

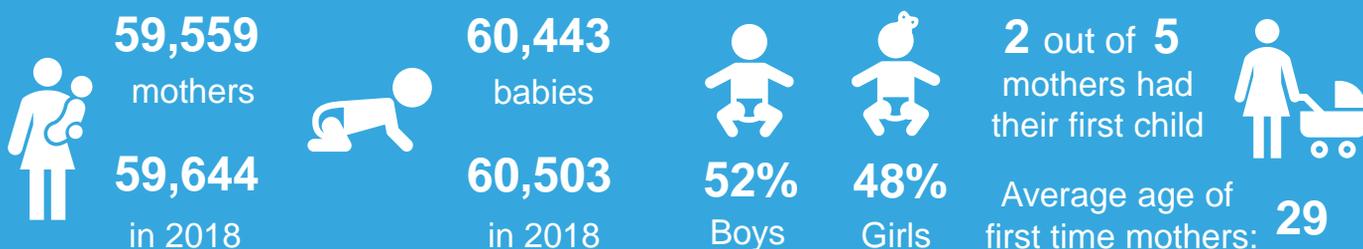
## Executive summary

Each year Queensland Health produces an annual report on Queensland's mothers and babies containing data on demographics, antenatal details, labour, births and perinatal mortality. A selection of key findings from the 2019 Perinatal Data Collection is provided throughout this report. These data provide insights into the needs of Queensland mothers and babies and should be used to inform clinical practice, health policy and service planning.

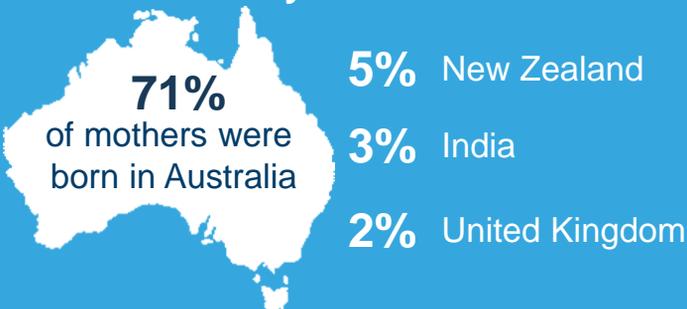
## Mothers and babies

In 2019, **59,559** women in Queensland gave birth to **60,443** babies, a decrease in both the number of mothers who gave birth and babies over the last 5 years (both down **6%** since 2014). The majority of mothers were born in Australia (**71%**) and were aged between 30-34 years (**33%**).

### In 2019:



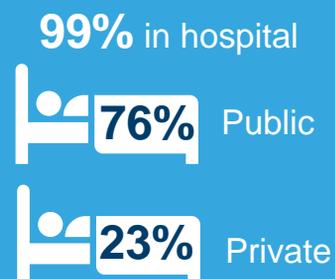
### Mother's country of birth



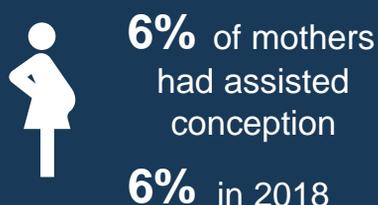
### Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander status



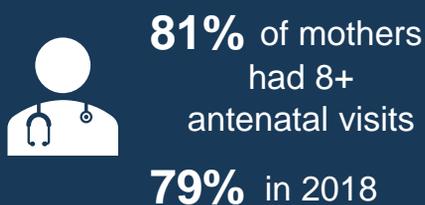
### Place of birth



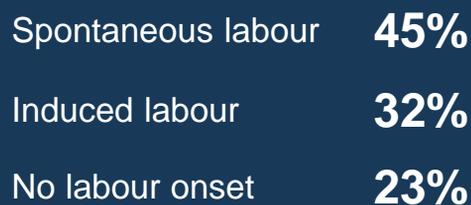
### Assisted conception



### Antenatal visits



### How labour started



### Mothers who smoked at any time during pregnancy



### Of mothers who smoked, those offered smoking advice



# 2019 PERINATAL ANNUAL REPORT

## Executive summary

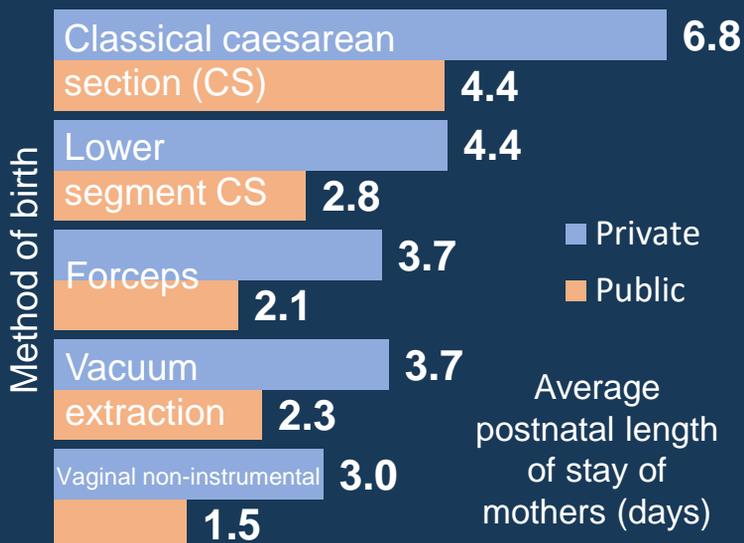
### Method of birth

The most common method of birth for all mothers who gave birth in 2019 was vaginal births (almost **2 in 3** women or **64%**). More than **1 in 3** women (**36%**) underwent a caesarean section, with the most common reason reported for **19%** of those having a caesarean section (almost **1 in 5** women) being 'fetal distress and/or meconium liquor'.

Around **32%** of mothers who gave birth in 2019 had their labour induced and **16%** of mothers had their labour augmented (for example: sped up with synthetic hormones, mechanical or artificial rupture of membranes). Of those in labour, the majority of women (**67%**) had at least one form of pain relief administered during labour/birth with the most common being nitrous oxide.

### Mother's length of stay

The average postnatal length of stay for mothers in private facilities (**4 days**) was double the average postnatal length of stay for mothers in public facilities (**2 days**).



### In 2019:

Babies born at low birthweight <2500g



**7.6%**

**7.2%** in 2018

Babies born to Indigenous mothers were

**1.6x**

as likely to have low birthweight

### Gestational Age of live births



**Preterm** (≤36 weeks) **9%**

**Term** (37-41 weeks) **91%**

**Post-term** (42+ weeks) **<1%**

The average gestational age varied in relation to birth status (livebirth or stillbirth) and multiple pregnancies. Low birthweight was most common among babies born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, Indigenous mothers, and multiple births.

### Apgar score

Apgar scores are clinical indicators that determine a liveborn baby's condition shortly after birth. These scores are measured on a 10-point scale for several characteristics, with the higher the score, the better the baby is doing after birth.



**APGAR SCORE 7-10**  
(for livebirths)

**92%** at 1 minute

**98%** at 5 minutes

### Resuscitation



**22%** of livebirths had at least one method of resuscitation

### Transfers

**1,505**

Livebirths transferred

**1,443** in 2018



### Perinatal mortality

In 2019:

**10.9**  
per 1,000  
births

2014-2018:  
(average)

**9.5**  
per 1,000  
births

Source: Perinatal Data Collection (PDC), Department of Health



**Queensland Government**