

Victoria's mothers, babies and children 2014 and 2015

Appendix 2: Measures of obstetric
and paediatric mortality and
morbidity

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Where the term 'Aboriginal' is used it refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indigenous is retained when it is part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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Appendix 2: Measures of obstetric and paediatric mortality and morbidity

Maternal mortality ratio (MMR)

The MMR is defined as follows:

$$\text{Maternal mortality ratio} = \frac{\text{number of direct and indirect maternal deaths} \times 100,000}{\text{total number of confinements}}$$

The MMR excludes late maternal deaths.

Confinements is the number of pregnancies of 20 weeks gestation or more resulting in live birth or stillbirth (regardless of plurality).

Maternal deaths in early pregnancy from direct or indirect causes are included in the numerator for the MMR even though the denominator does not include pregnancies that end before 20 weeks gestation because the available data on the number of these pregnancies are unreliable.

Perinatal mortality rate (PMR)

The PMR is calculated as stillbirths and neonatal deaths per 1000 total births (stillbirths and live births). For CCOPMM statistics, the rate refers to all births of at least 20 weeks gestation or, if gestation is unknown, of birthweight of at least 400 g. However, for purposes of continuity, PMR of infants of ≥ 500 g or, where the birthweight is unknown, of at least 22 weeks gestation, is also presented (PMR₅₀₀). For international comparisons, the rate refers to all births of at least 1000 g birthweight or, when the birthweight is unknown, of at least 28 weeks gestation and neonatal deaths occurring within seven days of birth (recommended by WHO).

$$\text{Perinatal mortality rate} = \frac{(\text{number of stillbirths} + \text{neonatal deaths}) \times 1000}{\text{total (stillbirths} + \text{live births)}}$$

Neonatal mortality rate (NMR)

The NMR is calculated per 1000 live births of at least 20 weeks gestation or, if gestation is unknown, of birthweight at least 400 g.

$$\text{Neonatal mortality rate} = \frac{\text{number of neonatal deaths} \times 1000}{\text{total live births}}$$

Stillbirth rate

$$\text{Stillbirth rate} = \frac{\text{number of stillbirths} \times 1000}{\text{total (stillbirths} + \text{live births)}}$$

Infant mortality rate (IMR)

The IMR is calculated as the number of infant deaths divided by the number of total (Victorian-born) live births for the index year (reported as the rate per 1000 live births). The live births are limited to those infants ≥ 20 weeks gestation or, if the gestation is unknown, of birthweight ≥ 400 g.

Deaths during the neonatal period of infants born as the result of termination of pregnancy for congenital anomaly or other reasons, such as maternal conditions, are excluded from the IMR calculation.

$$\text{Infant mortality rate} = \frac{(\text{number of infant deaths}) \times 1000}{\text{total live births}}$$

