

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-254

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: TRENDS IN BIRTH RATES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Where is the detailed data which provides the past twenty years of statistics showing trends in birth rates by geographic location and place of delivery (public hospitals, private hospitals, home births)?

Answer:

The Perinatal National Minimum Data Set (NMDS), which supports the National Perinatal Data Collection, is maintained by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Statistics Unit. It includes information about all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation occurring each year in Australia from 1991 onwards. The most recent data added to the collection relates to births in 2008.

These data include:

- the state or territory in which the birth occurred, for all years;
- the place of birth, categorised as whether the birth occurred in a hospital, a birth centre, as a home birth or in another location, for all years;
- for hospital births, the sector in which the delivery occurred, categorised as whether public or private, from 2001 onwards.

Information from the Perinatal NMDS is published annually in the *Australia Mothers and Babies* report series that is available from the AIHW website at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/subject/17>

Data relating to place of birth and hospital sector can be found in the report for the relevant year as follows:

1991–1996	Table 2: Place of birth, all confinements by states and territories Table 3: Distribution of maternity units by size, states and territories
1997–2000	Table A2: Place of birth, all confinements by states and territories Table A3: Distribution of maternity units by size, states and territories
2001	Table 3.2: Place of birth, all confinements by state and territory Table 3.10: Hospital sector of mothers giving birth in hospitals by state and territory

2002	Table 3.2: Place of birth, all confinements by state and territory Table 3.3: Maternity units by size and state and territory Table 3.11: Hospital sector of mothers giving birth in hospitals by state and territory
2003	Table 3.2: Actual place of birth, all mothers, by state and territory Table 3.3: Hospitals and birth centres by number of women who gave birth and state and territory Table 3.10: Hospital sector of mothers giving birth in hospitals by state and territory
2004–2005	Table 3.11: Women who gave birth by actual place of birth and state and territory Table 3.22: Hospitals and birth centres by number of women who gave birth and state and territory Table 3.23: Women who gave birth in hospital by hospital sector and state and territory
2006	Table 3.11: Women who gave birth by actual place of birth and state and territory Table 3.26: Hospitals and birth centres by number of women who gave birth and state and territory Table 3.27: Women who gave birth in hospital by hospital sector and state and territory
2007	Table 3.14: Women who gave birth by actual place of birth and state and territory Table 3.37: Hospitals and birth centres by number of women who gave birth and state and territory Table 3.38: Women who gave birth in hospital by hospital sector and state and territory

Some other data with a geographical component is available from the National Perinatal Data Collection. This allows the usual place of residence of mother's giving birth to be reported as, for example, whether the mother lived in a major city, regional or remote area. This data is available nationally from 2000 onwards.