

# National Indigenous Reform Agreement: P12- Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2010 QS

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Quality Statement
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	396265
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Community Services (retired)</a> , Superseded 04/04/2011

## Data quality

### Data quality statement summary:

- Birth weight is included in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) and data are complete for over 99.9 per cent of babies.
- This measure only includes births of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 grams birthweight and excludes multiple births and babies with unknown birthweight.
- The National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. Since 2005, all jurisdictions collect information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the NMDS.
- No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage or identification of Indigenous mothers in the NPDC or to determine variability between states and territories. The current data have not been adjusted for under-identification of Indigenous status of the mother.
- Area of usual residence of the mother is included in the Perinatal NMDS and data are complete for over 99.9 per cent of mothers.

### Institutional environment:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator. Data included in the National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC) are collected as part of a National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) and were supplied by state and territory health authorities to the National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU), a collaborating unit of the Institute. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from patient administrative and clinical records. This information is usually collected by midwives or other birth attendants. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting.

For information on the institutional environment of the AIHW, please see the AIHW Institutional Environment.

### Timeliness:

The reference period for the data is 2005 to 2007.

Data are collected on an ongoing basis and are compiled by the AIHW annually.

### Accessibility:

The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPDC. Published products available on the AIHW website are:

- *Australia's mothers and babies* annual report
- *Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001–2004*
- METeOR – online metadata repository
- National health data dictionary.
- Ad hoc data are also available on request (charges apply to recover costs)

Data for this indicator are published annually in *Australia's mothers and babies* and biennially in reports such as the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework report*, the *Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, and the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report.

**Interpretability:**

Supporting information on the quality and use of the NPDC are published annually in Australia's mothers and babies (Chapter 1), available in hardcopy or on the AIHW website. Comprehensive information on the quality of Perinatal NMDS elements are published in Perinatal National Minimum Data Set compliance evaluation 2001 to 2005. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. More detailed information on the quality of Indigenous data that might affect interpretation of the indicator was published in *Indigenous mothers and their babies, Australia 2001-2004* (Chapter 1 & Chapter 5). Metadata information for the Perinatal NMDS are published in the AIHW's online metadata repository — METeOR, and the National Health Data Dictionary.

**Relevance:**

The National Perinatal Data Collection comprises data items as specified in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set plus additional items collected by the states and territories. The purpose of the Perinatal NMDS is to collect information at birth for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period for both the mother and baby(s).

The Perinatal NMDS is a specification for data collected on all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. It includes information for all live births and stillbirths of at least 400 grams birthweight or at least 20 weeks gestation. It includes data items relating to the mother, including demographic characteristics and factors relating to the pregnancy, labour and birth; and data items relating to the baby, including birth status, sex, gestational age at birth, birthweight and neonatal morbidity and fetal deaths.

While the Perinatal NMDS provides all relevant data elements of interest for this indicator, it includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. The Perinatal NMDS includes information on the Indigenous status of the mother only. The Perinatal NMDS has no data item for the Indigenous status of the baby. Currently, reporting of Indigenous status of the baby is based on the maternal Indigenous status only. In 2006, this represented approximately 70 per cent of all Indigenous births based on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) birth registrations (ABS 2007: Births, Australia 2006).

While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status of mother.

No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the Perinatal NMDS or to determine variability between states and territories. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 1997–2006 has been consistent, at 3.2–3.7 per cent of women who gave birth. Comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with this caution. Babies of mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated (0.1 per cent missing) have been excluded from rates but are included in totals for this indicator.

**Accuracy:**

Institute does not have direct access to perinatal records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the Institute undertakes validation on receipt of data. Data received from states and territories are checked for completeness, validity and logical errors. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions are made in response to these edit queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors.

Errors may occur during the processing of data by the states and territories or at the AIHW. Processing errors prior to data supply may be found through the validation checks applied by the Institute. This indicator is calculated on data that have been reported to the AIHW. Prior to publication, these data are referred back to jurisdictions for checking and review. The Institute does not adjust the data to correct for missing values. Note that because of data editing and subsequent updates of state/territory databases, and because data are being reported by place of residence rather than place of birth the numbers reported for this indicator differ from those in reports published by the states and territories. The data are not rounded.

Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers which is likely to differ among jurisdictions. Approximately 0.1 per cent of mothers who gave birth in the reference period had missing Indigenous status information. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing Indigenous status information.

Three years of data have been combined to minimise random statistical variation and to minimise the risk of data governance issues such as identification.

**Coherence:**

Changing levels of Indigenous identification over time and across jurisdictions may also affect the accuracy of compiling a consistent time series.

**Relational attributes****Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement:**

[National Indigenous Reform Agreement: P12-Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2010](#)

[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 04/04/2011