



# Guide to interpreting reports from the Midwives Notification System

## 1. Data source

The data summarised are sourced from the Western Australian (WA) Midwives Notification System (MNS) maintained by the Maternal & Child Health Unit of the Purchasing & System Performance Division, Department of Health WA. Neonatal and infant mortality data are from the Perinatal Mortality Data Collection.

MNS contains information on births notified by registered midwives to the Chief Health Officer and the Perinatal Mortality Data Collection consists of deaths notified to the Chief Health Officer. Both notification processes are required by the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*. For more information on MNS data go to [Midwives Notification System](#).

## 2. Reports

The following table lists and describes data presented as graphs and tables on the Department of Health website.

Many of these statistics are also provided in the series “Western Australia’s Mothers and Babies” (<http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Reports-and-publications/Western-Australias-Mothers-and-Babies>).

	Report	Description	Calculations
1	Women who gave birth	Number of women who gave birth	Number of women who gave birth to one or more infants in the period.
2	First antenatal care visit	Proportion of women in each gestational age group for first antenatal care visit	Proportion is calculated as a percentage of all women who gave birth. Gestational age groups (weeks) for first antenatal care visit are: <14, 14-27, >=28, not reported.

	Report	Description	Calculations
3	Body Mass Index	Proportion of women in each BMI group by quarter or year they gave birth.	Proportion is calculated as a percentage of all women who gave birth. Women with no height or weight data are excluded from numerator but not denominator, thus for some periods the total will not equal 100 per cent. BMI groups reported are <20; 20-24, 25-29,30-34, 35-39, 40-44, >=45 where values are rounded down e.g. a BMI of 24.9 would be reported in the group 20-24.
4	Pertussis vaccination	Proportion of women who had pertussis vaccination in pregnancy	Proportion is calculated as a percentage of all women who gave birth. Vaccination groups are: nil, first trimester, second trimester, third trimester, unknown trimester.
5	Influenza vaccination	Proportion of women who had influenza vaccination in pregnancy	Proportion is calculated as a percentage of all women who gave birth. Vaccination groups are: nil, first trimester, second trimester, third trimester, unknown trimester.
6a	Induction of labour rate	Proportion of women who had an induction or labour	Proportion is calculated as a percentage of all women who gave birth.
6b	Caesarean section rate	Proportion of women who had a birth by caesarean section	Proportion is calculated as a percentage of all women who gave birth.
7	Liveborn infants and gestation	Number of infants born alive in each gestational age group	Number of infants born alive in the period. Gestational age groups (weeks) are: <24, 24-27, 28-31, 32-36, 37-40, >=41 where values are rounded down e.g. a gestational age of 27 weeks and 6 days would be reported in the group 24-27. To suppress small cell values the gestation groups of <24 and 24-27 have been combined to 20-27.
8	Singleton liveborn infants and birthweight	Proportion of singleton liveborn infants born in each birthweight group by Aboriginal status	Proportion is calculated as a percentage of all singleton infants born alive. Birthweight (grams) groups are: <1000, 1000-1499, 1500-2499, 2500-3499, 3500-4499, >=4500.
9	Aboriginal liveborn infants and gestation	Number of Aboriginal infants born alive in each gestational age group	Number of Aboriginal infants born alive in the period. Gestational age groups (weeks) are: <24, 24-27, 28-31, 32-36, 37-40, >=41 where values are rounded down e.g. a gestational age of 27 weeks and 6 days would be reported in the group 24-27. To suppress small cell values the gestation groups of <24 and 24-27 have been combined to 20-27.

	Report	Description	Calculations
10	Infant mortality rates	Mortality rates of infants born in WA  * Only provided as annual rates.	Stillbirth Rate = Number of infants stillborn in the period per 1,000 infants born. * Neonatal Mortality Rate = Number of infants born alive and died within 28 days of birth per 1,000 infants born alive (0 to 27 days old). * Post Neonatal Mortality Rate = Number of infants born alive and died between 28 and 364 days after birth day per 1,000 infants born alive. Data on liveborn infants that died are not yet available for births occurring in 2017 and 2018. Data also sourced from the Perinatal Mortality Data Collection.
11	Aboriginal infant mortality rates	# Mortality Rates of Aboriginal infants born in WA  # Only provided as 3-year rates.	Stillbirth Rate = Number of Aboriginal infants stillborn in the period per 1,000 infants born in the 3-year period. Neonatal Mortality Rate = Number of infants born alive and died within 28 days of birth per 1,000 infants born alive in the 3-year period (0 to 27 days old). Post Neonatal Mortality Rate = Number of infants born alive and died between 28 and 364 days after birth day per 1,000 infants born alive in the 3-year period. Data are calculated for 3-year periods: 2003-05, 2006-08, 2009-11, 2012-14, 2015-17. Data on liveborn infants that died is not yet available for births occurring in 2017 and 2018. Data also sourced from the Perinatal Mortality Data Collection.

### 3. Notes on data presented

Midwives report births of all infants born in WA from pregnancies of at least 20 weeks gestation.

Data presented include the most recent complete time period.

Data are presented in two time periods, 3-month quarters and calendar years. Infant mortality rates are only reported in 1 year periods and Aboriginal infant mortality rates are reported for 3-year time periods because of small numbers.

Recent data are incomplete and subject to change.

#### 1. Data extraction and reporting

Data are extracted from data collections each month.

The baby's date of birth is used to aggregate data by quarter and calendar year.

The graphs and tables present data up to the most recent complete quarter.

## 2. Inclusion criteria

Mother and Baby reports include all women who gave birth in WA that were notified to the Chief Health Officer by a registered midwife. They also include all infants born to these women. A pregnancy must be at least 20 weeks gestation for a birth to have occurred. All pregnancies ending before 20 weeks gestation are a miscarriage.

## 3. Timeliness, accuracy and completeness

Data presented will accurately reflect MNS data as it was on the displayed date of export. The number of births and the data presented are subject to correction and change for at least one year after the birth period reported.

## 4. Data interpretation

Caution should be exercised in interpreting trends in Mothers and Babies data due to changes over time in data definitions and notification requirements. The most recent time periods will contain incomplete data.

Contact the MNS Data Custodian at [birthdata@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:birthdata@health.wa.gov.au) should assistance in interpretation of these data be required.

## 5. Citation of the MNS data

Acknowledgement of the WA Midwives Notification System should accompany any use of these data.

Suggested citation: Maternal and Child Health Unit, Department of Health Western Australia. WA Midwives Notification System, available at [health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au): accessed [date].

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

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