

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Perinatal mortality rate among babies born to Indigenous women has remained high and unchanged between 2006 and 2019

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

"In 2015-2019, the perinatal mortality rate among babies born to Indigenous women was 1.7x as high for non-Indigenous women."



Low birthweight attributed to maternal malnutrition was the largest cause of perinatal mortality to babies born to Indigenous Australian mothers, with smoking as the 2nd largest cause.

The Department of Health has set up a Health Plan which places culture at the foundation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing as a protective factor across the life course.

There has been an increase in Indigenous mothers attending antenatal care sessions and a decrease in smoking during pregnancy. However, this has not translated to improvements in mortality rates.



2-3 KEY USERS:

1. Keira is an Aboriginal woman who just found out she's pregnant
2. Leonie is a civil servant working for the Department of Health

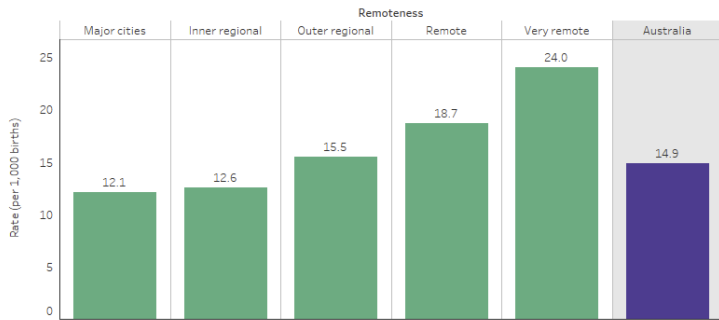


2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

Keira's found out she's 2 weeks pregnant but she's a heavy smoker and has attempted to quit twice before without success. She's worried about her baby and wants help but doesn't know where to go.

Leonie has been involved in the Health Plan for Indigenous Australians and wants to boost attendance rates for antenatal care sessions.

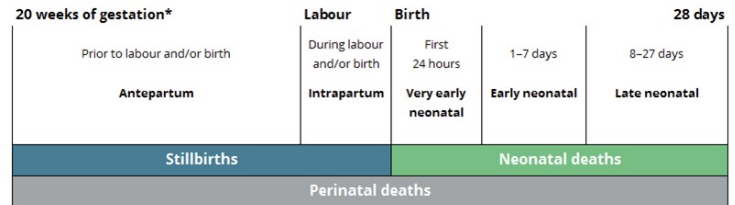
KEY IMAGES: (2-3 key images with annotation)



Note: These data are not comparable with ABS registrations of deaths data used in previous reporting of this measure (see [National Perinatal Mortality Data Collection](#) for details).

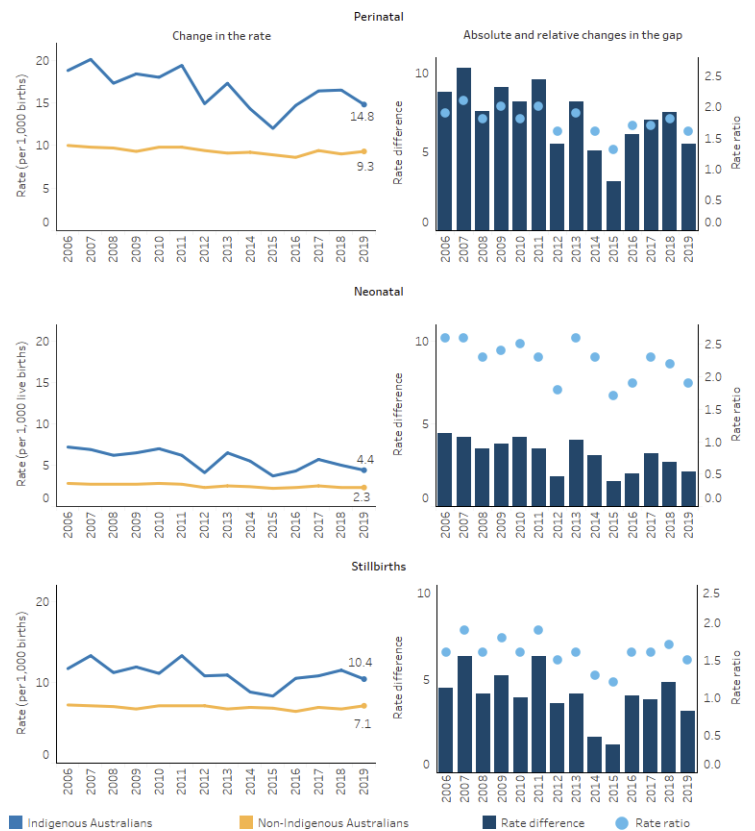
Source: Table D1.21.7. AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Mortality Data Collection and the National Perinatal Data Collection.

Perinatal mortality rates among babies born to Indigenous women, by remoteness



*At least 20 week of gestation and/or 400 grams birthweight.

Definitions of perinatal death



Mortality rates fluctuate and only have a slight trend downwards

INDUSTRY SECTORS:

Local government

Medical/healthcare sector

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- <https://ctgreport.niaa.gov.au/child-mortality#factors>
- <https://www.indigenoushpf.gov.au/measures/1-20-infant-child-mortality>
- <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/australias-children/contents/health/infant-child-deaths>
- <https://www.indigenoushpf.gov.au/measures/1-21-perinatal-mortality>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1168887/>

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