

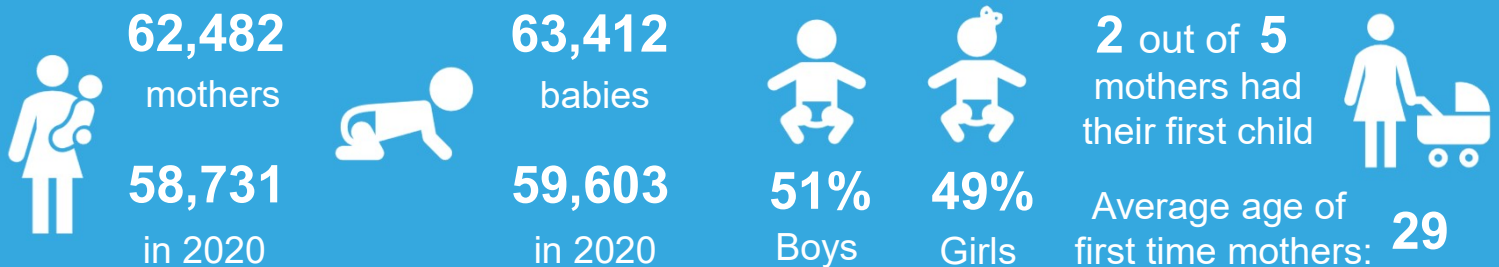
Executive summary

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 2021 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.

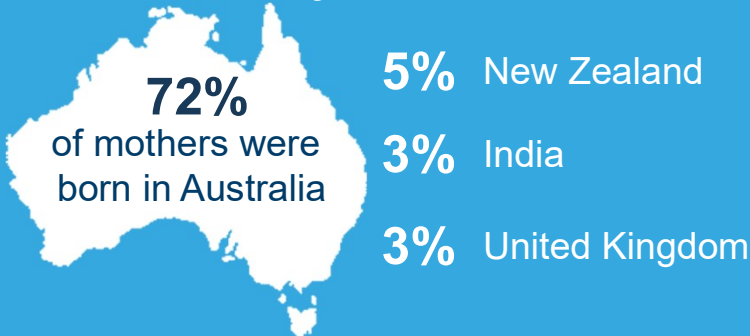
Mothers and babies

In 2021, **62,482** women in Queensland gave birth to **63,412** babies, an increase in both the number of mothers who gave birth and babies over the last 5 years (both up 1% since 2016). The majority of mothers were born in Australia (**72%**) and the age group with the highest proportion of mothers were those aged between 30-34 years (**34%**).

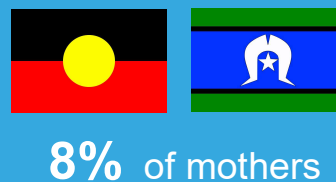
In 2021:



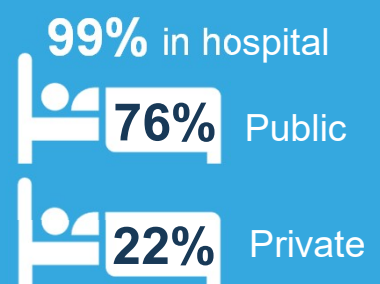
Mother's country of birth



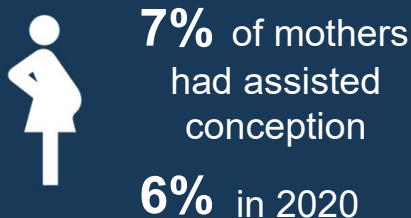
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander status



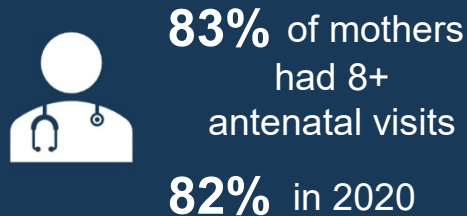
Place of birth



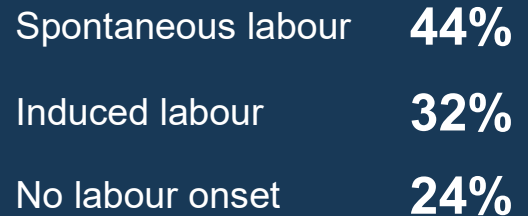
Assisted conception



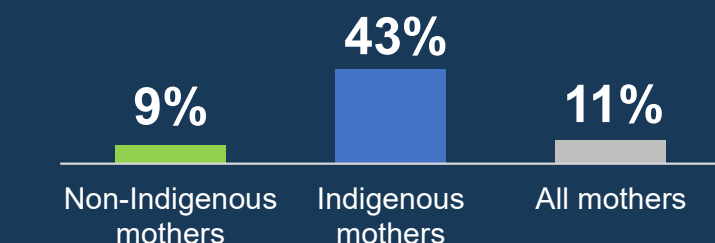
Antenatal visits



How labour started



Mothers who smoked at any time during pregnancy



Of mothers who smoked, those offered smoking advice

During the first 20 weeks:



2021 PERINATAL ANNUAL REPORT

Executive summary

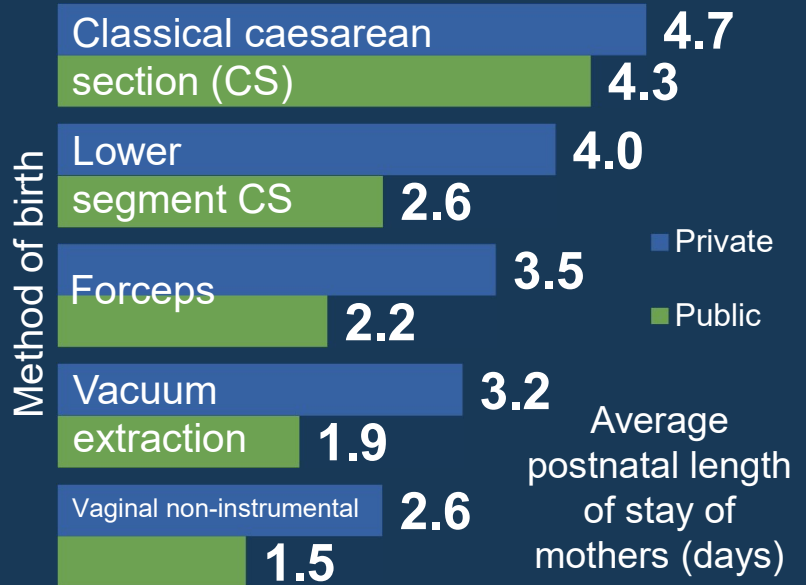
Method of birth

The most common method of birth for all mothers who gave birth in 2021 was vaginal births (almost **2 in 3** women or **62%**). More than **1 in 3** women (**38%**) underwent a caesarean section, with the most common reason reported for **20%** of those having a primary caesarean section (**1 in 5** women) being 'fetal distress and/or meconium liquor'.

Around **32%** of mothers who gave birth in 2021 had their labour induced and **14%** 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 (**66%**) had at least one form of pain relief administered during labour/birth with the most common being nitrous oxide.

Postnatal length of stay

The average postnatal length of stay for mothers in private facilities⁽¹⁾ (**4 days**) was 2x the average postnatal length of stay for mothers in public facilities (**2 days**).



In 2021:

Babies born at low birthweight <2500g



7.1%

7.5% in 2020

Babies born to Indigenous mothers were

1.8x

as likely to have low birthweight

Gestational Age of live births



Preterm (≤ 36 weeks) **8%**

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.

Resuscitation



24% of livebirths had at least one method of resuscitation

Transfers

1,524

Livebirths transferred

1,520 in 2020



APGAR SCORE 7-10

(for livebirths)



92% at 1 minute

98% at 5 minutes

Perinatal mortality

In 2021: 2017-2021:

11.2
per 1,000
births

(average)
10.1
per 1,000
births

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



Queensland
Government