triplets, 100% for higher order births). For 1998 the mean birthweight for singletons was 3,393g, compared to 2,407g for twins, 1,745g for triplets and 923g for other multiple births (p. 29).

## Likelihood of death

Multiple births to women of any age carry a high risk of complications. For the period 1996–98, the perinatal death rate (the number of fetal deaths (400gms in weight or 20 weeks gestation) and neonatal deaths (infant death within 28 days of birth), per 1,000 live births) of twins was 3.9 times higher than of singleton births, while that of other multiple births was 8.6 times higher (AIHW, 2000, p. 40). Statistics from the United States National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS, 1999, p. 6) indicate that based on rates of low birth weight and infant mortality, multiple births to women in their forties do not appear to be at greater risk of poor birth outcomes than those born to much younger women. Between 1992 and 1997, the perinatal death rate for babies born to women aged 40 years and over varied between 12 and 18 deaths per 1,000 births. Over the same period the perinatal death rate for babies born to women aged 20–39 varied between 9 and 10 deaths per 1,000 births.

## INTRODUCTION

In the 1999 issue of this publication, birth-order-specific fertility rates were published for births registered in Australia during 1986, 1993, and each year from 1996 to 1999 (Births 1999, 2000)<sup>1</sup>. These rates were estimated from birth registrations where the birth order of the registered birth was determined within the current marriage/relationship of the partners. These data were then converted to represent the true birth order of the child, based on all relationships of the mother.

Birth order data based on the current and all relationships of the mother were available for four States (Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania) only. Using these data, a combined distribution of the birth order from current relationships by birth order from all relationships by age of mother was obtained and was used to estimate the birth order based on all relationships of the mother for the remaining States and Territories. These calculations were separately performed for nuptial births, exnuptial-paternity acknowledged and exnuptial-paternity-not acknowledged births as the birth order distribution varied according to the nuptial status of the newly-born child. Age-birth order-specific-fertility rates were then calculated for nuptial births, exnuptial-paternity-acknowledged births and exnuptial-paternity-not acknowledged births for Australia only.

In this article, similar calculations are performed for each State and Territory for 2000. Fertility differentials across the States/Territories are examined. The analysis shows that compared to Australian fertility (1.75 babies per woman) the low fertility in the Australian Capital Territory (1.61) and Victoria (1.63) in 2000 is related to their low first birth fertility of 0.67 and 0.69 babies per woman respectively (0.76 for Australia), and higher mean age of mothers at the birth of their children (30.3 years each in the ACT and Victoria, 29.6 years for Australia). These low first birth order fertility rates, if continued into the future, would yield 33% childlessness among women of reproductive ages in the Australian Capital Territory and 31% in Victoria, compared to 24% for Australia<sup>2</sup>.

## DATA AND ASSUMPTIONS

In 2000, birth registrations in the four States (Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania) comprised 95,900 births (38% of all births). 86% of these births (93% of the nuptial births, 76% exnuptial-paternity acknowledged, and 76% exnuptial paternity not acknowledged births) occurred to first-time mothers. Mothers of the remaining births (14%) had children born in their previous relationships. Their true birth order was known as well.

<sup>1</sup> Birth order refers to the sequence in which children are born to a mother. Only live born children are considered. Birth order age-specific fertility rates are calculated as the ratio of registered births of a specific order to mothers of a specific age in a year as the numerator and the mid-year estimated resident female population of the same age as the denominator. The sum of the birth order age-specific fertility rates is the total fertility rate of that birth order. The sum of the total fertility rates of all birth orders is the total fertility rate.

<sup>2</sup> Childlessness is equal to one minus the total fertility rate of first order births per woman.

DATA AND ASSUMPTIONS *continued*

It was assumed that, based on birth registrations in the four States in 2000, a distribution of the birth order in the current relationship by birth order in all relationships by nuptial status of child and age of mother would apply to births of respective birth order based on current relationship of the mother in each State and Territory (other than the four States, specified above). This implies imposing a minimal adjustment to the known birth order distribution of registered births in the current relationship of the mother to obtain the birth order distribution based on all relationships of the mother (of approximately 7% to the nuptial births, and 24% each to the exnuptial-paternity acknowledged births and exnuptial-paternity not acknowledged births).

## TOTAL FERTILITY

Fertility rates across the States and Territories of Australia vary in a narrow range with the exception of the Northern Territory where the fertility rate is higher than the national average, largely due to high Indigenous fertility. In 2000, the Northern Territory maintained the highest total fertility rate (TFR) at 2.2 babies per woman. Four States, New South Wales (1.81), Queensland (1.78), Western Australia (1.78) and Tasmania (1.79) had TFRs in a narrow range above the national average (1.75), while Victoria (1.62), South Australia (1.71) and the Australian Capital Territory (1.61) fell below the national average.

Historically, while the fertility rates in all States and Territories have declined, the States/Territories have overall maintained their relative fertility differentials.

**7.1 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.</i>
1971	2.806	2.858	3.025	2.629	3.047	2.903	4.029	2.908	2.945
1976	2.038	2.026	2.179	1.864	2.142	2.093	3.060	2.094	2.061
1981	1.947	1.852	2.056	1.785	1.986	2.070	2.650	1.921	1.939
1986	1.914	1.775	1.911	1.763	1.979	1.928	2.209	1.740	1.871
1991	1.874	1.814	1.877	1.728	1.909	1.906	2.274	1.864	1.855
1996	1.827	1.707	1.851	1.756	1.811	1.890	2.201	1.670	1.797
1997	1.832	1.690	1.803	1.705	1.788	1.787	2.175	1.621	1.776
1998	1.797	1.679	1.794	1.705	1.767	1.811	2.200	1.558	1.758
1999r	1.820	1.627	1.769	1.703	1.769	1.869	2.153	1.683	1.751
2000	1.809	1.625	1.784	1.713	1.777	1.792	2.216	1.614	1.749

(a) Births per woman.



### Birth order fertility

First births (0.76 babies per woman or 43% of total fertility) and second births (0.55 babies per woman or 31% of total fertility) contributed to 1.31 babies per woman or 75% of total fertility in Australia in 2000 (1.75 babies per woman). Third births (16%) and fourth births (6%) added a further 22% to total fertility. These proportions have remained more or less the same since 1986 (Births 1999, 2000). The highest contribution of the first and the second births to total fertility was in South Australia (76%) and the lowest in Queensland (74%) in 2000.

With the exception of the Northern Territory which had the highest fertility for all birth orders, there was small variation in the birth order fertility rates of the States and the Australian Capital Territory. The first birth fertility varied between 0.67 (Australian Capital Territory) and 0.80 (Western Australia), second birth fertility between 0.52 (Victoria) and 0.57 (New South Wales) and third birth fertility between 0.27 (Australian Capital Territory) and 0.28 (Queensland.). After the Northern Territory, Queensland dominated in the fertility of the fourth and higher order births.

### Childlessness

The first order total fertility rate provides a synthetic measure of the childlessness among women in the population. If the rates for 2000 were to remain constant into the future, 33% of women in the Australian Capital Territory would be childless, followed by Victoria (31%), compared to 24% for Australia. Childlessness would be 'nil' for women in the Northern Territory and would vary between 20% in Western Australia and 25% in South Australia in other States. The 'nil' childlessness in the Northern Territory may be a reflection of the assumptions made in deriving the first birth order fertility rate of exnuptial births in the Northern Territory. In the four States (Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania), whose distributions were used, most of the exnuptial births (especially to younger mothers and most of exnuptial paternity not acknowledged births) are first order births. This may not be the case for the exnuptial births in the Northern Territory where 61% of all births were exnuptial as against 29% for Australia in 2000.

### Exnuptial fertility

Exnuptial fertility (30% for Australia, ranging between 24% for the ACT and 62% in the Northern Territory) was mostly contributed to by first births (54%) and second births (24%). With the rise in exnuptial fertility over time, from 17% in 1986 (Births 1999, 2000), exnuptial higher order births have increased. Third and higher order exnuptial fertility comprised 15% of all exnuptial fertility in 1986, which increased to 22% in 2000.

Conversely in 2000, 37% of Australian first birth fertility was exnuptial, the lowest in Victoria (30%) and the highest in the Northern Territory (71%), followed by Tasmania (51%). Second birth fertility was less exnuptial (23%) but a higher proportion of the third and higher birth fertility was exnuptial (26%). The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory had the lowest and the highest proportions of the exnuptial fertility of the second or higher order births.

Exnuptial-paternity not acknowledged fertility in Australia has fallen over time from 5% in 1986 (Births 1999, 2000) to 4% in 2000. In 2000, the lowest proportion was in Victoria (2%) and the highest in the Northern Territory (24%), followed by Queensland (5%).

## 7.2 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a) BY NUPTIALITY AND BIRTH ORDER, All relationships, States/Territories

Nuptiality	BIRTH ORDER.....						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more	
	rate(b)	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate
.....							
New South Wales							
Nuptial	0.513	0.455	0.223	0.082	0.027	0.018	1.318
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.218	0.110	0.058	0.025	0.011	0.008	0.429
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.043	0.009	0.005	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.062
Total	0.773	0.574	0.286	0.110	0.040	0.027	1.809
Victoria							
Nuptial	0.486	0.422	0.212	0.071	0.022	0.016	1.229
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.185	0.096	0.049	0.021	0.010	0.006	0.368
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.019	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.029
Total	0.690	0.522	0.264	0.094	0.033	0.023	1.625
Queensland							
Nuptial	0.439	0.399	0.205	0.081	0.028	0.019	1.171
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.289	0.125	0.067	0.029	0.014	0.010	0.533
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.055	0.012	0.006	0.005	0.002	0.001	0.081
Total	0.782	0.536	0.278	0.114	0.043	0.030	1.784
South Australia							
Nuptial	0.455	0.407	0.190	0.062	0.019	0.012	1.144
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.256	0.139	0.068	0.029	0.012	0.007	0.512
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.037	0.010	0.005	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.057
Total	0.748	0.556	0.264	0.093	0.033	0.020	1.714
Western Australia							
Nuptial	0.454	0.405	0.202	0.067	0.022	0.016	1.167
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.297	0.136	0.068	0.030	0.014	0.007	0.552
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.048	0.005	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.059
Total	0.799	0.547	0.272	0.099	0.037	0.024	1.778
Tasmania							
Nuptial	0.376	0.382	0.197	0.064	0.025	0.017	1.061
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.336	0.170	0.085	0.036	0.018	0.008	0.653
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.049	0.016	0.007	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.079
Total	0.761	0.568	0.289	0.103	0.044	0.027	1.792
Northern Territory							
Nuptial	0.319	0.289	0.147	0.055	0.016	0.012	0.838
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.384	0.229	0.127	0.058	0.030	0.023	0.850
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.393	0.069	0.032	0.021	0.008	0.006	0.528
Total	1.096	0.587	0.306	0.133	0.054	0.040	2.216
Australian Capital Territory							
Nuptial	0.465	0.438	0.216	0.063	0.022	0.015	1.219
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.182	0.097	0.047	0.019	0.010	0.006	0.361
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.023	0.005	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.034
Total	0.670	0.540	0.266	0.084	0.032	0.022	1.614
Australia							
Nuptial	0.476	0.424	0.211	0.075	0.025	0.017	1.227
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	0.238	0.117	0.060	0.026	0.012	0.008	0.460
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	0.043	0.009	0.005	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.062
Total	0.757	0.549	0.276	0.104	0.038	0.026	1.749
.....							

(a) Births per woman.

(b) First birth total fertility rate exceeding one baby per woman indicates that each woman will have at least one child ever born if the current rates of first birth were to continue into the future.

## MEAN AGE OF MOTHER

The mean age of mothers at the birth of the child (based on age-specific fertility rates) increased each year between 1971 and 2000. For Australia, the increase was 2.6 years, from 26.9 years in 1971 to 29.6 years in 2000. Similar increases occurred in all the States and Territories.

In 2000, the mean age of mothers varied across the States and Territories. Victoria (30.3 years), South Australia (29.7 years) and the Australian Capital Territory (30.3 years) recorded the highest mean age of mothers, and the Northern Territory the lowest mean age of mothers (27.6 years). In the other States the mean age of mothers varied in the range of 28.3 years to 29.6 years.

**7.3 MEAN AGE OF MOTHERS (Years)**

<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.</i>
1971	26.9	27.3	26.9	26.7	26.6	26.3	27.1	27.4	26.9
1976	26.9	27.1	26.5	26.4	26.4	26.1	26.0	27.3	26.8
1981	27.3	27.7	26.8	26.9	27.0	26.3	26.2	27.9	27.2
1986	27.9	28.3	27.4	27.5	27.6	27.0	25.9	28.6	27.8
1991	28.5	29.0	28.1	28.2	28.2	27.6	26.7	29.1	28.4
1996	29.1	29.7	28.5	29.1	28.8	28.1	27.0	29.7	29.0
1997	29.2	29.8	28.6	29.4	29.0	28.0	26.9	29.8	29.2
1998	29.3	30.0	28.7	29.5	29.1	28.4	27.1	30.1	29.3
1999	29.4	30.2	28.8	29.6	29.2	28.3	27.2	30.2	29.4
2000	29.6	30.3	28.9	29.7	29.3	28.3	27.6	30.3	29.6

Similar relativity across the States and Territories prevailed in the mean age of mothers of the first and second order births. For the third or higher order births, Tasmanian mothers had the youngest mean age at the birth of their children.

Mothers of nuptial births were the youngest in Tasmania (30.2 years) and the oldest in the Northern Territory (31.3 years). Mothers of exnuptial births were the youngest in Tasmania (25.7 years) and the oldest in Victoria (27.6 years). Mothers of exnuptial-paternity-not acknowledged births were the youngest in the Northern Territory (23.4 years) and the oldest in Victoria (26.7 years).

## 7.4 MEAN AGE OF MOTHER BY NUPTIALITY AND BIRTH ORDER, States/Territories

	BIRTH ORDER.....						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more	
<i>Nuptiality</i>	years	years	years	years	years	years	years
.....							
New South Wales							
Nuptial	29.4	30.9	32.0	33.1	33.9	35.1	30.7
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	25.1	27.3	29.1	30.9	31.9	33.9	26.9
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	24.4	26.9	29.7	31.0	32.6	33.4	25.9
Total	27.9	30.1	31.3	32.5	33.3	34.7	29.6
Victoria							
Nuptial	29.8	31.4	32.5	33.4	34.3	35.7	31.2
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	25.8	28.1	29.9	31.7	32.9	34.2	27.6
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	25.2	27.5	30.0	31.1	32.6	33.3	26.7
Total	28.6	30.8	32.0	33.0	33.9	35.2	30.3
Queensland							
Nuptial	29.1	30.6	31.6	32.8	33.5	34.9	30.5
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	24.3	26.7	28.6	30.4	31.2	33.0	26.1
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	23.4	25.7	29.1	30.4	31.1	32.9	24.9
Total	27.0	29.6	30.8	32.1	32.7	34.2	28.9
South Australia							
Nuptial	29.8	31.4	32.5	33.4	34.5	35.5	31.1
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	25.2	27.8	29.5	30.8	32.5	33.8	27.1
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	24.1	27.2	29.3	30.9	34.1	38.5	25.8
Total	27.9	30.4	31.6	32.5	33.7	34.9	29.7
Western Australia							
Nuptial	29.6	30.9	32.1	33.0	34.1	34.7	30.8
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	24.8	27.1	28.9	30.0	31.0	32.7	26.4
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	24.0	26.3	29.7	30.0	31.8	32.4	24.8
Total	27.5	29.9	31.3	32.0	32.9	34.0	29.3
Tasmania							
Nuptial	29.0	30.2	31.1	31.9	33.6	34.9	30.2
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	24.0	26.3	28.2	29.6	30.6	31.4	25.7
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	22.6	26.1	27.5	29.4	33.8	28.6	24.3
Total	26.3	28.9	30.2	31.0	32.4	33.4	28.3
Northern Territory							
Nuptial	29.8	31.3	32.6	34.4	34.9	37.3	31.3
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	24.1	26.6	28.7	30.4	32.0	34.4	26.5
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	22.2	25.0	28.0	29.4	30.8	31.7	23.4
Total	25.1	28.7	30.5	31.9	32.7	34.9	27.6
Australian Capital Territory							
Nuptial	30.0	31.4	32.5	33.8	34.6	34.6	31.3
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	25.6	28.1	30.1	32.1	33.1	34.3	27.6
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	23.9	28.9	32.1	32.4	33.5	34.4	26.2
Total	28.6	30.8	32.1	33.4	34.1	34.5	30.3
Australia							
Nuptial	29.5	31.0	32.1	33.1	34.0	35.2	30.8
Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	25.0	27.3	29.1	30.8	31.9	33.6	26.8
Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	23.9	26.5	29.4	30.6	32.2	33.0	25.4
Total	27.8	30.1	31.4	32.5	33.3	34.6	29.6
.....							

# CHAPTER 8

## FERTILITY TABLES .....

### 8.1 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a) AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(b) .....

	AGE GROUP (YEARS).....							
	15-19(c)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(d)	Total fertility rate
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

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

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

(b) Births per woman.

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

**8.1 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a) AND TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(b) continued**

	AGE GROUP (YEARS).....							
	15-19(c)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49(d)	Total fertility rate
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
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	2.151
1976	35.2	128.2	146.2	72.5	24.1	5.5	0.4	2.061
1977	32.1	122.0	145.7	74.1	23.9	5.0	0.3	2.016
1978	29.9	115.8	144.0	73.4	23.5	4.5	0.2	1.957
1979	28.5	109.1	142.5	73.9	23.6	4.6	0.3	1.913
1980	27.6	107.0	141.0	75.1	23.7	4.4	0.3	1.896
1981	28.2	107.5	145.2	77.6	24.5	4.5	0.3	1.939
1982	27.4	103.9	144.9	80.6	25.6	4.5	0.3	1.936
1983	26.6	102.7	145.9	81.5	25.0	4.3	0.2	1.931
1984	23.2	94.3	140.4	81.2	25.0	4.3	0.3	1.844
1985	22.8	95.8	146.0	89.0	26.9	4.5	0.2	1.926
1986	21.8	90.0	141.9	88.7	27.2	4.3	0.2	1.871
1987	20.6	85.0	139.6	90.6	28.9	4.8	0.3	1.849
1988	20.3	81.5	136.9	93.3	30.5	4.6	0.2	1.837
1989	20.6	78.4	135.4	96.1	32.6	5.0	0.2	1.842
1990	22.1	79.4	137.9	101.7	34.7	5.5	0.2	1.908
1991	22.1	75.0	132.0	100.2	36.0	5.5	0.2	1.855
1992	22.0	74.9	132.3	104.6	38.3	6.1	0.3	1.893
1993	20.9	71.3	129.8	105.4	38.9	6.3	0.2	1.864
1994	20.7	69.7	125.8	105.0	41.1	6.7	0.3	1.846
1995	20.4	67.1	121.7	106.0	42.3	7.2	0.3	1.825
1996	20.1	65.2	117.1	105.7	43.7	7.5	0.3	1.797
1997	19.5	62.4	113.9	106.7	45.0	7.5	0.3	1.776
1998	18.5	60.2	111.4	107.4	45.7	8.0	0.3	1.758
1999	18.1	58.7	108.5	108.8	47.1	8.5	0.3	1.751
2000	17.4	56.5	107.0	110.5	49.1	8.8	0.4	1.749

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

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

(b) Births per woman.

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

## 8.2 AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES(a)

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
19 and under	16.7	10.8	22.7	15.2	20.9	25.7	69.6	10.9	17.4
20–24	59.5	41.4	66.3	54.0	61.6	80.5	98.6	38.5	56.5
25–29	110.2	98.3	112.9	104.8	108.3	113.3	111.3	100.4	107.0
30–34	113.6	113.1	103.9	110.7	109.8	95.9	99.4	111.5	110.5
35–39	51.7	52.2	43.5	48.2	46.5	36.3	49.7	53.0	49.1
40–44	9.7	8.8	7.3	9.2	8.1	6.5	13.7	8.2	8.8
45 and over	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.4
<b>Total fertility rate(b)</b>	<b>1.809</b>	<b>1.625</b>	<b>1.784</b>	<b>1.713</b>	<b>1.777</b>	<b>1.792</b>	<b>2.216</b>	<b>1.614</b>	<b>1.749</b>

(a) Births per 1,000 women.

(b) Births per woman.

## 8.3 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES(a)

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1980	1.930	1.840	1.933	1.728	1.932	1.974	2.292	1.994	1.896
1985	2.006	1.833	1.950	1.775	1.943	2.011	2.317	1.796	1.926
1990	1.956	1.868	1.935	1.748	1.909	1.948	2.277	1.784	1.908
1995	1.867	1.754	1.828	1.760	1.857	1.892	2.357	1.685	1.825
1996	1.827	1.707	1.851	1.756	1.811	1.890	2.201	1.670	1.797
1997	1.832	1.690	1.803	1.705	1.788	1.787	2.175	1.621	1.776
1998	1.797	1.679	1.794	1.705	1.767	1.811	2.200	1.558	1.758
1999	1.820	1.627	1.769	1.703	1.769	1.869	2.153	1.683	1.751
2000	1.809	1.625	1.784	1.713	1.777	1.792	2.216	1.614	1.749

(a) Births per woman.

## 8.4 CONTRIBUTION OF AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES TO THE TOTAL FERTILITY RATE

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Age group (years)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
19 and under	4.6	3.3	6.4	4.4	5.9	7.2	15.7	3.4	5.0
20–24	16.4	12.7	18.6	15.8	17.3	22.5	22.3	11.9	16.2
25–29	30.5	30.3	31.6	30.6	30.5	31.6	25.1	31.1	30.6
30–34	31.4	34.8	29.1	32.3	30.9	26.7	22.4	34.5	31.6
35–39	14.3	16.1	12.2	14.1	13.1	10.1	11.2	16.4	14.0
40–44	2.7	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.3	1.8	3.1	2.5	2.5
45 and over	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total fertility rate(a)</b>	<b>1.809</b>	<b>1.625</b>	<b>1.784</b>	<b>1.713</b>	<b>1.777</b>	<b>1.792</b>	<b>2.216</b>	<b>1.614</b>	<b>1.749</b>

(a) Births per woman.

### 8.5 COMPLETED FERTILITY(a), Year of birth of woman

	Average issue	Proportion based on projected births(b)	Median age (all births)
Year of birth	no.	%	years
1905	2.296	—	27.8
1910	2.333	—	28.8
1915	2.429	—	28.9
1920	2.645	—	28.2
1925	2.794	—	27.6
1930	3.011	—	26.9
1935	3.025	—	25.9
1940	2.747	—	25.6
1945	2.498	—	25.5
1950	2.331	—	25.9
1955	2.227	—	27.0
1960	2.124	1.5	28.0
1965	2.059	12.8	28.9
1970	2.007	42.1	29.7
1975	1.932	74.6	30.4
1980	1.827	92.6	30.8
1985	1.764	99.8	31.1
1990	1.750	100.0	31.1

(a) Based on age-specific fertility rates derived from birth registrations.

Cohorts which have not yet completed their fertility are assumed to experience a fertility rate dropping to 1.75 over 10 years, with an increasing age of motherhood.

(b) Proportion of the estimated average derived from projected fertility.

### 8.6 NET REPRODUCTION RATE(a)

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1980	0.914	0.878	0.913	0.829	0.923	0.937	1.078	0.965	0.901
1985	0.957	0.879	0.927	0.846	0.934	0.976	1.096	0.846	0.920
1990	0.928	0.893	0.924	0.838	0.906	0.927	1.087	0.836	0.908
1995	0.899	0.842	0.874	0.840	0.888	0.909	1.095	0.799	0.875
1996	0.878	0.815	0.887	0.852	0.864	0.901	1.025	0.808	0.861
1997	0.882	0.810	0.870	0.824	0.854	0.858	1.043	0.794	0.854
1998	0.858	0.799	0.865	0.830	0.852	0.880	1.013	0.763	0.842
1999	0.875	0.782	0.848	0.823	0.855	0.912	1.031	0.829	0.842
2000	0.864	0.780	0.854	0.825	0.861	0.843	1.063	0.781	0.838

(a) Net reproduction rates are based on annual life tables calculated by the ABS.



## 8.7 REGIONAL PATTERNS OF FERTILITY

## EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS....

Statistical Division(c)	Births no.	Total fertility(a) rate	SEIFA– Disadvantage(b) index	SEIFA– Education/ Occupation(b) index	Median age of mother years	Nuptial births %	Paternity- acknowledged %	Paternity-not- acknowledged %
<b>New South Wales</b>								
Capital City								
Sydney	57 199	1.730	1 027	1 039	30.4	78.4	18.7	2.9
Balance of State								
Hunter	7 126	1.852	970	963	28.9	65.0	31.0	4.0
Illawarra	4 847	1.910	979	982	29.2	70.1	26.2	3.6
Richmond-Tweed	2 292	1.968	960	965	29.3	56.2	39.3	4.5
Mid-North Coast	2 858	2.047	947	949	28.5	56.4	38.8	4.8
Northern	2 287	2.118	978	975	28.3	63.0	32.5	4.5
North Western	1 751	2.285	952	954	28.3	59.2	35.0	5.8
Central West	2 236	2.083	982	967	28.7	66.9	29.8	3.2
South Eastern	2 106	2.063	1 004	988	29.3	62.0	33.7	4.3
Murrumbidgee	2 108	2.150	989	967	28.7	67.2	30.0	2.8
Murray	1 312	2.016	994	969	29.3	68.4	29.4	2.1
Far West	278	1.918	919	929	28.7	56.8	38.8	4.3
Total	29 201	2.004	973	968	28.9	64.0	32.0	4.0
Total(d)	86 752	1.810	1 007	1 012	29.9	73.5	23.1	3.3
<b>Victoria</b>								
Capital City								
Melbourne	43 699	1.561	1 025	1 028	30.9	78.6	19.7	1.7
Balance of State								
Barwon	2 889	1.806	995	983	29.9	71.5	26.9	1.7
Weston Districts	1 166	2.028	1 001	969	30.0	73.6	24.4	2.1
Central Highlands	1 631	1.847	989	985	29.6	68.6	29.6	1.8
Wimmera	596	1.952	1 006	971	29.7	74.7	23.7	1.7
Mallee	1 180	2.243	983	955	29.1	70.5	27.8	1.7
Loddon-Campaspe	1 893	1.907	998	988	29.8	66.7	31.7	1.6
Goulburn	2 391	2.184	992	963	29.4	69.9	28.6	1.5
Ovens-Murray	1 073	1.932	1 007	986	29.3	70.8	27.1	2.1
East Gippsland	839	2.038	985	972	29.4	62.0	36.6	1.4
Gippsland	1 789	1.952	983	969	29.1	65.7	31.9	2.4
Total	15 447	1.961	993	975	29.6	69.3	28.9	1.8
Total(d)	59 171	1.644	1 016	1 013	30.6	76.2	22.1	1.7
<b>Queensland</b>								
Capital City								
Brisbane	21 558	1.675	1 010	1 004	29.6	70.7	25.5	3.9
Balance of State								
Moreton	7 951	1.674	979	964	29.6	64.3	31.8	3.9
Wide Bay-Burnett	2 821	2.065	926	908	28.0	59.3	35.4	5.3
Darling Downs	2 955	2.139	982	955	28.6	70.8	24.8	4.3
South West	435	2.555	960	936	28.9	66.0	30.3	3.7
Fitzroy	2 615	2.042	972	944	28.1	61.0	34.1	4.9
Central West	190	2.073	969	935	29.3	59.5	36.8	3.7
Mackay	1 774	1.944	984	935	28.7	65.8	30.7	3.4
Northern	2 837	1.891	981	959	28.3	62.2	32.6	5.3
Far North	3 290	1.885	978	969	28.7	53.9	39.2	6.9
North West	735	2.479	940	929	27.7	46.4	43.1	10.5
Total	25 603	1.902	971	951	28.8	62.2	32.9	4.9
Total(d)	47 278	1.786	988	975	29.2	66.1	29.5	4.4

(a) Average total fertility rate over 1998, 1999 and 2000.

(b) Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas, 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

(c) Latest data on 1999 ASGC boundaries.

(d) The difference between the number of births for the State and the total over the Statistical Divisions is mainly due to some events, registered in the State, occurring to overseas usual residents.

(e) Includes Other Territories.

8.7 REGIONAL PATTERNS OF FERTILITY *continued*

## EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS....

Statistical Division(c)	Births no.	Total fertility(a) rate	SEIFA– Disadvantage(b) index	SEIFA– Education/ Occupation(b) index	Median age of mother years	Nuptial births %	Paternity- acknowledged %	Paternity-not- acknowledged %
<b>South Australia</b>								
Capital City								
Adelaide	12 858	1.613	991	999	30.4	69.0	27.8	3.2
Balance of State								
Outer Adelaide	1 300	1.923	1 002	967	30.6	69.3	28.5	2.2
Yorke and Lower North	446	2.091	958	926	29.8	70.0	26.2	3.8
Murray Lands	864	2.118	939	904	28.9	62.4	33.8	3.8
South East	808	2.038	977	926	29.4	68.8	28.0	3.2
Eyre	471	2.393	964	945	29.5	62.4	34.2	3.4
Northern	1 099	2.016	926	934	28.3	51.3	43.9	4.8
Total	4 988	2.055	963	936	29.5	63.5	33.0	3.5
Total(d)	17 859	1.708	984	983	30.2	67.4	29.3	3.3
<b>Western Australia</b>								
Capital City								
Perth	17 577	1.665	1 020	1 012	30.0	69.7	27.5	2.8
Balance of State								
South West	2 420	2.022	965	924	28.8	61.5	35.5	3.0
Lower Great Southern	754	2.353	982	948	28.5	59.3	36.7	4.0
Upper Great Southern	310	2.488	1 005	942	29.7	69.7	26.8	3.5
Midlands	711	2.221	980	932	29.2	65.4	31.8	2.8
South Eastern	1 029	2.215	981	945	28.2	55.6	39.7	4.8
Central	978	2.159	960	940	28.1	51.7	42.7	5.5
Pilbara	704	2.116	995	960	29.1	58.9	36.8	4.3
Kimberley	575	2.149	913	967	27.2	30.3	60.7	9.0
Total	7 481	2.139	970	939	28.6	57.3	38.5	4.3
Total(d)	25 093	1.772	1 006	991	29.6	66.0	30.7	3.3
<b>Tasmania</b>								
Capital City								
Greater Hobart	2 275	1.714	1 001	1 009	29.3	59.9	35.5	4.6
Balance of State								
Southern	453	2.293	942	914	28.2	49.4	45.3	5.3
Northern	1 552	1.789	966	954	28.6	63.6	32.2	4.2
Mersey-Lyell	1 394	1.985	945	926	27.9	58.0	38.1	3.9
Total	3 399	1.924	955	938	28.3	59.4	36.4	4.2
Total(d)	5 692	1.829	974	967	28.7	59.6	36.0	4.4
<b>Northern Territory</b>								
Capital City								
Darwin	1 536	1.939	1 027	1 046	29.1	58.8	32.9	8.3
Balance of State								
Northern Territory - Bal	2 141	2.391	909	969	26.5	25.4	41.6	33.0
Total(d)	3 685	2.187	962	1 004	27.8	39.3	37.9	22.7
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>								
Capital City								
Canberra	3 998	1.612	1 091	1 121	30.3	75.5	22.4	2.1
Total(d)	4 065	1.622	1 091	1 121	30.3	74.5	22.1	3.4
<b>Australia(e)</b>	<b>249 636</b>	<b>1.749</b>	<b>1 000</b>	<b>1 000</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>

(a) Average total fertility rate over 1998, 1999 and 2000.

(b) Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas, 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

(c) Latest data on 1998 ASGC boundaries.

(d) The difference between the number of births for the State and the total over the Statistical Divisions is mainly due to some births, registered in the State, occurring to overseas usual residents.

(e) Includes Other Territories.

## 8.8 FERTILITY BY SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH

## AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE(a).....

	Average births(a)	Estimated resident female population(b)	15–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years	45–49 years	Total fertility rate(a)
Country of birth of mother(c)	no.	no.	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate
Argentina	177	3 871	11.3	50.9	96.9	90.3	54.8	10.3	1.3	1.579
Australia (ex Norfolk)	190 353	3 672 276	18.8	60.2	108.9	108.9	44.6	7.6	0.3	1.746
Austria	101	3 018	16.0	44.3	96.3	103.1	36.3	10.2	1.1	1.537
Cambodia	700	9 419	18.0	112.6	150.8	118.9	53.5	14.5	2.2	2.353
Canada	548	9 583	6.5	30.6	81.2	137.8	78.3	15.2	0.9	1.753
Central America	232	4 771	21.2	75.8	108.3	101.2	37.8	6.7	1.2	1.761
Chile	423	8 591	15.7	69.6	107.8	92.3	45.8	9.9	—	1.705
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)	3 365	51 710	1.1	39.7	127.1	131.2	78.3	20.6	1.1	1.995
Cyprus	211	6 202	10.5	61.7	117.7	89.6	28.8	4.6	—	1.564
Denmark	133	2 055	2.9	44.5	110.3	148.8	66.5	13.3	—	1.932
Egypt	365	7 705	4.8	109.5	196.3	118.3	60.0	9.4	0.6	2.494
Fiji	1 014	15 496	12.6	102.3	139.2	113.2	48.8	12.0	0.4	2.142
Former Yugoslavia	1 780	50 532	7.7	84.0	122.1	74.4	28.7	5.0	0.1	1.610
France	290	5 288	1.3	35.8	93.9	116.7	61.4	12.5	0.7	1.612
Germany	756	19 269	8.1	42.6	99.0	107.6	54.6	9.7	0.3	1.610
Greece	430	19 514	7.0	51.6	94.7	79.2	32.7	4.7	0.3	1.352
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	571	21 147	0.6	3.1	40.1	113.7	71.8	11.8	—	1.206
India	1 464	27 657	2.3	62.9	133.5	104.6	39.9	7.9	0.4	1.757
Indonesia & East Timor	1 122	24 266	5.3	20.5	118.2	131.3	66.5	15.2	0.5	1.787
Iran	250	6 357	2.4	39.7	94.6	89.2	50.8	9.2	1.1	1.434
Ireland	587	16 802	5.0	15.2	47.4	116.8	75.2	4.9	0.3	1.324
Israel	119	2 345	8.6	46.4	114.8	141.5	58.8	15.1	—	1.926
Italy	661	28 214	9.6	35.9	106.4	97.2	37.9	7.3	0.2	1.472
Japan	574	10 877	1.6	10.4	60.1	162.0	100.9	23.5	—	1.793
Korea	647	14 864	2.0	13.4	105.0	115.1	44.9	7.2	0.5	1.441
Laos	260	4 315	26.2	82.6	107.8	99.4	49.0	6.0	1.4	1.862
Lebanon	2 526	26 980	60.2	246.3	196.5	132.4	60.3	12.8	0.4	3.544
Malaysia	1 078	37 754	1.8	5.2	54.8	121.3	60.6	10.7	0.7	1.276
Malta	171	9 578	13.8	47.1	102.8	99.0	33.7	4.6	0.2	1.506
Mauritius	215	5 776	7.1	39.6	88.5	100.2	49.4	9.3	0.3	1.472
Myanmar (Burma)	160	3 675	6.2	32.0	88.2	103.4	54.3	8.9	1.0	1.470
Netherlands	410	13 645	10.9	31.1	93.5	138.6	53.1	7.4	0.4	1.674
New Zealand	6 527	119 244	31.5	78.5	100.7	97.3	49.5	9.5	0.6	1.838
Papua New Guinea	751	11 776	14.2	51.8	107.5	123.3	54.6	12.2	0.9	1.823
Philippines	2 726	56 244	17.5	70.6	128.2	104.8	52.2	12.6	0.6	1.932
Poland	367	14 953	7.3	32.6	83.7	77.1	34.2	6.5	0.3	1.208
Portugal	214	5 143	13.6	67.0	130.2	88.1	36.9	7.2	0.4	1.717
Romania	198	4 077	13.8	74.1	123.8	86.0	35.3	11.2	—	1.721
Singapore	385	11 220	1.5	5.4	57.5	162.8	91.9	17.5	—	1.684
South Africa	981	23 157	5.0	31.4	92.5	114.6	48.4	8.6	0.5	1.504
Spain	147	2 856	10.1	61.8	102.1	117.0	62.2	8.9	0.7	1.813
Sri Lanka	917	16 975	3.2	27.3	131.4	141.9	63.9	12.8	0.4	1.904
Switzerland	162	2 626	8.9	22.0	107.6	148.7	81.2	10.0	—	1.892
Thailand	487	10 899	16.7	35.1	68.9	104.5	64.8	13.0	0.7	1.518
Turkey	806	10 803	52.9	181.3	133.0	90.9	42.0	7.4	0.2	2.538

(a) Average over the three years 1998 to 2000.

(c) Excludes countries with less than 100 births, on average, over 1998–2000.

(b) 1999 Estimated female resident population aged 15–49 years.

(d) Includes East Timor.

8.8 FERTILITY BY SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH *continued*

## AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE(a).....

	<i>Average births(a)</i>	<i>Estimated resident female population(b)</i>	<i>15–19 years</i>	<i>20–24 years</i>	<i>25–29 years</i>	<i>30–34 years</i>	<i>35–39 years</i>	<i>40–44 years</i>	<i>45–49 years</i>	<i>Total fertility rate(a)</i>
<i>Country of birth of mother(c)</i>	no.	no.	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate
Ukraine	132	2 046	6.9	79.4	146.6	128.2	46.5	10.7	—	2.092
UK	10 829	265 050	13.4	43.7	88.7	100.1	47.0	8.6	0.4	1.509
Uruguay	161	2 804	15.7	65.5	109.0	109.9	54.6	11.7	—	1.832
United States of America	993	17 336	5.8	44.2	103.1	139.4	77.3	16.4	1.3	1.938
Viet Nam	4 376	69 651	14.3	62.8	122.8	116.4	58.0	12.9	1.0	1.941
<i>Total overseas born</i>	<i>58 714</i>	<i>1 205 833</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>52.1</i>	<i>108.6</i>	<i>109.8</i>	<i>53.0</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1.737</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>249 374</b>	<b>4 878 109</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>109.0</b>	<b>109.3</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.754</b>

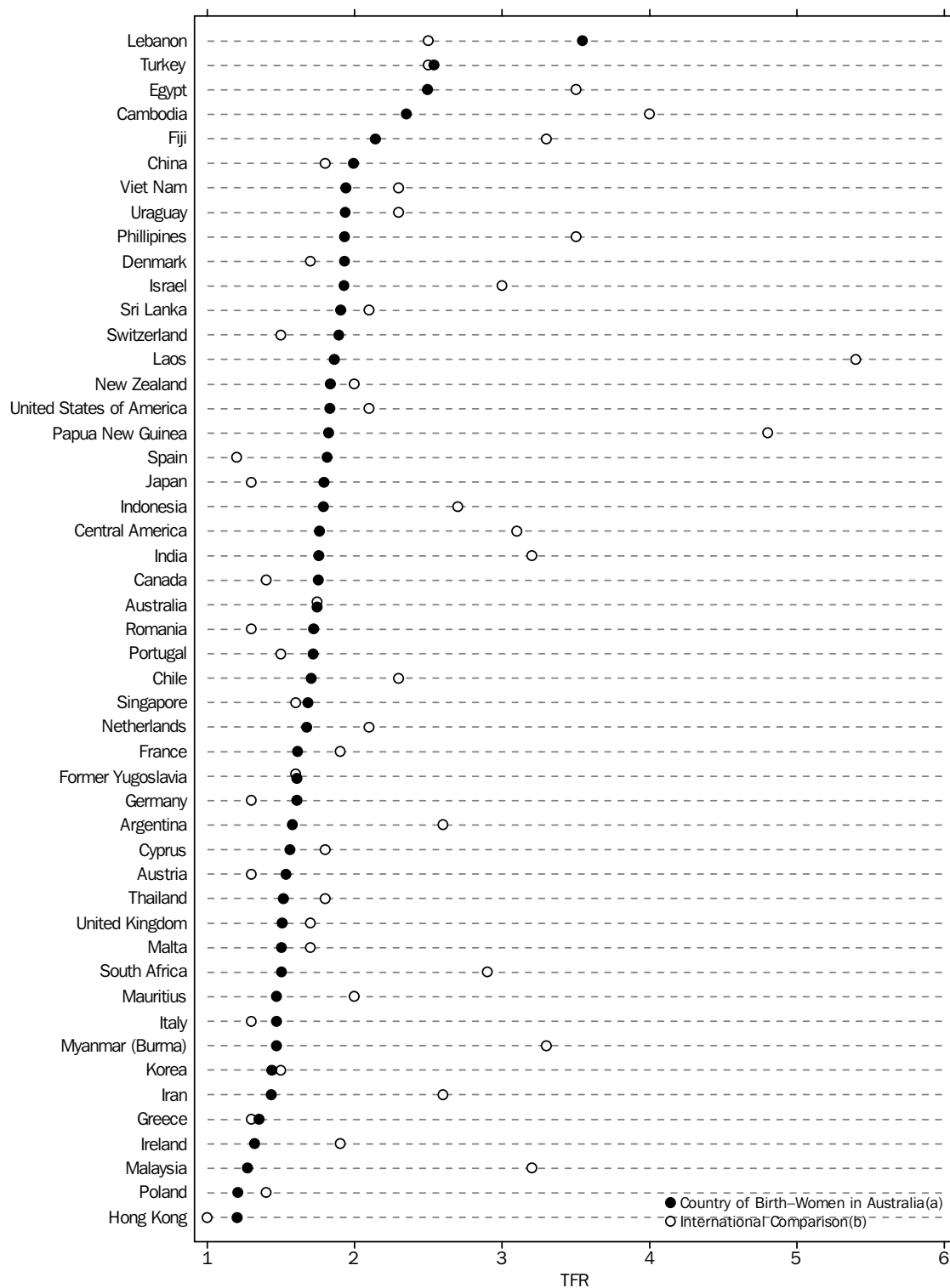
(a) Average over the three years 1998 to 2000.

(b) 1999 Estimated female resident population aged 15–49 years.

(c) Excludes countries with less than 100 births, on average, over 1998–2000.

(d) Includes East Timor.

## 8.9 TOTAL FERTILITY RATES, Selected Countries of Birth of Women in Australia and International Comparison



(a) Source: ABS, Birth Registrations, 2000. Estimated female resident population by country of birth as at 30 June 2000.

(b) Source: Population Reference Bureau, 2001 *World Population Data Sheet*. Book Edition.

## CHAPTER 9

## BIRTHS TABLES .....

### 9.1 BIRTHS, Number registered, State/Territory of usual residence .....

<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>Other Territories</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
MALES										
1980	41 159	29 771	18 077	9 420	10 542	3 495	1 340	2 144	—	<b>115 948</b>
1985	45 058	31 497	20 843	10 147	11 775	3 661	1 688	2 144	—	<b>126 813</b>
1990	46 752	34 357	23 082	10 170	13 082	3 620	1 798	2 333	—	<b>135 194</b>
1995	44 884	32 108	23 863	9 977	12 942	3 390	1 960	2 291	17	<b>131 432</b>
1996	44 448	31 587	24 533	9 710	12 813	3 346	1 861	2 241	33	<b>130 572</b>
1997	44 647	31 248	24 024	9 383	12 810	3 098	1 812	2 132	25	<b>129 179</b>
1998	43 763	31 303	24 042	9 266	12 655	3 053	1 913	2 006	15	<b>128 016</b>
1999	44 438	30 101	23 919	9 184	12 686	3 056	1 823	2 129	21	<b>127 357</b>
2000	44 705	30 326	24 291	9 164	12 763	2 985	1 862	2 074	20	<b>128 190</b>
FEMALES										
1980	38 642	28 251	16 924	9 010	10 110	3 281	1 262	2 099	—	<b>109 579</b>
1985	42 728	30 058	19 594	9 643	11 334	3 588	1 627	1 963	—	<b>120 535</b>
1990	43 782	32 613	21 786	9 693	12 274	3 423	1 759	2 124	—	<b>127 454</b>
1995	42 965	30 483	22 621	9 359	12 197	3 180	1 806	2 124	23	<b>124 758</b>
1996	42 147	29 556	23 236	9 346	11 980	3 111	1 701	2 155	30	<b>123 262</b>
1997	42 509	29 484	22 941	8 979	11 966	2 909	1 776	2 076	23	<b>122 663</b>
1998	41 736	29 189	23 004	8 960	12 062	2 925	1 728	1 976	20	<b>121 600</b>
1999	42 346	28 774	22 584	8 774	12 163	2 976	1 753	2 124	19	<b>121 513</b>
2000	42 047	28 845	22 987	8 695	12 330	2 707	1 823	1 991	21	<b>121 446</b>
PERSONS										
1980	79 801	58 022	35 001	18 430	20 652	6 776	2 602	4 243	—	<b>225 527</b>
1985	87 786	61 555	40 437	19 790	23 109	7 249	3 315	4 107	—	<b>247 348</b>
1990	90 534	66 970	44 868	19 863	25 356	7 043	3 557	4 457	—	<b>262 648</b>
1995	87 849	62 591	46 484	19 336	25 139	6 570	3 766	4 415	40	<b>256 190</b>
1996	86 595	61 143	47 769	19 056	24 793	6 457	3 562	4 396	63	<b>253 834</b>
1997	87 156	60 732	46 965	18 362	24 776	6 007	3 588	4 208	48	<b>251 842</b>
1998	85 499	60 492	47 046	18 226	24 717	5 978	3 641	3 982	35	<b>249 616</b>
1999	86 784	58 875	46 503	17 958	24 849	6 032	3 576	4 253	40	<b>248 870</b>
2000	86 752	59 171	47 278	17 859	25 093	5 692	3 685	4 065	41	<b>249 636</b>

## 9.2 BIRTHS, Nuptiality by State/Territory of usual residence

<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>
NUPTIAL BIRTHS									
1980	69 715	52 731	29 544	16 128	17 796	5 816	1 823	3 898	<b>197 451</b>
1985	74 074	54 457	32 901	16 925	19 223	6 073	1 797	3 623	<b>209 073</b>
1990	71 280	55 220	33 471	15 326	19 379	5 282	1 677	3 606	<b>205 241</b>
1995	65 939	48 962	32 229	14 041	17 664	4 381	1 613	3 280	<b>188 140</b>
1996	64 595	47 933	32 191	13 328	17 128	4 242	1 504	3 288	<b>184 266</b>
1997	63 918	47 191	31 345	12 928	17 134	3 866	1 522	3 157	<b>181 104</b>
1998	62 751	46 391	31 215	12 689	16 861	3 661	1 517	2 931	<b>178 046</b>
1999	63 188	45 106	30 877	12 362	16 458	3 616	1 432	3 106	<b>176 179</b>
2000	63 797	45 075	31 244	12 045	16 561	3 393	1 450	3 028	<b>176 625</b>
TOTAL EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS									
1980	10 086	5 291	5 457	2 302	2 856	960	779	345	<b>28 076</b>
1985	13 712	7 098	7 536	2 865	3 886	1 176	1 518	484	<b>38 275</b>
1990	19 254	11 750	11 397	4 537	5 977	1 761	1 880	851	<b>57 407</b>
1995	21 910	13 629	14 255	5 295	7 475	2 189	2 153	1 135	<b>68 050</b>
1996	22 000	13 210	15 578	5 728	7 665	2 215	2 058	1 108	<b>69 568</b>
1997	23 238	13 541	15 620	5 434	7 642	2 141	2 066	1 051	<b>70 738</b>
1998	22 748	14 101	15 831	5 537	7 856	2 317	2 124	1 051	<b>71 570</b>
1999	23 596	13 769	15 626	5 596	8 391	2 416	2 144	1 147	<b>72 691</b>
2000	22 955	14 096	16 034	5 814	8 532	2 299	2 235	1 037	<b>73 011</b>
PATERNITY-ACKNOWLEDGED EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS									
1980	6 293	2 898	2 842	1 380	1 509	485	535	223	<b>16 165</b>
1985	10 008	4 587	4 843	2 015	2 478	784	1 056	350	<b>26 121</b>
1990	15 150	9 406	8 222	3 591	4 598	1 413	1 237	640	<b>44 257</b>
1995	18 359	11 527	11 769	4 516	6 304	1 896	1 384	925	<b>56 688</b>
1996	18 545	11 367	13 032	4 960	6 473	1 941	1 292	934	<b>58 549</b>
1997	19 958	11 853	13 145	4 787	6 490	1 876	1 423	916	<b>60 452</b>
1998	19 618	12 972	13 665	4 959	6 745	2 059	1 435	887	<b>62 345</b>
1999	20 722	12 843	13 486	5 026	7 500	2 143	1 439	979	<b>64 144</b>
2000	20 070	13 092	13 937	5 227	7 716	2 050	1 397	899	<b>64 396</b>
PATERNITY-NOT-ACKNOWLEDGED EXNUPTIAL BIRTHS									
1980	3 793	2 393	2 615	922	1 347	475	244	122	<b>11 911</b>
1985	3 704	2 511	2 693	850	1 408	392	462	134	<b>12 154</b>
1990	4 104	2 344	3 175	946	1 379	348	643	211	<b>13 150</b>
1995	3 551	2 102	2 486	779	1 171	293	769	210	<b>11 362</b>
1996	3 455	1 843	2 546	768	1 192	274	766	174	<b>11 019</b>
1997	3 280	1 688	2 475	647	1 152	265	643	135	<b>10 286</b>
1998	3 130	1 129	2 166	578	1 111	258	689	164	<b>9 225</b>
1999	2 874	926	2 140	570	891	273	705	168	<b>8 547</b>
2000	2 885	1 004	2 097	587	816	249	838	138	<b>8 615</b>

(a) Australia includes Other Territories.

## 9.3 BIRTHS, Age of parents

MOTHERS.....					FATHERS.....		
Age of parent (years)	Married	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	Total	Married	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Total
15 and under	—	232	151	384	—	70	70
16	8	720	261	989	—	211	211
17	36	1 639	430	2 105	—	543	544
18	241	2 457	556	3 254	37	1 054	1 091
19	707	3 407	628	4 742	145	1 704	1 849
20	1 237	3 638	549	5 424	337	2 278	2 615
21	2 102	3 720	554	6 376	645	2 586	3 231
22	2 992	3 785	466	7 243	1 084	2 954	4 038
23	4 319	3 753	469	8 541	1 855	3 250	5 105
24	5 872	3 715	433	10 020	2 894	3 338	6 232
25	7 792	3 731	446	11 969	4 311	3 448	7 759
26	9 586	3 519	403	13 508	5 911	3 690	9 601
27	12 035	3 512	369	15 916	7 990	3 743	11 733
28	14 159	3 440	351	17 950	10 521	3 725	14 246
29	15 466	3 267	333	19 066	11 992	3 521	15 513
30	15 299	2 793	289	18 381	12 887	3 358	16 245
31	14 696	2 698	259	17 653	13 266	3 021	16 287
32	13 206	2 395	265	15 866	13 287	2 775	16 062
33	11 943	2 139	210	14 292	12 724	2 434	15 158
34	10 397	1 902	172	12 471	11 921	2 318	14 239
35	8 972	1 725	195	10 892	11 057	2 098	13 155
36	7 430	1 540	161	9 131	10 168	1 950	12 118
37	5 739	1 295	169	7 203	8 834	1 743	10 577
38	4 386	1 073	122	5 581	7 505	1 524	9 029
39	3 061	840	95	3 996	5 896	1 302	7 198
40	2 019	570	82	2 671	4 826	1 051	5 877
41	1 294	394	42	1 730	3 625	861	4 486
42	786	233	34	1 053	2 894	692	3 586
43	414	140	20	574	2 261	615	2 876
44	231	68	15	314	1 702	493	2 195
45	109	32	11	152	1 300	414	1 714
46	46	9	—	56	1 033	330	1 363
47	16	3	3	21	825	244	1 069
48	11	—	3	13	574	218	792
49	5	—	—	7	482	157	639
50	3	—	—	3	365	147	512
51	—	3	—	3	292	116	408
52	3	—	—	3	239	94	333
53	4	—	—	4	199	72	271
54	—	—	—	—	158	41	199
55–59	—	—	—	—	392	124	516
60 and over	—	—	—	—	176	50	226
Not stated	3	7	70	79	14	39	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>176 625</b>	<b>64 396</b>	<b>8 615</b>	<b>249 636</b>	<b>176 625</b>	<b>64 396</b>	<b>241 021</b>



## 9.4 BIRTHS, Month of birth

YEAR OF REGISTRATION.....						
<i>Month of Birth</i>	1980	1985	1990	1995	1999	2000
January	18 933	20 605	21 139	21 664	21 106	21 145
February	18 209	18 939	20 166	20 213	19 634	19 843
March	19 553	21 340	22 763	22 965	22 124	21 843
April	18 833	20 356	21 633	20 877	20 838	20 184
May	19 770	21 026	22 263	22 231	20 999	21 388
June	19 057	19 481	21 669	21 390	20 816	20 479
July	19 112	20 623	22 218	21 755	21 158	20 561
August	18 512	20 837	22 641	22 043	21 073	21 412
September	18 908	20 697	22 383	21 744	21 545	21 362
October	18 982	21 852	23 095	21 531	20 693	21 888
Novemenber	17 328	21 378	21 741	19 649	19 190	19 938
December	18 330	20 214	20 937	20 128	19 694	19 593
<b>Total</b>	<b>225 527</b>	<b>247 348</b>	<b>262 648</b>	<b>256 190</b>	<b>248 870</b>	<b>249 636</b>

# CHAPTER 10

## CONFINEMENTS TABLES .....

### 10.1 CONFINEMENTS, Age of mother .....

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
19 and under	3 602	1 713	2 887	755	1 403	437	489	124	11 412
20–24	12 939	6 933	8 210	2 565	4 149	1 156	763	494	37 216
25–29	27 113	17 977	15 202	5 305	7 631	1 737	1 019	1 285	77 276
30–34	26 552	20 406	13 303	5 709	7 537	1 517	868	1 319	77 229
35–39	12 745	9 569	5 931	2 699	3 378	637	397	634	35 995
40–44	2 300	1 569	967	518	580	114	95	99	6 244
45 and over	93	57	36	32	15	6	5	3	247
Not stated	4	—	4	6	—	—	6	54	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>85 348</b>	<b>58 226</b>	<b>46 540</b>	<b>17 589</b>	<b>24 694</b>	<b>5 605</b>	<b>3 642</b>	<b>4 012</b>	<b>245 697</b>

(a) Includes Other Territories.

### 10.2 MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS AT CONFINEMENT .....

FATHERS.....				MOTHERS.....			
Selected years	Nuptial	Exnuptial	Total	Nuptial	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	Total
1980	29.6	26.0	29.4	27.0	22.8	20.8	26.6
1985	30.4	26.5	30.1	27.8	23.6	21.9	27.3
1990	31.4	27.3	30.9	29.0	24.5	22.6	28.3
1995	32.5	27.8	31.7	30.1	25.2	23.3	29.1
1996	32.7	27.9	31.9	30.2	25.3	23.7	29.2
1997	32.8	28.1	32.0	30.4	25.6	23.9	29.4
1998	32.9	28.4	32.0	30.5	25.9	23.9	29.5
1999	33.0	28.5	32.1	30.6	26.1	24.3	29.7
2000	33.1	28.9	32.2	30.8	26.4	24.5	29.8

### 10.3 MEDIAN AGE OF PARENTS, States and Territories

FATHERS.....				MOTHERS.....			
State/Territory	Nuptial	Exnuptial	Total	Nuptial	Exnuptial	Total	
					paternity not acknowledged		
New South Wales	33.2	29.0	32.4	30.6	26.5	29.8	
Victoria	33.3	29.7	32.7	31.1	27.5	30.5	
Queensland	32.5	28.1	31.4	30.3	25.5	29.1	
South Australia	33.3	29.3	32.4	31.1	26.7	30.1	
Western Australia	33.1	28.4	31.9	30.7	25.9	29.6	
Tasmania	32.4	27.9	31.0	30.2	24.8	28.7	
Northern Territory	33.3	28.6	31.4	30.8	25.9	27.8	
Australian Capital Territory	33.0	29.1	32.3	30.8	27.0	30.3	
<b>Australia(a)</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>29.8</b>	

(a) Includes Other Territories.

### 10.4 CONFINEMENTS, Median age of mother

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
1980	26.7	27.0	26.1	26.1	26.2	25.6	25.6	27.8	26.6
1985	27.4	27.8	26.8	27.0	27.2	26.5	26.2	28.4	27.3
1990	28.4	28.8	27.9	28.1	28.2	27.8	26.5	28.9	28.3
1995	29.2	29.7	28.4	29.4	28.8	28.5	26.8	29.5	29.1
1996	29.3	29.9	28.5	29.4	28.9	28.3	27.1	29.6	29.2
1997	29.4	30.0	28.6	29.7	29.2	28.2	27.1	29.9	29.4
1998	29.5	30.2	28.8	29.8	29.3	28.6	27.4	30.0	29.5
1999	29.6	30.4	28.9	29.9	29.4	28.6	27.5	30.3	29.7
2000	29.8	30.5	29.1	30.1	29.6	28.7	27.8	30.3	29.8

(a) Includes Other Territories.

## 10.5 CONFINEMENTS, Age of parents

Age of parent (years)	MOTHERS.....				FATHERS.....		
	Nuptial	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	Total	Nuptial	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Total
15 and under	—	231	151	383	—	69	69
16	7	717	260	984	—	210	210
17	36	1 630	425	2 091	—	539	540
18	239	2 443	555	3 237	37	1 050	1 087
19	704	3 388	625	4 717	144	1 692	1 836
20	1 224	3 613	546	5 383	333	2 264	2 597
21	2 077	3 696	548	6 321	639	2 573	3 212
22	2 970	3 747	456	7 173	1 072	2 928	4 000
23	4 263	3 720	463	8 446	1 831	3 218	5 049
24	5 793	3 670	430	9 893	2 860	3 309	6 169
25	7 686	3 696	439	11 821	4 253	3 428	7 681
26	9 443	3 483	395	13 321	5 836	3 641	9 477
27	11 858	3 469	363	15 690	7 879	3 688	11 567
28	13 943	3 386	345	17 674	10 346	3 685	14 031
29	15 218	3 228	324	18 770	11 822	3 483	15 305
30	15 053	2 759	283	18 095	12 691	3 312	16 003
31	14 454	2 652	254	17 360	13 060	2 987	16 047
32	12 971	2 350	260	15 581	13 030	2 728	15 758
33	11 704	2 100	207	14 011	12 498	2 403	14 901
34	10 157	1 858	167	12 182	11 697	2 278	13 975
35	8 783	1 686	192	10 661	10 847	2 065	12 912
36	7 262	1 517	156	8 935	9 993	1 922	11 915
37	5 599	1 275	166	7 040	8 660	1 714	10 374
38	4 271	1 055	115	5 441	7 358	1 494	8 852
39	3 000	825	93	3 918	5 781	1 280	7 061
40	1 983	560	80	2 623	4 725	1 031	5 756
41	1 273	391	40	1 704	3 549	845	4 394
42	776	229	34	1 039	2 841	680	3 521
43	412	138	20	570	2 206	609	2 815
44	226	67	15	308	1 673	485	2 158
45	104	31	11	146	1 278	409	1 687
46	41	9	—	51	1 010	325	1 335
47	15	3	3	20	812	241	1 053
48	10	—	3	12	554	215	769
49	5	—	—	7	468	157	625
50	3	—	—	3	355	147	502
51	—	3	—	3	284	115	399
52	3	—	—	—	234	92	326
53	3	—	—	3	197	72	269
54	—	—	—	—	152	41	193
55–59	—	—	—	—	380	122	502
60 and over	—	—	—	—	172	49	221
Not stated	3	7	69	78	13	39	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>173 571</b>	<b>63 634</b>	<b>8 492</b>	<b>245 697</b>	<b>173 571</b>	<b>63 634</b>	<b>237 205</b>

**10.6 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Age of mother**

Age of mother (years)	1980	1985	1990	1995	1999	2000
15 and under	22	3	5	—	—	—
16	253	109	49	17	11	7
17	1 018	505	286	65	53	36
18	2 500	1 319	885	300	268	239
19	4 333	2 640	1 736	920	735	704
20	6 658	4 616	2 960	1 702	1 294	1 224
21	9 046	6 962	4 606	2 822	2 087	2 077
22	11 677	9 853	6 356	4 354	3 029	2 970
23	13 800	12 694	8 375	6 543	4 472	4 263
24	15 332	14 962	10 829	8 438	6 061	5 793
25	16 460	16 653	13 167	10 422	7 921	7 686
26	16 506	17 856	15 681	12 298	10 020	9 443
27	16 641	18 239	17 520	13 647	12 327	11 858
28	15 291	17 459	18 251	14 653	14 288	13 943
29	13 743	15 774	18 039	15 188	14 656	15 218
30	11 831	14 128	16 362	15 182	14 767	15 053
31	9 450	11 989	14 302	14 682	13 953	14 454
32	8 096	10 101	12 608	13 639	12 741	12 971
33	6 733	7 987	10 144	11 861	11 565	11 704
34	4 493	6 541	8 170	10 065	10 259	10 157
35	3 380	4 985	6 683	8 086	8 747	8 783
36	2 653	3 535	4 834	6 186	7 064	7 262
37	1 753	2 766	3 501	4 663	5 515	5 599
38	1 275	1 915	2 608	3 382	3 999	4 271
39	930	1 239	1 740	2 351	2 755	3 000
40	665	807	1 312	1 585	1 950	1 983
41	393	455	713	1 010	1 217	1 273
42	230	303	431	628	738	776
43	159	148	244	362	392	412
44	75	106	93	146	205	226
45	45	41	49	65	94	104
46	22	20	23	37	44	41
47	12	12	8	9	13	15
48	—	9	—	3	6	10
49	3	3	—	3	5	5
50 and over	—	—	3	3	4	8
Not stated	11	6	13	59	6	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>195 492</b>	<b>206 739</b>	<b>202 585</b>	<b>185 378</b>	<b>173 263</b>	<b>173 571</b>

## 10.7 EXNUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Age of mother

Age of mother (years)	1980	1985	1990	1995	1999	2000
15 and under	564	516	458	440	418	382
16	1 256	1 211	1 051	1 128	972	977
17	2 124	2 120	2 481	2 238	2 105	2 055
18	2 752	2 845	3 599	3 200	3 068	2 998
19	2 769	3 187	4 478	4 237	4 061	4 013
20	2 473	3 164	4 487	4 619	4 388	4 159
21	2 220	3 012	4 267	4 634	4 414	4 244
22	1 987	2 741	3 853	4 703	4 411	4 203
23	1 690	2 629	3 706	4 665	4 294	4 183
24	1 436	2 301	3 273	4 330	4 118	4 100
25	1 343	2 070	3 056	3 822	4 183	4 135
26	1 122	1 812	2 951	3 572	4 021	3 878
27	955	1 661	2 795	3 182	3 860	3 832
28	846	1 413	2 498	2 915	3 783	3 731
29	745	1 254	2 317	2 795	3 368	3 552
30	670	1 098	2 058	2 598	2 975	3 042
31	558	965	1 813	2 394	2 669	2 906
32	475	790	1 556	2 229	2 328	2 610
33	424	657	1 331	1 878	2 155	2 307
34	335	604	1 155	1 653	2 019	2 025
35	265	494	912	1 412	1 826	1 878
36	176	359	711	1 176	1 617	1 673
37	185	318	595	971	1 257	1 441
38	142	246	439	781	1 103	1 170
39	97	151	344	577	844	918
40	72	103	218	384	597	640
41	45	66	161	296	404	431
42	43	49	105	160	231	263
43	21	24	61	95	146	158
44	11	11	18	55	62	82
45	10	4	10	26	26	42
46	3	—	7	7	18	10
47	3	—	—	4	9	5
48	—	3	3	—	3	3
49	—	—	—	3	—	—
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	3
Not stated	9	54	81	150	91	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 826</b>	<b>37 933</b>	<b>56 850</b>	<b>67 330</b>	<b>71 845</b>	<b>72 126</b>

**10.8 CONFINEMENTS, Plurality****MULTIPLE CONFINEMENT.....**

Selected years	Single.....		Twins..	Triplets and higher order	Total.....		Total
	no.	%			no.	%	
1980	221 069	99.0	2 219	30	2 249	1.0	223 318
1985	241 999	98.9	2 622	51	2 673	1.1	244 672
1990	256 267	98.8	3 074	94	3 168	1.2	259 435
1995	249 249	98.6	3 359	100	3 459	1.4	252 708
1996	246 914	98.6	3 345	104	3 449	1.4	250 363
1997	244 689	98.6	3 450	107	3 557	1.4	248 246
1998	242 208	98.5	3 592	98	3 690	1.5	245 898
1999	241 370	98.5	3 630	108	3 738	1.5	245 108
2000	241 795	98.4	3 800	102	3 902	1.6	245 697

**10.9 CONFINEMENTS RESULTING IN A MULTIPLE BIRTH, By State and Territory**

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	All mothers
NUMBER									
1980	807	612	309	187	202	63	19	50	2 249
1985	971	637	431	227	270	60	36	41	2 673
1990	1 095	825	523	271	317	67	37	33	3 168
1995	1 151	902	579	284	344	87	52	60	3 459
1996	1 110	847	634	300	351	98	42	67	3 449
1997	1 178	916	676	261	367	74	35	48	3 557
1998	1 218	945	678	293	369	88	35	64	3 690
1999	1 288	979	617	288	355	99	46	65	3 738
2000	1 397	939	719	269	396	86	44	52	3 902
PERCENT									
1980	1.02	1.07	0.89	1.03	0.99	0.94	0.74	1.19	1.01
1985	1.12	1.05	1.08	1.16	1.18	0.83	1.10	1.01	1.09
1990	1.22	1.25	1.18	1.38	1.27	0.96	1.05	0.75	1.22
1995	1.33	1.46	1.26	1.49	1.39	1.34	1.40	1.38	1.37
1996	1.30	1.40	1.35	1.60	1.44	1.54	1.19	1.55	1.38
1997	1.37	1.53	1.46	1.44	1.50	1.25	0.99	1.15	1.43
1998	1.45	1.59	1.46	1.63	1.52	1.49	0.97	1.63	1.50
1999	1.51	1.69	1.34	1.63	1.45	1.67	1.30	1.55	1.53
2000	1.64	1.61	1.54	1.53	1.60	1.53	1.21	1.30	1.59

## 10.10 CONFINEMENTS, Plurality—By marital status

	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>
<i>Selected years</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	no.
1980	86.6	12.3	99.0	0.9	0.1	1.0	87.5	12.5	223 318
1985	83.5	15.4	98.9	1.0	0.1	1.1	84.5	15.5	244 672
1990	77.1	21.7	98.8	1.0	0.2	1.2	78.1	21.9	259 435
1995	72.3	26.4	98.6	1.1	0.3	1.4	73.4	26.6	252 708
1996	71.4	27.2	98.6	1.1	0.3	1.4	72.5	27.5	250 363
1997	70.7	27.9	98.6	1.1	0.3	1.4	71.8	28.2	248 246
1998	70.1	28.4	98.5	1.2	0.3	1.5	71.2	28.8	245 898
1999	69.5	29.0	98.5	1.2	0.3	1.5	70.7	29.3	245 108
2000	69.4	29.0	98.4	1.2	0.4	1.6	70.6	29.4	245 697

## 10.11 NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS, Previous children—Duration of marriage

	PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP.....						
	<i>None</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five or more</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Duration of marriage (years)</i>	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Less than one	13 385	2 199	401	82	24	8	16 099
One	17 314	3 678	552	112	30	15	21 701
Two	12 705	6 806	829	155	31	12	20 538
Three	9 039	9 238	1 368	189	43	17	19 894
Four	6 806	9 145	2 187	266	36	17	18 457
Five	4 852	8 042	2 884	448	82	18	16 326
Six	3 288	6 323	3 107	668	82	21	13 489
Seven	2 251	4 788	3 200	809	146	33	11 227
Eight	1 573	3 546	2 648	824	187	52	8 830
Nine	1 034	2 593	2 236	819	197	86	6 965
Ten and over	2 401	5 449	6 180	3 460	1 347	1 208	20 045
<b>Total</b>	<b>74 648</b>	<b>61 807</b>	<b>25 592</b>	<b>7 832</b>	<b>2 205</b>	<b>1 487</b>	<b>173 571</b>



**10.12 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS(a)**

## DURATION OF CURRENT MARRIAGE (YEARS).....

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10 and over</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>	<i>Median duration</i>
<i>Selected years</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>years</i>
1980	17 634	16 779	12 440	10 049	7 515	13 208	983	78 680	2.4
1985	17 140	18 913	13 996	10 617	7 404	12 649	1 997	82 860	2.4
1990	18 085	19 232	13 904	10 097	7 296	13 375	2 229	84 228	2.3
1995	13 342	17 405	13 113	9 556	6 740	13 301	2 149	75 606	2.5
1996	13 138	17 004	12 681	9 242	6 866	12 811	2 131	73 873	2.5
1997	12 805	16 919	12 573	9 257	6 646	12 902	2 254	73 356	2.6
1998	12 530	16 504	12 302	9 193	6 687	12 908	2 152	72 276	2.6
1999	13 067	16 578	12 293	9 199	6 702	12 773	2 216	72 828	2.6
2000	13 385	17 314	12 705	9 039	6 806	12 998	2 401	74 648	2.5

(a) Excludes confinements to relationships with exnuptial births.

(b) Includes marriage duration not stated.

**10.13 NUPTIAL FIRST CONFINEMENTS(a), Age of mother**

	<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(b)</i>	<i>Median age</i>
<i>Selected years</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>years</i>
1980	6 550	31 307	29 200	9 396	1 942	279	78 680	25.2
1985	3 628	27 747	34 457	13 204	3 372	447	82 860	26.3
1990	2 418	20 158	37 181	18 646	5 023	795	84 228	27.6
1995	1 039	13 934	31 689	21 296	6 539	1 090	75 606	28.6
1996	989	12 815	30 890	21 090	6 896	1 171	73 873	28.7
1997	970	11 483	30 663	21 720	7 296	1 211	73 356	29.0
1998	893	10 645	30 275	21 600	7 577	1 284	72 276	29.1
1999	866	10 139	29 872	22 577	7 956	1 413	72 828	29.3
2000	804	9 912	29 843	24 090	8 484	1 514	74 648	29.5

(a) Excludes confinements to relationships with exnuptial births.

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

## 10.14 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF MOTHER, Summary

FATHER BORN IN(a).....									
	Total confinements	Same country Australia	as mother	Other country	Nuptial mothers	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	Total fertility	Median age of mothers
Country of birth of mother	no.	%	%	%	%	%	%	rate	years
<b>Oceania and Antarctica</b>									
Australia (incl. E T)	186 689	86.3	—	13.7	67.6	28.7	3.7	1.743	29.4
Fiji	1 067	18.2	69.0	12.9	83.6	13.3	3.1	2.183	29.4
New Zealand	6 381	52.9	31.9	15.2	56.4	38.9	4.7	1.767	29.8
Papua New Guinea	744	72.5	10.6	16.8	71.8	24.5	3.8	1.824	30.1
Other	1 435	11.9	69.7	18.4	71.7	22.5	5.8	3.199	30.7
<i>Total</i>	196 316	84.2	1.9	13.8	67.4	28.9	3.7	1.750	29.5
<b>North-West Europe</b>									
Austria	109	63.0	8.3	28.7	78.9	20.2	0.9	1.691	31.3
Denmark	114	60.5	15.8	23.7	84.2	15.8	—	1.685	32.4
France	293	51.2	18.9	29.9	78.2	21.2	0.7	1.613	32.8
Germany	718	60.0	14.0	26.0	77.3	20.9	1.8	1.553	32.9
Ireland	515	49.4	23.2	27.4	84.9	13.8	1.4	1.203	33.8
Netherlands	401	69.7	9.7	20.6	77.8	20.2	2.0	1.636	32.3
Switzerland	138	49.6	22.6	27.7	83.3	15.9	0.7	1.620	32.7
United Kingdom	10 147	65.2	23.2	11.6	75.3	22.7	2.0	1.500	33.1
Other	351	63.0	11.5	25.5	73.8	25.6	0.6	n.a.	32.9
<i>Total</i>	12 786	63.8	21.6	14.6	76.1	22.1	1.9	n.a.	33.0
<b>Southern and Eastern Europe</b>									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	406	7.7	77.7	14.6	91.1	8.4	0.5	n.a.	30.0
Croatia	358	39.8	33.6	26.6	86.3	13.4	0.3	n.a.	32.7
Cyprus	195	50.5	26.0	23.4	90.3	8.2	1.5	1.549	31.7
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	452	33.1	55.0	11.9	88.5	9.7	1.8	n.a.	29.7
Greece	377	61.0	28.9	10.2	93.1	6.1	0.8	1.326	32.8
Hungary	78	40.3	31.2	28.6	70.5	28.2	1.3	1.217	31.1
Italy	606	64.9	17.9	17.2	88.8	10.1	1.2	1.520	34.1
Malta	160	71.1	13.8	15.1	87.5	11.9	0.6	1.697	31.9
Poland	336	34.6	50.6	14.8	85.4	13.4	1.2	1.127	30.5
Portugal	198	40.4	35.2	24.4	78.8	19.2	2.0	1.693	29.8
Romania	224	12.5	69.6	17.9	87.1	12.9	—	1.936	30.1
Russian Federation	231	33.0	37.0	30.0	85.7	12.6	1.7	n.a.	30.8
Spain	129	60.3	7.1	32.5	80.6	17.1	2.3	1.704	31.8
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	389	32.6	44.8	22.7	85.1	13.9	1.0	n.a.	31.5
Other	456	35.3	35.3	29.5	86.0	12.3	1.8	n.a.	30.1
<i>Total</i>	4 595	40.4	39.7	19.9	87.1	11.8	1.2	n.a.	31.5
<b>North Africa and the Middle East</b>									
Egypt	322	16.8	75.7	7.5	94.7	5.0	0.3	2.339	31.8
Iran	255	11.1	77.9	11.1	94.1	5.1	0.8	1.462	31.8
Israel	120	28.3	41.7	30.0	91.7	8.3	—	1.897	30.4
Lebanon	2 398	17.7	74.6	7.7	94.7	5.2	0.1	3.510	28.7
Syria	243	11.5	43.2	45.3	96.7	3.3	—	n.a.	29.7
Turkey	758	15.2	77.3	7.5	92.9	6.1	1.1	2.531	29.2
Other	1 328	5.3	75.6	19.1	95.2	4.4	0.5	n.a.	28.8
<i>Total</i>	5 424	13.9	73.3	12.8	94.5	5.1	0.4	2.902	29.2

(a) Paternity-acknowledged confinements only. Calculation excludes confinements where father's country of birth was not stated.

## 10.14 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF MOTHER, Summary continued

FATHER BORN IN(a).....									
	Total confinements	Same country as mother	Other country	Nuptial mothers	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Exnuptial paternity not acknowledged	Total fertility	Median age of mothers	
Country of birth of mother	no.	%	%	%	%	%	rate	years	
<b>South-East Asia</b>									
Cambodia	766	4.6	72.8	22.6	75.5	18.7	5.9	2.603	29.0
Indonesia(b)	1 270	20.5	59.8	19.6	90.2	8.6	1.2	1.827	29.7
Laos	258	11.5	56.6	31.9	63.6	27.5	8.9	1.932	29.5
Malaysia	1 159	35.7	31.0	33.3	92.4	7.1	0.5	1.329	32.5
Philippines	2 745	38.2	43.8	18.0	81.6	16.0	2.5	1.999	31.3
Singapore	358	44.3	14.6	41.2	88.8	10.9	0.3	1.296	31.7
Thailand	477	45.7	18.7	35.7	74.6	22.0	3.4	1.407	31.1
Viet Nam	4 910	4.0	87.1	8.9	75.1	16.1	8.8	2.198	29.7
Other	186	24.0	49.7	26.2	93.0	5.4	1.6	1.852	32.5
Total	12 129	20.3	61.4	18.3	80.2	14.7	5.0	1.776	30.4
<b>North-East Asia</b>									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	3 530	6.7	79.5	13.8	88.8	9.7	1.5	2.016	33.1
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	513	16.5	51.8	31.7	95.5	3.5	1.0	0.993	33.7
Japan	597	45.6	25.0	29.4	93.3	6.5	0.2	1.747	32.1
Korea, Republic of (South)	712	8.9	81.3	9.8	94.4	4.9	0.7	1.563	30.3
Other	284	16.2	47.8	36.0	93.3	6.0	0.7	1.603	30.6
Total	5 636	12.5	69.8	17.7	90.8	8.0	1.2	1.636	32.4
<b>Southern and Central Asia</b>									
India	1 434	13.7	72.0	14.3	96.0	3.5	0.5	1.658	30.7
Pakistan	341	5.6	85.5	8.9	94.4	4.7	0.9	n.a.	29.2
Sri Lanka	908	12.9	79.4	7.7	96.1	3.6	0.2	1.932	32.0
Other	582	4.1	87.1	8.8	93.5	6.2	0.3	1.630	29.0
Total	3 265	10.9	78.2	10.9	95.4	4.1	0.4	1.943	30.7
<b>Americas</b>									
Argentina	191	46.8	22.6	30.6	81.7	15.7	2.6	1.795	30.3
Canada	571	73.9	8.0	18.2	84.1	15.1	0.9	1.772	32.4
Caribbean	54	54.7	3.8	41.5	83.3	14.8	1.9	1.811	31.5
Central America	237	27.8	42.3	30.0	72.6	23.2	4.2	1.781	28.0
Chile	435	39.3	35.2	25.5	74.7	21.8	3.4	1.836	30.1
United States of America	981	64.1	16.8	19.1	87.2	11.6	1.2	1.829	32.5
Uruguay	155	46.3	18.4	35.4	74.8	20.0	5.2	1.904	31.1
Other	364	38.4	32.3	29.2	82.4	16.2	1.4	0.982	32.2
Total	2 988	54.3	21.8	23.9	82.0	16.0	2.0	1.831	31.6
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>									
Kenya	87	50.6	24.1	25.3	81.6	18.4	—	n.a.	33.9
Mauritius	214	40.8	35.1	24.2	83.2	15.4	1.4	1.514	33.0
South Africa	1 010	40.3	41.4	18.2	86.7	11.6	1.7	1.407	31.1
Zimbabwe	203	53.3	11.7	35.0	80.8	16.3	3.0	n.a.	31.0
Other	780	19.4	59.6	21.0	76.3	20.3	3.5	1.527	29.9
Total	2 294	34.9	43.6	21.5	82.1	15.6	2.3	1.672	31.0
Other and not stated	264	100.0	—	—	46.2	12.1	41.7	..	33.9
Total Overseas-born	58 744	35.7	47.7	16.6	80.4	17.0	2.7	1.726	31.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>245 697</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.749</b>	<b>29.8</b>

(a) Paternity-acknowledged confinements only. Calculation excludes confinements where father's country of birth was not stated. (b) Indonesia includes East Timor.

## 10.15 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF FATHER(a), Summary

Country of birth of father	MOTHER BORN IN(b).....							Median age of fathers
	Total confinements	Australia	Same country as father	Other country	Nuptial fathers	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Total paternity(c)	
	no.	%	%	%	%	%	rate	years
<b>Oceania and Antarctica</b>								
Australia (incl. E T)	175 571	88.4	—	11.6	70.2	29.8	1.640	31.5
Fiji	1 034	20.4	69.0	10.6	84.6	15.4	2.537	32.7
New Zealand	6 825	57.6	28.4	14.0	61.1	38.9	1.733	32.2
Papua New Guinea	637	72.6	11.9	15.4	72.7	27.3	1.846	32.1
Other	1 637	22.9	57.5	19.6	69.7	30.3	3.820	32.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>185 704</i>	<i>86.2</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>70.0</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>1.653</i>	<i>31.6</i>
<b>North-West Europe</b>								
Austria	119	58.0	7.6	34.5	75.6	24.4	1.497	35.0
Denmark	136	66.2	13.2	20.6	77.9	22.1	1.736	34.6
France	339	62.7	16.3	21.0	77.9	22.1	1.510	33.7
Germany	781	60.7	12.7	26.5	79.4	20.6	1.419	35.1
Ireland	603	56.1	19.6	24.3	82.6	17.4	1.308	34.9
Netherlands	458	73.1	8.3	18.6	82.8	17.2	1.415	35.4
Switzerland	168	50.3	18.6	31.1	85.1	14.9	1.608	34.6
United Kingdom	12 179	68.3	18.9	12.8	77.8	22.2	1.443	35.1
Other	275	64.0	14.5	21.5	79.3	20.7	n.a.	34.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>15 058</i>	<i>67.1</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>14.9</i>	<i>78.3</i>	<i>21.7</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>35.0</i>
<b>Southern and Eastern Europe</b>								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	477	15.3	65.8	18.9	90.1	9.9	n.a.	33.5
Croatia	480	51.5	25.0	23.5	88.1	11.9	n.a.	34.6
Cyprus	269	65.1	18.6	16.4	89.6	10.4	1.657	33.7
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	639	53.0	38.2	8.8	88.9	11.1	n.a.	32.5
Greece	718	72.3	15.0	12.7	88.2	11.8	1.463	36.0
Hungary	93	48.4	25.8	25.8	77.4	22.6	1.204	36.6
Italy	1 073	73.3	10.0	16.8	86.3	13.7	1.583	36.4
Malta	237	67.9	9.3	22.8	87.3	12.7	1.508	37.3
Poland	314	29.8	53.8	16.3	80.9	19.1	1.078	34.2
Portugal	229	53.6	30.6	15.8	76.9	23.1	1.741	32.3
Romania	233	24.6	67.2	8.2	82.8	17.2	2.056	33.0
Russian Federation	132	15.9	63.6	20.5	93.2	6.8	n.a.	33.8
Spain	153	67.3	5.9	26.8	79.1	20.9	1.618	34.7
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	528	44.0	32.6	23.3	83.7	16.3	n.a.	34.3
Other	399	31.7	39.7	28.6	87.2	12.8	n.a.	34.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>5 974</i>	<i>51.9</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>86.3</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>34.6</i>
<b>North Africa and the Middle East</b>								
Egypt	467	27.2	52.0	20.8	94.2	5.8	2.413	36.9
Iran	327	16.3	60.4	23.3	89.9	10.1	1.385	36.1
Israel	186	44.1	26.9	29.0	86.0	14.0	2.310	34.0
Lebanon	3 188	36.4	56.0	7.6	93.3	6.7	3.752	33.1
Syria	252	30.6	41.7	27.8	92.9	7.1	n.a.	34.6
Turkey	928	29.1	62.5	8.4	89.7	10.3	2.575	32.5
Other	1 504	14.0	66.4	19.6	92.6	7.4	n.a.	34.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>6 852</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>57.8</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>92.3</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>2.963</i>	<i>33.9</i>

(a) Paternity-acknowledged confinements only.

(b) Calculation excludes confinements where mother's country of birth was not stated.

(c) Total paternity rate is calculated in the same way as the total fertility rate, births summed over five-year age groups 15–19 to 45 and over. Because paternity was not acknowledged in 5% of births, the actual paternity rate is, on average, 5% higher than the figures given in this table.

**10.15 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF FATHER(a), Summary continued**

MOTHER BORN IN(b).....								
	Total confinements	Australia	Same country as father	Other country	Nuptial fathers	Exnuptial paternity acknowledged	Total paternity(c)	Median age of fathers
Country of birth of father	no.	%	%	%	%	%	rate	years
.....								
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	719	3.3	73.1	23.5	79.6	20.4	2.519	32.8
Indonesia(d)	1 059	15.2	70.7	14.1	90.5	9.5	1.921	33.0
Laos	224	8.0	59.4	32.6	70.5	29.5	1.626	33.1
Malaysia	1 018	33.2	35.2	31.6	91.3	8.7	1.428	34.5
Philippines	1 451	13.5	81.0	5.6	82.1	17.9	1.680	32.3
Singapore	306	40.8	17.0	42.2	91.2	8.8	1.589	35.0
Thailand	170	21.2	50.6	28.2	72.4	27.6	1.164	32.0
Viet Nam	4 375	2.7	89.1	8.2	81.3	18.7	1.964	33.9
Other	181	21.0	50.3	28.7	86.7	13.3	1.417	34.8
Total	9 503	11.1	74.4	14.5	83.4	16.6	1.725	33.6
North-East Asia								
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	3 178	1.9	87.1	11.0	90.4	9.6	1.867	36.7
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	570	13.0	46.1	40.9	93.9	6.1	1.472	35.9
Japan	259	28.6	57.5	13.9	92.7	7.3	1.003	33.9
Korea, Republic of (South)	610	1.0	94.4	4.6	96.6	3.4	1.433	32.4
Other	201	9.0	66.5	24.5	91.5	8.5	2.503	33.8
Total	4 818	4.8	80.7	14.5	91.7	8.3	1.663	36.0
Southern and Central Asia								
India	1 534	20.6	67.1	12.3	93.9	6.1	1.308	34.2
Pakistan	407	11.1	71.2	17.7	94.6	5.4	n.a.	34.9
Sri Lanka	978	17.9	73.5	8.6	95.2	4.8	1.825	36.0
Other	616	7.6	82.0	10.4	93.3	6.7	n.a.	35.4
Total	3 535	16.5	71.9	11.6	94.3	5.7	1.621	35.0
Americas								
Argentina	191	51.3	22.0	26.7	78.5	21.5	1.672	32.1
Canada	530	71.9	8.5	19.6	85.5	14.5	1.679	34.2
Caribbean	54	64.8	3.7	31.5	59.3	40.7	1.382	36.3
Central America	226	31.1	42.7	26.2	71.2	28.8	1.805	30.1
Chile	433	40.6	34.2	25.2	72.5	27.5	1.752	31.5
United States of America	1 026	64.6	15.9	19.5	83.9	16.1	1.578	34.5
Uruguay	177	50.3	15.3	34.5	84.2	15.8	2.109	32.4
Other	344	41.6	33.7	24.7	75.6	24.4	1.834	34.2
Total	2 981	55.5	21.5	23.0	79.8	20.2	1.692	33.5
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	122	50.0	17.2	32.8	84.4	15.6	n.a.	36.2
Mauritius	243	49.4	30.5	20.2	84.8	15.2	1.629	35.0
South Africa	1 116	43.7	36.8	19.4	86.7	13.3	1.568	33.7
Zimbabwe	202	57.4	11.4	31.2	87.1	12.9	n.a.	33.2
Other	907	27.7	49.6	22.8	77.6	22.4	1.566	34.7
Total	2 590	40.0	37.8	22.2	83.3	16.7	1.794	34.2
Other and not stated	190	100.0	—	—	68.9	31.1	..	33.5
Total Overseas-born	61 444	40.4	44.3	15.3	81.6	18.4	1.687	34.2
Total paternity acknowledged	237 205	76.0	11.4	12.6	72.0	26.4	1.666	32.2

(a) Paternity-acknowledged confinements only.

(b) Calculation excludes confinements where mother's country of birth was not stated.

(c) Total paternity rate is calculated in the same way as the total fertility rate, summed over five-year age groups 15–19 to 45 and over.

Because paternity was not acknowledged in 5% of births, the actual paternity rate is, on average, 5% higher than the figures given in this table.

(d) Indonesia includes East Timor.

# CHAPTER 11

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TABLES .....

### 11.1 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—Australia(a)

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	10 895	8 118	249 636
Nuptial births (%)	19.1	15.1	70.8
Exnuptial births (%)	80.9	84.9	29.2
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	64.9	63.5	25.8
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	16.0	21.4	3.5
Both parents Indigenous (%)	32.6	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	41.9	..	..
Father only(c) (%)	25.5	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	2 299	1 852	11 474
20–24 (no.)	3 270	2 434	37 604
25–29 (no.)	2 891	2 090	78 409
30–34 (no.)	1 673	1 191	78 663
35–39 (no.)	626	452	36 803
40–44 (no.)	122	86	6 342
45 and over (no.)	5	4	262
Not stated (no.)	9	9	79
Age-specific fertility rates(d)			
15–19	..	84.7	17.4
20–24	..	133.1	56.5
25–29	..	113.6	107.0
30–34	..	71.2	110.5
35–39	..	31.2	49.1
40–44	..	7.2	8.8
45–49	..	0.4	0.4
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	2.207	1.749
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	10 779	8 039	245 697
Median age of mother (years)	24.8	24.5	29.8
Median age of father (years)	27.6	27.5	32.2

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in Australia has been estimated at 107% on 1991 Census-based projections and 92% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9.

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated (9%).

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.

**11.2 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—New South Wales(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers(a)</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	2 991	1 994	86 752
Nuptial births (%)	23.3	20.6	73.5
Exnuptial births (%)	76.7	79.4	26.5
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	66.7	64.3	23.1
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	10.0	15.0	3.3
Both parents Indigenous (%)	22.2	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	44.5	..	..
Father only (c) (%)	33.3	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	617	440	3 627
20–24 (no.)	918	604	13 062
25–29 (no.)	768	500	27 500
30–34 (no.)	468	304	27 088
35–39 (no.)	182	123	13 027
40–44 (no.)	36	22	2 343
45 and over (no.)	—	—	101
Not stated (no.)	—	—	4
Age-specific fertility rates(c)			
15–19	..	71.7	16.7
20–24	..	123.5	59.5
25–29	..	98.4	110.2
30–34	..	66.8	113.6
35–39	..	29.8	51.7
40–44	..	6.5	9.7
45–49	..	0.4	0.5
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	1.985	1.809
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	2 958	1 972	85 348
Median age of mother (years)	24.7	24.5	29.8
Median age of father (years)	27.6	27.7	32.4

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in New South Wales has been estimated at 116% on 1991 Census-based projections and 86% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated (31%).

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.

**11.3 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—Victoria(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers(a)</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	452	273	59 171
Nuptial births (%)	26.5	26.7	76.2
Exnuptial births (%)	73.5	73.3	26.5
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	68.1	64.5	22.1
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	5.3	8.8	1.7
Both parents Indigenous (%)	15.3	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	45.1	..	..
Father only(c) (%)	39.6	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	71	53	1 729
20–24 (no.)	134	80	7 002
25–29 (no.)	119	67	18 256
30–34 (no.)	89	47	20 778
35–39 (no.)	30	20	9 758
40–44 (no.)	9	6	1 586
45 and over (no.)	—	—	60
Not stated (no.)	—	—	—
Age-specific fertility rates(d)			
15–19	..	45.8	10.8
20–24	..	83.2	41.4
25–29	..	68.0	98.3
30–34	..	46.8	113.0
35–39	..	21.8	52.2
40–44	..	8.1	8.8
45–49	..	—	0.4
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	1.368	1.625
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	445	270	58 226
Median age of mother (years)	26.2	25.8	30.5
Median age of father (years)	28.6	28.6	32.7

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in Victoria has been estimated at 69% on 1991 Census-based projections and 67% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9.

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated (1%).

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.



**11.4 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—Queensland(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers(a)</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	3 172	2 340	47 278
Nuptial births (%)	22.6	18.2	66.1
Exnuptial births (%)	77.4	81.8	33.9
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	64.8	64.7	29.5
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	12.6	17.1	4.4
Both parents Indigenous (%)	33.7	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	40.1	..	..
Father only(c) (%)	26.2	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	594	455	2 897
20–24 (no.)	932	704	8 298
25–29 (no.)	907	647	15 422
30–34 (no.)	516	365	13 557
35–39 (no.)	194	146	6 082
40–44 (no.)	27	21	982
45 and over (no.)	—	—	36
Not stated (no.)	—	—	4
Age-specific fertility rates(d)			
15–19	..	75.6	22.7
20–24	..	138.3	66.3
25–29	..	125.8	112.9
30–34	..	79.1	103.9
35–39	..	37.3	43.5
40–44	..	6.7	7.3
45–49	..	0.4	0.3
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	2.316	1.784
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	3 134	2 315	46 540
Median age of mother (years)	25.3	25.1	29.1
Median age of father (years)	27.8	27.6	31.4

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in Queensland has been estimated at 118% on 1991 Census-based projections and 93% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated (1%).

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.

**11.5 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—South Australia(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers(a)</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	632	463	17 859
Nuptial births (%)	19.0	15.3	67.4
Exnuptial births (%)	81.0	84.7	32.6
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	69.3	68.7	29.3
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	11.7	16.0	3.3
Both parents Indigenous (%)	35.1	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	38.1	..	..
Father only(c) (%)	26.7	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	105	84	757
20–24 (no.)	183	132	2 589
25–29 (no.)	167	119	5 376
30–34 (no.)	114	86	5 807
35–39 (no.)	50	33	2 766
40–44 (no.)	10	6	524
45 and over (no.)	—	—	34
Not stated (no.)	3	3	6
Age-specific fertility rates(d)			
15–19	..	63.0	15.2
20–24	..	126.9	54.0
25–29	..	108.0	104.9
30–34	..	83.6	110.7
35–39	..	37.6	48.2
40–44	..	9.4	9.2
45–49	..	—	0.6
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	2.143	1.713
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	623	456	17 589
Median age of mother (years)	25.7	25.6	30.1
Median age of father (years)	28.5	28.4	32.4

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in South Australia has been estimated at 107% on 1991 Census-based projections and 97% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9.

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated (1%).

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.

**11.6 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—Western Australia(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers(a)</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	1 721	1 388	25 093
Nuptial births (%)	13.2	9.9	66.0
Exnuptial births (%)	86.8	90.1	34.0
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	75.4	76.0	30.7
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	11.4	14.1	3.3
Both parents Indigenous (%)	52.5	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	28.1	..	..
Father only(c) (%)	19.3	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	400	348	1 408
20–24 (no.)	536	433	4 214
25–29 (no.)	455	357	7 749
30–34 (no.)	221	171	7 654
35–39 (no.)	91	66	3 459
40–44 (no.)	17	12	591
45 and over (no.)	—	—	17
Not stated (no.)	—	—	—
Age-specific fertility rates(d)			
15–19	..	109.7	20.9
20–24	..	164.9	61.6
25–29	..	135.8	108.3
30–34	..	68.2	109.8
35–39	..	30.8	46.6
40–44	..	6.7	8.1
45–49	..	—	0.3
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	2.580	1.777
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	1 707	1 378	24 694
Median age of mother (years)	24.2	23.8	29.6
Median age of father (years)	27.0	26.7	31.9

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in Western Australia has been estimated at 99% on 1991 Census-based projections and 106% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9.

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated (1%).

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.

**11.7 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—Tasmania(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers(a)</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	336	197	5 692
Nuptial births (%)	30.7	27.9	59.6
Exnuptial births (%)	69.3	72.1	40.4
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	63.1	61.4	36.0
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	6.3	14.1	4.4
Both parents Indigenous (%)	11.6	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	47.0	..	..
Father only(c) (%)	41.4	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	69	41	439
20–24 (no.)	113	67	1 166
25–29 (no.)	87	50	1 769
30–34 (no.)	51	29	1 539
35–39 (no.)	14	9	655
40–44 (no.)	—	—	117
45 and over (no.)	—	—	6
Not stated (no.)	—	—	—
Age-specific fertility rates(d)			
15–19	..	42.4	25.7
20–24	..	84.0	80.5
25–29	..	74.6	113.3
30–34	..	50.9	95.9
35–39	..	16.1	36.3
40–44	..	1.9	6.5
45–49	..	—	0.4
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	1.349	1.792
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	334	197	5 605
Median age of mother (years)	24.4	24.1	28.7
Median age of father (years)	28.1	29.0	31.0

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in the Tasmania has been estimated at 98% on 1991 Census-based projections and 72% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9.

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated.

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.

**11.8 INDIGENOUS REGISTERED BIRTHS—Northern Territory(a)**

	<i>All Indigenous births</i>	<i>Births to Indigenous mothers(a)</i>	<i>All births</i>
<i>Total births (no.)</i>	1 530	1 430	3 685
Nuptial births (%)	5.1	3.1	39.3
Exnuptial births (%)	94.9	96.9	60.7
Paternity-acknowledged (%)	48.0	46.7	37.9
Paternity-not-acknowledged (%)	46.9	50.1	22.7
Both parents Indigenous (%)	38.0	..	..
Mother only(b) (%)	55.4	..	..
Father only(c) (%)	6.5	..	..
Age of mother			
19 and under (no.)	430	423	491
20–24 (no.)	437	406	768
25–29 (no.)	375	343	1 034
30–34 (no.)	197	180	882
35–39 (no.)	65	55	402
40–44 (no.)	20	17	97
45 and over (no.)	—	—	5
Not stated (no.)	4	4	6
Age-specific fertility rates(d)			
15–19	..	147.2	69.6
20–24	..	150.2	98.6
25–29	..	131.6	111.2
30–34	..	78.9	99.5
35–39	..	30.4	49.7
40–44	..	11.0	13.7
45–49	..	1.7	0.8
<i>Total fertility rate</i>	..	2.755	2.216
<i>Total confinements (no.)</i>	1 517	1 418	3 642
Median age of mother (years)	23.6	23.4	27.8
Median age of father (years)	27.3	26.9	31.4

(a) 2000 coverage of Indigenous births in the Northern Territory has been estimated at 103% on 1991 Census-based projections and 106% on 1996 Census-based projections. Table 11.9.

(b) Includes paternity-not-acknowledged and origin of father not stated.

(c) Includes origin of mother not stated.

(d) Indigenous rates based on the 1996 Census-based projected population for 2000, low series.

## 11.9 INDIGENOUS BIRTHS, Coverage

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
BIRTHS REGISTERED AS INDIGENOUS									
1990	47	499	7	588	30	3	1 289	35	2 497
1991	50	508	9	593	33	190	1 257	58	2 698
1992	42	503	4	561	1 215	218	1 354	14	3 911
1993	1 278	493	31	519	1 535	264	1 359	43	5 523
1994	2 011	520	25	531	1 578	247	1 338	59	6 310
1995	2 345	542	29	554	1 492	267	1 354	52	6 640
1996	2 444	474	2 534	557	1 538	244	1 343	66	9 204
1997	2 813	457	3 038	591	1 474	310	1 259	53	9 999
1998	3 014	590	3 085	661	1 468	300	1 284	42	10 445
1999	3 052	521	2 974	640	1 558	339	1 419	75	10 580
2000	2 991	452	3 172	632	1 721	336	1 530	57	10 895
PROJECTED INDIGENOUS BIRTHS (1991 Census-based experimental projections)(b)									
1995	2 446	612	2 485	543	1 607	302	1 387	57	9 439
1996	2 473	622	2 520	551	1 629	310	1 401	59	9 565
1997	2 499	631	2 553	559	1 653	319	1 416	61	9 691
1998	2 525	639	2 594	569	1 680	326	1 435	62	9 830
1999	2 551	647	2 637	580	1 710	334	1 459	64	9 989
2000	2 576	655	2 680	591	1 743	342	1 485	66	10 144
PROJECTED INDIGENOUS BIRTHS (1996 Census-based experimental estimates and projections)									
1995(c)	3 355	659	3 179	617	1 543	421	1 397	87	11 258
1996(c)	3 392	669	3 224	626	1 564	432	1 411	90	11 409
1997(d)	3 428	679	3 266	635	1 587	445	1 426	93	11 559
1998(d)	3 448	680	3 312	639	1 597	450	1 436	96	11 162
1999(d)	3 471	680	3 357	644	1 609	458	1 442	98	11 763
2000(d)	3 498	679	3 401	650	1 618	466	1 444	100	11 860
ESTIMATED COVERAGE OF INDIGENOUS BIRTHS (1991 Census-based) (%)									
1995	96	89	1	102	93	88	98	91	70
1996	99	76	101	101	94	79	96	112	96
1997	113	72	119	106	89	97	89	87	103
1998	119	92	119	116	87	92	89	68	106
1999	120	81	113	110	91	101	97	117	106
2000	116	69	118	107	99	98	103	86	107
ESTIMATED COVERAGE OF INDIGENOUS BIRTHS (1996 Census-based) (%)									
1995	70	82	1	90	97	63	97	60	59
1996	72	71	79	89	98	56	95	73	81
1997	82	67	93	93	93	70	88	57	87
1998	87	87	93	103	92	67	89	44	94
1999	88	77	89	99	97	74	98	77	90
2000	86	67	93	97	106	72	106	57	92

Note: See Explanatory Notes on page 81.

(a) Includes 'Other Territories' from 1993.

(b) Source: *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991–2001* (Cat. no. 3231.0). Medium series.(c) Derived using the ratio for 1997 from the 1991 Census-based projected population to the 1996 Census-based projected population. *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (Cat. no. 3231.0), using low series, 1996–2006 edition and the medium series of the 1991–2001 edition.(d) Source: *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1996–2006* (Cat. no. 3231.0). Low series.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES .....

### INTRODUCTION

**1** Registration of births is the responsibility of State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and is based on the data provided on an information form completed by the parents. This information form is the basis of the data provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), by Registrars, for compilation into the 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, however, collect additional information, and some of this is produced in this publication.

**2** In the main, statistics in this publication refer to births registered by the State and Territory Registrars during the calendar year shown. There is usually an interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth and, as a result of delay in registration, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This delay can be caused by either a delay by the parents in registering the birth, or a delay by the Registrar in registering the birth.

#### YEAR OF OCCURRENCE OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 2000 .....

	YEAR IN WHICH BIRTH OCCURRED.....						
	1994 and earlier	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
State or Territory of usual residence	%	%	%	%	%	%	
.....							
New South Wales	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	10.7	86.0
Victoria	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	9.7	89.6
Queensland	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.7	11.6	86.3
South Australia	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	9.2	89.4
Western Australia	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.9	10.3	87.5
Tasmania	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	12.3	85.9
Northern Territory	0.2	—	—	0.1	0.2	9.4	90.0
Australian Capital Territory	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	9.2	90.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>87.5</b>
.....							

**3** For births data, cell values less than three have been randomised to protect confidentiality.

### STATES AND TERRITORIES

**4** In the main, statistics for States and Territories have been compiled and presented in respect of the State or Territory of usual residence of the mother. However, 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, State or Territory of usual residence of mother and State or Territory of registration

## STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION.....

<i>State or Territory of usual residence</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.</i>
New South Wales	84 833	882	388	52	17	9	6	565	86 752
Victoria	146	58 899	42	48	17	12	—	5	59 171
Queensland	635	41	46 557	13	22	3	3	4	47 278
South Australia	33	34	13	17 722	8	—	47	—	17 859
Western Australia	32	11	28	13	24 964	—	41	—	25 093
Tasmania	11	29	—	—	3	5 646	—	—	5 692
Northern Territory	16	6	40	31	20	—	3 570	—	3 685
Australian Capital Territory	76	5	7	—	—	—	—	3 974	4 065
Other Territories	11	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	41
<b>Australia</b>	<b>85 793</b>	<b>59 909</b>	<b>47 078</b>	<b>17 881</b>	<b>25 078</b>	<b>5 673</b>	<b>3 670</b>	<b>4 554</b>	<b>249 636</b>

**5** In 2000 there were 483 births to women who usually lived overseas. These have been included in this publication and classified according to the State or Territory in which the birth was registered.

## BIRTHS, Babies born to overseas mothers

<i>State or Territory of registration</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>
New South Wales	26	34	50	54	231	312
Victoria	16	22	23	13	8	17
Queensland	43	59	114	89	111	108
South Australia	9	10	19	11	15	8
Western Australia	5	9	12	8	16	21
Tasmania	—	12	—	4	13	7
Northern Territory	—	4	—	—	9	6
Australian Capital Territory	11	7	4	4	5	4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>483</b>

**6** 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.

**7** Prior to 1993 usual residence data for Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included with offshore areas and migratory in Western Australia while usual residence data for Jervis Bay Territory were included with the Australian Capital Territory. In 1999 there were 40 births to mothers usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.



## INDIGENOUS BIRTHS

**8** This publication includes a section on the number of 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.

**9** The population used to calculate Indigenous fertility rates is based on *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2001* (Cat. no. 3231.0) and the *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 30 June 1996 to 30 June 2006* (Cat. no. 3231.0). These projections are, in turn, based on the 1991 and 1996 Censuses of Population and Housing.

## COVERAGE OF INDIGENOUS BIRTH REGISTRATIONS

**10** 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 the results are not always consistent. The likelihood that a person will identify, or be identified, as Indigenous on a specific form is known as their propensity to identify as Indigenous. Propensity to identify as Indigenous can be thought of as the proportion of the total, unknown, number of Indigenous people who identify as such on a specific form.

Propensity to identify is determined by a range of factors, including the perception of how the information will be used, education programs about identifying as Indigenous, and emotional reaction to identifying as Indigenous.

There are four estimates of the number of Indigenous births each year. Each is based on a different collection, with a different propensity to identify as Indigenous:

- 1991 Census-based population projections: The number of Indigenous children in the 1991 Census was used to estimate the fertility rate for 1991. Assuming this fertility rate to continue, and making other assumptions about mortality and interstate migration, the number of births in subsequent years was projected;
- 1996 Census-based population projections: There are two series of projections; a low series and a high series. The low series uses a very similar method to the 1991 Census-based population projections, the number of births each year is estimated, using the propensity to identify found in the 1996 Census. The high series uses an alternative assumption of an increasing propensity to identify based on the change between 1991 and 1996; and
- 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: This data is primarily about babies born in hospitals and their mothers.

## RELATED PRODUCTS

**11** Other ABS products which may be of interest to users include:

*AusStats* — electronic data (see Explanatory Note 12)

*Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly

*Australian Demographic Trends* (Cat. no. 3102.0) — issued irregularly

*Causes of Death, Australia* (Cat. no. 3303.0) — issued annually

*Deaths, Australia* (Cat. no. 3302.0) — issued annually

*Demography* — State and Territory specific publications issued annually  
(Cat. nos. 3311.1–8)

*Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Population* (Cat. no. 3231.0) — issued irregularly

*Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods,  
Statistical Concepts Library*, ABS website: <URL:<http://www.abs.gov.au>>

**12** AusStats is a web based information service which provides ABS' full standard product range on-line. It also includes companion data in multidimensional datasets in SuperTABLE format, and time series spreadsheets. For a list of the related data available on AusStats see the List of Tables on page 5.

**13** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. Both are available from any ABS office.

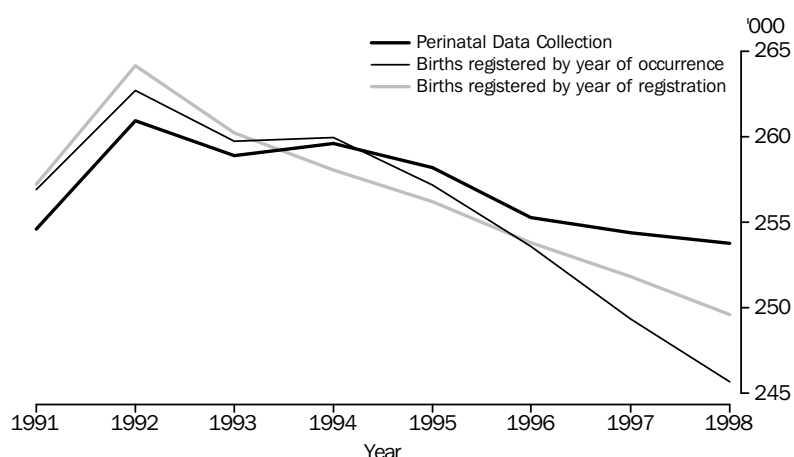
**14** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, additional information is available from the ABS Website at <URL:<http://www.abs.gov.au>> and accessing Themes/Demography.

## BIRTH REGISTRATIONS COMPARED TO THE PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION

This publication is based on births registered by the State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. In Australia births data is also captured by the midwife attending the birth. This data, called the Perinatal Data Collection is collated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) Perinatal Statistics Unit and is released annually in *Australian Mothers and Babies*.

As information from these two types of collection are obtained from different sources, the statistics obtained vary. For example, the Perinatal Data Collection reported the occurrence of 253,800 live births in Australia in 1998, the latest available, compared to 249,600 births registered in the same year.

The following graph shows the total number of live births in Australia by type of collection and recording basis from 1991 to 1998. Registered births 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 2000. Prior to 1994, the Perinatal Data Collection showed fewer births reported than births registered but since 1994, this position has reversed and the gap between births reported in Perinatal Data Collection and births registered continues to widen, indicating an increasing trend of parents delaying or failing to register the birth of their child. While difficult to explain, the change in pattern may be attributed to the quality improvements made over the years and improved coverage to the basis of the Perinatal Data Collection combined with declining birth registrations.

**A1.1** LIVE BIRTHS, Type of Collection

BIRTH REGISTRATIONS COMPARED TO THE PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION *continued*

The ratio of births occurring and being registered in the same year remained fairly constant ranging from 88%–90% from 1991 to 1998. To avoid measuring any 'lag effect' the following analysis of the differences between the type of collections is made between the Perinatal Data Collection and registrations on a year of registration basis.

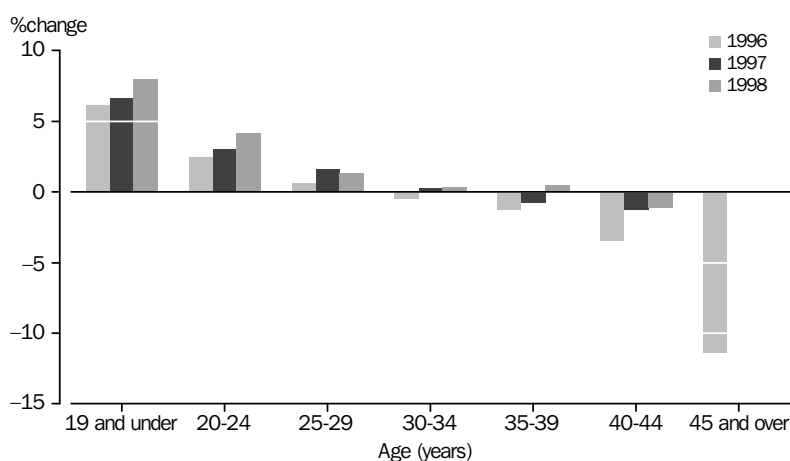
Comparisons of data between the Perinatal Data Collection and registrations on a year of registration basis has been made on the basis of confinements data because 'confinements' indicate maternal characteristics whereas 'births' refer to babies. While the Perinatal Data Collection definition of confinements normally includes confinements that resulted in stillbirths, these confinements have been excluded to enable direct comparisons with confinements data provided by the Registrars.

## AGE OF MOTHER

The age of the mother is a factor which contributes to differences between the Perinatal Data Collection and registrations data. The following graph shows the percentage difference between the collections by age of mother. A positive value indicates that confinements reported in the Perinatal Data Collection exceeded those confinements registered while a negative value indicates that registered confinements exceeded those reported in the Perinatal Data Collection.

In the less than 20 year age group, confinements that occurred in the Perinatal Data Collection outnumbered confinements registered, by 6.1% in 1996 and this has increased to 8% in 1998. This higher proportion of confinements from the Perinatal Data Collection occurred in all ages up to 34 years. Registered confinements then start to exceed confinements collected by midwives, indicating that younger mothers are less likely to have registered their child's birth.

The graph also shows that the difference between the collections has widened over the period 1996–1998 with an increased percentage difference between the two collections. In the age groups where confinements registered exceeded those reported in the Perinatal Data Collection the percentage difference has narrowed. In the 45 and over age group there was no difference between the respective collections in 1997 and 1998.

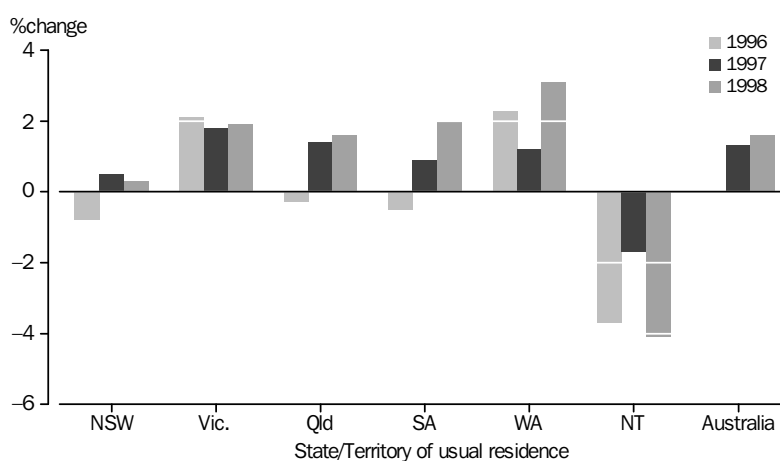
**A1.2** DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLLECTIONS, Age of Mother—1996–1998

## STATE AND TERRITORY COMPARISONS

While the Birth Registration data provides information on State of registration or State of usual residence of mother, the Perinatal Data Collection only provide data (for analytical purposes) on the State or Territory in which the birth took place (State of occurrence). Therefore, the following analysis compares State of usual residence from Birth Registrations to State of occurrence from the Perinatal Data Collection. As there are a small number of births that occur in a different State or Territory to that of the mother's usual residence, there will be some minor differences between the two datasets. For example, some women from rural New South Wales, close to the Australian Capital Territory border, have their babies in Canberra. As a consequence, the Australian Capital Territory has been excluded from the following analysis. Data for Tasmania has also been excluded from this analysis due to the unavailability of 1998 Tasmania data from the Perinatal Data Collection.

In 1998, all States and Territories, except the Northern Territory, showed more confinements reported in the Perinatal Data Collection than confinements registered. The higher number of confinements registered in the Northern Territory may be due to the larger number of home and remote clinic births that are not captured in the Perinatal Data Collection.

In the three years since 1996, there has been a change in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia where reported confinements in the Perinatal Data Collection now exceed those registered and the changes in these States may have contributed to the widening gap between the two collections.

**A1.3** DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLLECTIONS, Confinements by State/Territory

## COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF MOTHER

Table A4 shows the percentage difference between the collections by Australian born and overseas born mothers by State of usual residence. The positive percentage difference indicates that confinements reported in the Perinatal Data Collection exceeded confinements registered and negative percentage differences indicates that confinements registered exceeded confinements reported in the Perinatal Data Collection. For total Australia the actual number of the difference between the two collections is also shown.

All States except Western Australia showed that there are more confinements reported in the Perinatal Data Collection than registered to mothers born in Australia. In New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia the size of the difference increased over the 1996–1998 period. In percentage terms, the difference for total Australia increased from 1% in 1996 to 3% in 1998 for mothers born in Australia. Amongst overseas born mothers, confinements registered to mothers born in New Zealand, United Kingdom, Italy and Malaysia exceeded those confinements reported in the Perinatal Data Collection in all States.

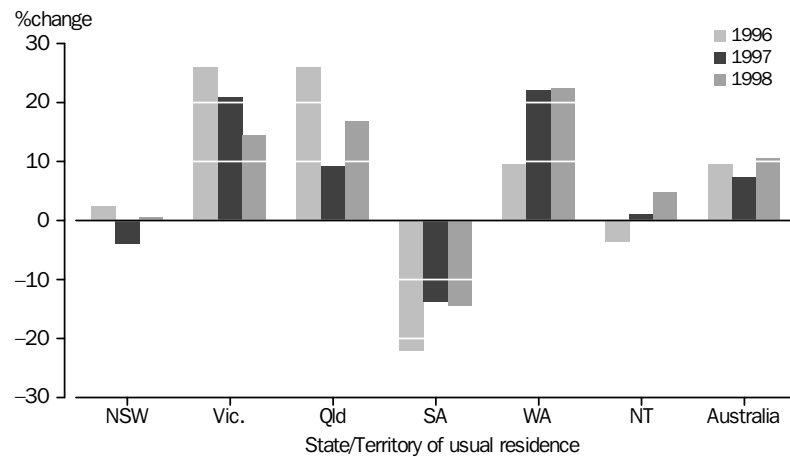
#### A1.4 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLLECTIONS, Selected countries of birth of mother

State/Territory of usual residence		Australia	New Zealand	United Kingdom	Italy	Malaysia	Other overseas	Total
New South Wales								
1996	%	0.8	-5.8	-22.1	-2.1	-14.7	-2.5	-0.8
1997	%	1.7	-5.6	-22.5	0.4	-16.9	0.5	0.5
1998	%	2.0	-8.5	-23.8	-4.4	-8.9	-1.4	0.3
Victoria								
1996	%	2.4	—	-2.4	-0.8	-1.7	2.4	2.1
1997	%	2.5	2.7	-2.9	-6.8	-7.2	0.5	1.8
1998	%	2.8	-2.4	-2.4	-5.1	0.7	-0.6	1.9
Queensland								
1996	%	0.8	-6.6	-11.0	-4.3	-11.2	-3.7	-0.3
1997	%	2.8	-8.3	-13.8	—	-7.7	-0.9	1.4
1998	%	3.0	-4.5	-14.2	-10.8	-9.4	-2.0	1.6
South Australia								
1996	%	1.0	-8.3	-12.4	-9.6	6.9	-4.2	-0.5
1997	%	2.2	-3.9	-11.7	-12.7	-6.8	-1.1	0.9
1998	%	3.2	-1.1	-13.6	-6.0	-1.7	1.5	2.0
Western Australia								
1996	%	-2.0	-10.5	-12.4	-10.2	-10.4	30.6	2.3
1997	%	-3.8	-8.4	-9.2	-2.5	-13.3	31.4	1.2
1998	%	-1.0	-10.0	-10.8	—	-8.9	30.7	3.1
Northern Territory								
1996	%	-0.7	-4.9	-20.0	—	20.8	-25.2	-3.7
1997	%	2.2	-33.3	-9.3	-25.0	-175.0	-27.1	-1.7
1998	%	0.6	-58.8	-14.4	-300.0	-57.1	-30.6	-4.1
Australia								
1996	no.	2 344	-381	-1381	-27	-91	884	1 348
	%	1.2	-6.4	-12.4	-3.2	-8.1	2.2	0.5
1997	no.	3 941	-370	-1288	-34	-142	1 266	3 268
	%	2.0	-6.4	-12.2	-4.3	-13.4	3.2	1.3
1998	no.	5 120	-417	-1276	-31	-62	758	4 092
	%	2.6	-7.0	-13.0	-4.7	-6.6	1.9	1.6

## INDIGENOUS CONFINEMENTS

Please refer to comments in Explanatory Note 10 on page 81 regarding the coverage of Indigenous birth registrations.

The following graph, shows that total Australia confinements of Indigenous mothers reported in the Perinatal Data Collection exceeded registered confinements for the period 1996–1998. While the percentage difference between the two collections in the States and the Northern Territory tended to fluctuate over these three years, however the extent of these fluctuations may be attributed to small number of confinements. Data from the Northern Territory indicates that whereas confinements of Indigenous mothers reported in the Perinatal Data Collection were fewer than those registered in 1996, in 1998 this position reversed. In South Australia, the only State where Indigenous confinements registered consistently exceeded those reported in the Perinatal Data Collection the differential has decreased from 22% to 14% from 1996 to 1998.

**A1.5** DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLLECTIONS, Confinements of Indigenous mothers

## APPENDIX 2

## CHARACTERISTICS AVAILABLE .....

### BIRTHS/CONFINEMENTS

Registration year  
Registration month  
State/Territory of registration  
Year of birth of child  
Month of birth of child  
Day of birth of child  
Sex of child  
Mother's age  
Father's age  
Aboriginality of child  
Aboriginality of mother  
Aboriginality of 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  
Country of birth of father  
Nuptiality  
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 3

## ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION .....

### A3.1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, as at 30 June 2000r

STATE/TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE.....									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA.	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia(a)
Age group (years)	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....									
Females									
0-4	209.6	148.0	117.7	45.1	61.6	14.9	8.5	10.3	615.9
5-9	216.8	157.7	125.5	48.2	64.6	16.4	8.4	10.5	648.2
10-14	214.9	156.6	123.9	48.8	67.2	16.8	7.6	10.7	646.7
15-19	216.9	160.3	127.7	49.9	67.4	17.1	7.1	11.5	658.0
20-24	219.7	169.1	125.3	48.0	68.4	14.5	7.8	13.1	665.9
25-29	249.5	185.6	136.6	51.3	71.5	15.6	9.3	13.1	732.7
30-34	238.4	183.8	130.5	52.5	69.7	16.1	8.9	12.2	712.1
35-39	251.9	186.8	139.9	57.4	74.3	18.1	8.1	12.4	749.1
40-44	242.2	179.8	134.1	57.1	72.8	18.1	7.1	12.4	723.6
45-49	223.3	167.1	124.6	53.9	67.9	16.9	6.2	12.1	672.0
50-54	204.5	153.2	114.9	50.4	59.1	15.6	5.0	10.9	613.6
55-59	160.4	117.4	88.1	39.0	43.9	12.3	3.1	7.3	471.5
60-64	134.0	99.3	69.3	33.0	35.7	10.5	1.9	5.2	388.8
65-69	120.6	89.5	59.7	30.1	30.7	9.4	1.2	4.1	345.4
70-74	117.1	86.1	56.2	30.4	27.7	8.8	0.9	3.7	330.9
75-79	101.8	74.6	48.2	27.4	23.0	7.8	0.5	3.2	286.6
80-84	66.6	47.9	31.8	17.8	15.0	5.3	0.3	1.9	186.5
85+	60.0	45.1	28.5	16.6	14.8	4.7	0.3	1.6	171.6
Total	3 248.3	2 407.8	1 782.5	756.8	935.3	238.8	92.1	156.1	9 619.3
.....									
Males									
0-4	220.4	156.4	123.7	47.3	64.9	15.7	9.0	10.6	648.1
5-9	228.3	166.3	132.1	50.5	68.4	17.3	9.1	11.0	683.2
10-14	225.5	163.9	131.0	51.5	71.0	17.6	8.2	11.1	680.0
15-19	228.0	166.5	134.9	52.2	71.0	17.6	7.6	12.8	690.7
20-24	227.7	176.8	129.5	50.7	72.2	15.1	9.0	14.3	695.3
25-29	249.1	187.9	137.9	53.6	75.3	14.9	10.4	13.1	742.3
30-34	238.2	180.9	129.9	53.5	71.3	15.1	9.5	11.8	710.4
35-39	254.3	184.8	137.1	57.0	75.3	17.4	9.0	12.0	747.2
40-44	243.5	177.4	133.4	56.2	73.7	17.7	8.0	11.6	721.6
45-49	224.5	163.1	126.1	52.7	68.8	16.7	7.0	11.4	670.6
50-54	211.9	153.2	119.7	50.2	63.2	15.8	6.2	11.1	631.4
55-59	165.3	119.0	92.6	38.9	46.9	12.5	4.2	7.4	486.9
60-64	134.7	97.7	72.7	32.0	36.8	10.3	2.5	5.2	392.0
65-69	115.0	84.4	59.0	28.3	29.8	9.0	1.5	4.1	331.0
70-74	102.9	75.3	51.7	27.0	25.4	7.9	1.0	3.1	294.5
75-79	76.9	55.4	38.2	20.4	18.1	5.7	0.5	2.4	217.6
80-84	41.7	29.7	21.2	11.2	9.6	3.2	0.2	1.2	118.1
85+	25.9	20.3	13.7	7.4	6.7	2.1	0.2	0.7	76.9
Total	3 214.2	2 359.0	1 784.3	740.6	948.4	231.5	103.3	154.9	9 537.8

(a) Includes Other Territories.

## APPENDIX **4** SPECIAL ARTICLES LIST .....

### BIRTHS AUSTRALIA (Cat. no. 3301.0)

- Fertility rates and birth order, 1996 edition, p. 7
- Pregnancy in context, 1997 edition, p. 10
- Childlessness, 1998 edition, p. 42
- Larger families, 1998 edition, p. 51
- Food and nutrient consumption during pregnancy, 1999 edition, p. 16
- Teenage fertility, 1999 edition, p. 28
- Birth order specific fertility rates in Australia, 1986–1999, 1999 edition, p. 33
- Older fathers, 2000 edition, p. 23
- Fertility differentials, 2000 edition, p. 27
- Multiple births, 2000 edition, p. 35
- Birth order specific fertility rates, States and Territories, 2000 edition, p. 39

### AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TREND (Cat.no.4102.0)

- Adoptions, 1998 edition, p. 33
- Age at first marriage, 1997 edition, p. 27
- Caring for children after parents separate, 1999 edition, p. 42
- Child care, 1998 edition, p. 38
- Child care, 1994 edition, p. 47
- Child care arrangements. 2001 edition, p. 41
- Children in families, 1995 edition, p. 29
- Cultural diversity within marriage, 2000 edition, p. 52
- Families and work, 1997 edition, p. 30
- Family planning, 1998 edition, p. 29
- Family support, 1995 edition, p. 41
- Living with parents, 1994 edition, p. 43
- Lone fathers with dependent children, 1994 edition, p. 40
- Looking after the children, 1999 edition, p. 39
- One-parent families, 1997 edition, p. 34
- People who live alone, 1996 edition, p. 33
- People without partners, 2000 edition, p. 3
- Principal carers and their caring roles, 1996 edition, p. 44
- Remarriage trends of divorced people, 1999 edition, p. 45
- Rural families, 1998 edition, p. 42
- Trends in de facto partnering, 1995 edition, p. 38
- Trends in fertility, 1996 edition, p. 36
- Trends in marriage and divorce, 1996 edition, p. 33
- Young adults living in the parental home, 2000 edition, p. 39

## GLOSSARY .....

<b>Age-specific fertility rate</b>	Age-specific fertility rates 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 resident population of the same age at 30 June. For calculating these rates, births to mothers under 15 are included in the 15–19 age group, and births to mothers aged 50 and over are included in the 45–49 age group. Pro rata adjustment is made for births for which the age of the mother is not given.
<b>Balance of State or Territory</b>	The aggregation of all Statistical Divisions (SD) within a State or Territory other than its Capital City SD. (Further details are included in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (Cat. no. 1216.0)).
<b>Birth</b>	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.
<b>Birth interval</b>	Birth interval refers to the interval between two live births. It is usually estimated by subtracting a later birth date from the immediately preceding birth date. The interval between marriage and the first birth is known as the first birth interval, that between the first birth and the second as the second birth interval, that between the second birth and third birth as the third birth interval and so on. A birth interval can be open or closed. An open birth interval is that period following the birth of the last child before the interval is closed by the birth of another child.
<b>Birth order</b>	Birth order refers to the numerical ordering of the total number of children born alive to a woman, including the present child. The first birth order refers to the first birth, the second birth order to the second birth, the third birth order to the third birth and so on.
<b>Birth order-specific fertility rates</b>	Birth order-specific fertility rates are the number of live births of a specific order registered (or occurred) during the calendar year, according to age of mother, per 1,000 of the female estimated resident population of the same age at 30 June. The rates are calculated for each order of birth. The rates at each age (or age group) and birth order are added to provide total fertility rates by birth order, which makes it possible to examine the level of fertility at each birth order and the relative contribution of fertility at each birth order to the total fertility rate.
<b>Capital city</b>	Capital city refers to the '05' Statistical Division of States and Territories as defined in <i>Statistical Geography: Volume 1—Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (Cat. no. 1216.0).
<b>Completed fertility</b>	The completed fertility rate represents the average number of births a cohort of women have borne. It is obtained by summing the age-specific birth rates experienced by that cohort of women over their reproductive lives.
<b>Confinements</b>	A pregnancy which results in at least one live birth.
<b>Country of birth</b>	The classification of countries is the Standard Australian Classification for Countries (SACC). For more detailed information refer to <i>Standard Australian Classification for Countries (SACC)</i> (Cat. no. 1269.0).

<b>Crude birth rate</b>	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.
<b>Estimated resident population</b>	<p>Estimated resident population (ERP) are estimates of the Australian population obtained by adding to the estimated population at the beginning of each period the components of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and net overseas migration. For the States and Territories, account is also taken of estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence.</p> <p>Estimates of the resident population are based on adjusted (for underenumeration) census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the Census. Overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation.</p> <p>After each census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the ERPs at the two respective census dates.</p> <p>The concept of ERP links people to a place of usual residence within Australia. Usual residence is that place where each person has lived or intends to live for six months or more from the reference date for data collection.</p>
<b>Indigenous</b>	Persons who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
<b>Indigenous birth</b>	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 births in Indigenous population estimates/projections are those which result by applying assumed age-specific fertility rates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers in reproductive ages.
<b>Intercensal discrepancy</b>	Intercensal discrepancy is the difference between two estimates of a census year population, the first based on the latest census and the second arrived at by updating the previous census date estimate 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.
<b>Marital status</b>	Two separate concepts are measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These are registered marital status and social marital status. They have different personal characteristics and are independent variables with separate classifications. Marital status relates to registered marital status which refers to formally registered marriages or divorces for which the partners hold a certificate. Four categories of marital status are identified: never married, married, widowed and divorced.
<b>Median age at childbearing</b>	The term refers to the age when approximately one-half of the women 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 women who gave birth in a particular year.

<b>Median value</b>	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.
<b>Multiple birth</b>	A multiple birth is a confinement which results in two or more issue, at least one of which is live-born.
<b>Net reproduction rate</b>	The net reproduction rate represents the average number of daughters that would be born to a group of women 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.
<b>Nuptial first confinement</b>	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.
<b>Nuptiality</b>	Nuptiality relates to the 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.
<b>Paternity-acknowledged birth</b>	A paternity-acknowledged birth refers to an exnuptial birth where paternity was acknowledged.
<b>Perinatal death</b>	A perinatal death is a fetal or a neonatal death.
<b>Previous births</b>	<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>
<b>Registered marital status</b>	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).
<b>Replacement fertility</b>	Replacement level fertility is the number of babies a woman would need to have over her reproductive life span to replace herself and her partner. Given the current mortality of women up to age 49, replacement fertility is estimated at 2.1 babies per woman.

<b>Sex ratio</b>	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.
<b>Social marital status</b>	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.
<b>State or Territory of registration</b>	State or Territory of registration refers to the State or Territory in which the birth was registered.
<b>State or Territory and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of usual residence</b>	<p>State or Territory of 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"> <li>■ the population (estimated resident population)</li> <li>■ the mother (birth collection); or</li> <li>■ the deceased (death collection).</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Total fertility rate</b>	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 woman would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.
<b>Year of occurrence</b>	Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the event occurred.
<b>Year of registration</b>	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered.

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