

# Birth—birth order, code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Birth—birth order, code N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Birth order
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	669962
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health!</a> , Superseded 12/12/2018 <a href="#">Tasmanian Health</a> , Superseded 24/06/2020
<b>Definition:</b>	The sequential order of each baby of a multiple birth, as represented by a code.
<b>Context:</b>	Required to analyse pregnancy outcome according to birth order and identify the individual baby resulting from a multiple birth pregnancy. Multiple births have higher risks of perinatal mortality and morbidity. Multiple birth pregnancies are often associated with obstetric complications, labour and delivery complications, higher rates of neonatal morbidity, low <a href="#">birthweight</a> , and a higher perinatal death rate.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Birth—birth order</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Birth order code N</a>

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	N
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	1

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Permissible values:</b>	1	Singleton or first of a multiple birth
	2	Second of a multiple birth
	3	Third of a multiple birth
	4	Fourth of a multiple birth
	5	Fifth of a multiple birth
	6	Sixth of a multiple birth
	8	Other
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	9	Not stated

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	CODE 2    Second of a multiple birth  Stillborns are counted such that, if twins were born, the first stillborn and the second live born, the second twin would be recorded as Code 2 'Second of a multiple birth' (and not Code 1 'Singleton or first of a multiple birth').
<b>Collection methods:</b>	This data element should be collected routinely for all babies aged 28 days or less.

### Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** National Perinatal Data Development Committee

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Birth—birth order, code N Health!](#), Superseded 02/08/2017  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 24/06/2020

Has been superseded by [Product of birth—birth order, code N Health!](#), Superseded 03/12/2020  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 24/06/2020

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Perinatal NMDS 2018-19 Health!](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019  
**DSS specific information:**

Birth order is only assigned to births that are in scope for the Perinatal NMDS (i.e. births of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400g birth weight). In the case of multiple pregnancies, if one or more fetuses were removed from the uterus before 20 weeks gestation, for example, by abortion (spontaneous, induced or fetal reduction), they are not considered in the assignment of birth order for any remaining fetuses that are born. For example, in a twin pregnancy, where one fetus is aborted before 20 weeks, no birth order would be recorded for that twin. If the remaining twin is born and is in scope for the Perinatal NMDS, then their birth order would be recorded as '1 Singleton or first of a multiple birth'. If both twins are born and are in scope for the Perinatal NMDS, the first twin will be assigned a birth order of '1 Singleton or first of a multiple birth' and the second twin will be assigned a birth order of '2 Second of a multiple birth'.

In the case of multiple births, this item should be recorded for each baby born.