

Early planned caesarean section without medical or obstetric indication, 2015

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Early planned caesarean section without medical or obstetric indication, 2015

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	Early planned caesarean section without obstetric or medical indication, 2015
METEOR identifier:	709063
Registration status:	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 13/12/2018
Description:	The proportion of women who gave birth by caesarean section at less than (i) 39 completed weeks (273 days) gestation, (ii) 37 completed weeks (259 days) gestation, without adequate obstetric/medical indication.
Rationale:	Neonatal respiratory morbidity can be reduced by minimising early delivery. This indicator is used to benchmark practice.
Indicator set:	Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018 Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 13/12/2018
Data quality statement:	National Perinatal Data Collection, 2015: Quality Statement AIHW Data Quality Statements, Superseded 02/08/2018

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description: The number of women who gave birth by caesarean section at less than (i) 39 completed weeks (273 days) gestation, (ii) 37 completed weeks (259 days) gestation, without adequate obstetric/medical indication and where there was no established labour, divided by the number of women who gave birth by caesarean section at less than (i) 39 completed weeks (273 days) gestation, (ii) 37 completed weeks (259 days) gestation, and where there was no established labour, and multiplied by 100.

A birth is defined as the event in which a baby comes out of the uterus after a pregnancy of at least 20 weeks gestation or weighing 400 grams or more.

Births included are caesarean deliveries (where there was no established labour) at less than (i) 39 completed weeks (273 days), (ii) 37 completed weeks (259 days).

'Without adequate obstetric/medical indication' includes the following reasons for caesarean section:

- previous caesarean section
- previous severe perineal trauma
- previous shoulder dystocia
- maternal choice in the absence of any obstetric, medical, surgical, psychological indications

Births excluded are:

- caesarean deliveries at or after (i) 39 completed weeks (273 days) gestation, (ii) 37 completed weeks (259 days) gestation
- where there was established labour
- all vaginal deliveries
- those delivered pre-term by caesarean section (where there was no established labour) with obstetric/medical indication (all reasons for caesarean section other than those listed previously)

Cells of less than 5 have been suppressed. This is the lowest level of suppression that all states and territories have agreed to for the release of data from the National Perinatal Data Collection.

Proportions have been suppressed where the denominator is less than 100, for reliability purposes.

Computation: $100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$

Numerator: The number of women who gave birth by caesarean section at less than (i) 39 completed weeks (273 days) gestation, (ii) 37 completed weeks (259 days) gestation, without adequate obstetric/medical indication and where there was no established labour.

Numerator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Birth event—birth method, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Birth event—labour onset type, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Product of conception—gestational age, completed weeks N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Birth event—main indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Denominator:

The number of women who gave birth by caesarean section at less than (i) 39 completed weeks (273 days) gestation, (ii) 37 completed weeks (259 days) gestation, and where there was no established labour.

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Birth event—birth method, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Product of conception—gestational age, completed weeks N\[N\]](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Birth event—labour onset type, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Disaggregation:

State or territory of mother's usual residence.

State or territory of mother's usual residence by:

- Indigenous status of mother
- Patient elected accommodation status

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Comments:

Data elements are from the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set (NMDS). Records with data that are missing, not stated or not interpretable have been excluded from the denominator.

The national data collection for this indicator is relatively new in Australia and many states and territories do not yet collect all elements consistent with the national specification. For this reason, the available data used for the Atlas for individual states are not available for publication.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage
Data type: Real
Unit of measure: Person
Format: N[NN.N]

Data source attributes

Data sources:

Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

Frequency

Calendar years ending 31 December each year

Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Accountability attributes

Reporting requirements: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
The Third Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation (2018)

Organisation responsible for providing data: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Accountability: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Release date: 11/12/2018

Source and reference attributes

Reference documents: Women's Healthcare Australasia 2007. Supporting excellence in maternity care: the core maternity indicators project: findings from the core maternity indicators project. Canberra: WHA.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Caesarean section at less than 37, 38 and 39 completed weeks gestation without medical or obstetric indication, 2017](#)
[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Caesarean section or induction of labour at less than 37, 38 and 39 completed weeks gestation without medical or obstetric indication, 2017](#)
[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)