

Findings from the Having a Baby in Queensland Pilot Survey, 2009

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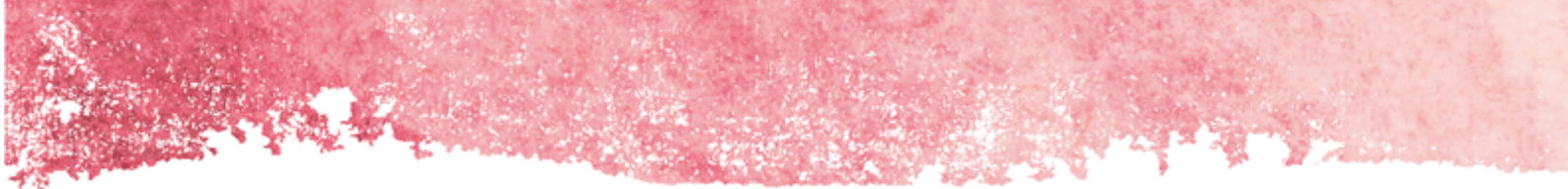
We are very grateful to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages for their supportive partnership in piloting the 'Having a Baby in Queensland' survey. Our appreciation extends particularly to Helen Lucas, Colin Wood, Julie Shilton-Bevan, David Barnes and Graham Schofield at the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages for their tireless and valuable work in contacting women who had birthed to invite them to participate, and in ensuring that women's privacy was protected throughout.

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Queensland Health are gratefully thanked and commended for their support of this important work that contributes one small component of overall maternity care reform plans in Queensland.



Executive Summary

This report provides summary findings about women's experiences of maternity care in Queensland from the 2009 pilot of the Having a Baby in Queensland Survey. Process findings from this survey that informed changes to methodology and content for the 2010 Having a Baby in Queensland Survey are reported elsewhere (http://www.qcmb.org.au/reports/menu/publications_downloads).

Procedures

For this pilot survey, we randomly sampled 2,384 recent maternity care consumers via the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Eligible sampled women were invited to participate via a mailed invitation package. Women could participate by returning the completed written survey by mail, online, or over the telephone. Experiences of pregnancy, labour and birth, and after birth care, were assessed for the most recent birth, retrospectively at three months after birth. The usable response rate for the survey was 33% (N=693) for women with a live singleton birth.

The sample

The respondent sample was largely representative of all birthing women in Queensland. Compared to the total population of women birthing in Queensland (data from 2007), survey participants slightly under-represented younger women (<24 years; 14% in our sample vs 23%), and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (1.7% of our sample vs 5.4% of all birthing women in Queensland). There was over-representation of women who had used assisted reproductive technology in their most recent pregnancy (9% in our sample vs 4%), and women having their first baby (primiparous women; 47% vs 40% of all birthing women in Queensland). The sample had good representation of birthing women from metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Queensland. Overall, 68% of women were trying for a baby when they became pregnant. The majority of respondents birthed in a public facility (60.2%), 37.8% birthed in a private facility, and 0.7% birthed at home.

Key Findings

Overall satisfaction with care

- The majority of women said they were looked after 'very well' by their care providers during pregnancy (54.5%) and during labour and birth (63.3%). Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to say they were looked after 'very well' (72%) than women who birthed in a public facility (58%).
- Satisfaction with after-birth care was less common - 41% of all women said they were looked after 'very well' by their care providers after their birth.

Care during pregnancy

- The majority of women (89%) went to or were visiting a General Practitioner when they first realised they might be pregnant.
- Women had their booking appointment at their planned place of birth at 17 weeks gestation, on average. Women residing in outer regional and remote areas had their booking appointment at a significantly later gestation than women residing in major cities.
- Women who birthed in a public facility had their booking appointment significantly later than women who birthed in a private facility, and were significantly more likely to say that the timing of their booking appointment was 'too late' (26% in public facilities; 11% in private facilities).

Care during labour and birth

- The majority of women reported wanting a vaginal birth (79%), and there were no differences in preference for type of birth (vaginal or caesarean birth) by the type of birth facility where women had their baby (public or private facility).
- Women who birthed in private hospitals were significantly more likely to have experienced induction of labour, epidurals for pain relief, and episiotomy. Women who had a vaginal birth in a private facility were also less likely to have been standing, squatting or kneeling at birth than those who had a vaginal birth in a public facility (8.7% in private vs 22.4% in public facilities).
- A significantly higher proportion of private facility women had a caesarean birth (43%) compared with those who birthed in a public facility (26%).
- Women who had a caesarean birth in a private facility were more likely than those in a public facility to have had their birth scheduled before labour (60% vs. 41% of those who had a caesarean), and to report choosing a caesarean birth because it was recommended by their care provider (62% vs. 40%) or because their baby would not fit through their pelvis (26% vs. 13%).
- Women who birthed in private facilities reported having significantly more perceived choices across most aspects of labour and birth care (gender of care provider, mode of birth, induction of labour, choice of position during labour, and use of both pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain relief options).
- Women who lived in more remote areas of Queensland were less likely to have the choice of more than one facility for birth than women in other areas, and more likely than those in major cities or inner regional areas to have had a vaginal birth.

After birth

- 6% of women reported 'often' feeling depressed after their baby's birth.
- A quarter of all women reported 'often' having breastfeeding problems, and 23% of first-time mothers said they did not receive enough information about feeding a new baby after their birth.
- More than a fifth of first-time mothers did not feel confident looking after their baby when they first had their baby at home (although this was much less common among women who had more than one baby - 2.5% did not feel confident).

Summary and Recommendations

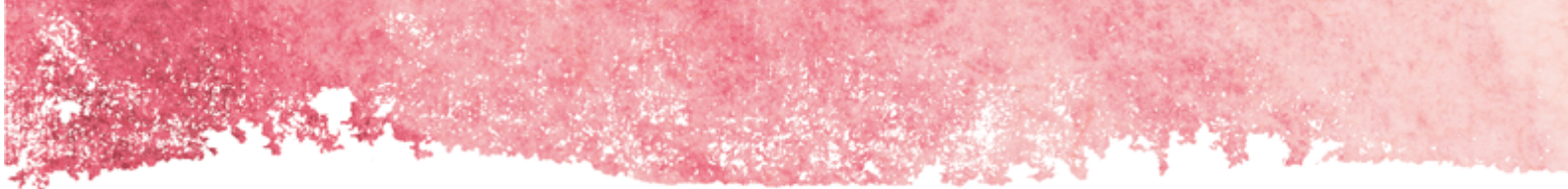
Although the majority of women were satisfied with their care during pregnancy, and labour and birth, fewer women were satisfied with the care they received after their birth. Further research is needed to understand the reasons for poorer perceived quality of postnatal care and to develop solutions for improvement. There remains considerable room for improvement in providing optimal quality of care across all stages of maternity care for women in Queensland.

Choices available to women in labour and birth differ significantly between public and private birth facilities in Queensland, and the availability of choice is reflected in many aspects of the care experienced, including differences between types of facilities in rates of medical procedures and in women's satisfaction with the care they received. One of the most important choices available to women in their labour and birth may be their initial entry in private or public systems of maternity care. Attempts to promote informed choice in maternity care should include information about how private and public systems of maternity care differ in available choices and the experience of medical intervention.

The findings reported here are only descriptive. Further analysis is needed to fully understand the factors related to differential experiences of care in pregnancy, labour and birth, and after birth.

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Abbreviations

ART	Assisted Reproductive Technology
ATSI	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
BMI	Body Mass Index
GP	General Practitioner
M	Mean (or average)
N/n	Number
OB	Obstetrician
QCMB	Queensland Centre for Mothers & Babies
SD	Standard deviation

Background

The review of maternity services in Queensland, culminating in the *Re-Birthing Report* (Hirst, 2005)¹ recommended continuously monitoring the appropriateness, effectiveness, quality, safety and evidence-base of maternity services in Queensland. The overall goal of the 'Having a Baby in Queensland' survey is to report on the performance of maternity services from the perspective of consumer experiences of maternity care.

This report includes findings from the 'Having a Baby in Queensland' pilot survey to provide preliminary and rudimentary measures of maternity care performance, against established indicators. Due to the smaller sample size employed in the pilot survey, indicators are unable to be reported at the facility level here, although this is a primary intended use of data collected as part of the ongoing 'Having a Baby in Queensland' survey program.

This survey is independent of Queensland Health and other maternity care service providers. The information is held in trust by the Queensland Centre for Mothers & Babies (QCMB) at The University of Queensland.

Methods

1.0 The Having a Baby in Queensland Pilot Survey Instrument

The 'Having a Baby in Queensland' pilot survey included measures of perceived choice in care decisions, information and support, quality of antenatal, labour and birth, and postnatal care, and maternal and infant health outcomes. A copy of the survey can be accessed at: http://www.qcmb.org.au/survey_program_materials_and_reports.

2.0 Processes of the Having a Baby in Queensland Pilot Survey

2.1 Sampling and Recruitment

For inclusivity and representativeness of the sample, we partnered with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages to invite all women who birthed in Queensland in a selected two-week period (22/07/2009 – 04/08/2009) to participate, using details from the hospital notifications database. The key strength of this kind of sampling is that all birthing women have the opportunity to participate – unlike other surveys where recruitment happens via the service-delivery environment.

In the first week of November 2009, when the babies of women selected for participation in the pilot survey were at least 3 months old, numbered survey booklets were sent by post from the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages to the identified eligible sample of 2,366 women.

Sampled women were checked against the available birth registrations at the time of invitation to update contact details where appropriate before sending, and against the death notifications to exclude women who experienced infant loss after birth. Women who had experienced multiple birth or stillbirth were invited to participate, and received an invitation and survey package tailored to their experience.

Survey packages included a letter of invitation from the Registrar General of Births Deaths and Marriages, an information sheet about the study, the written survey (A5 spiral bound with a moisture-resistant cover), a QCMB fridge magnet/photo frame, and a reply-paid return envelope addressed to the QCMB. Survey invitation packages also included a 'translation' sheet with directions in 19 languages (other than English) for contacting an interpreter to ask any questions about the survey or to participate.

¹ Hirst, C. (2005). *Re-birthing: Report of the review of maternity services in Queensland*. Queensland Health: Brisbane.

Reminder/thank you postcards were mailed two weeks after the initial survey mailing to all participants. For half the sample, a second copy of the survey was enclosed with this mailing². The need to protect confidentiality of the sampled women and lack of feasibility for the Registry of Births, Deaths and marriages to check surveys returned to the QCMB against details of the original sample (held by BDM) in the two-week reminder period, prevented tailored reminders being sent based on prior response.

Participants were able to complete the survey on paper (in English; returned by reply paid mail), online (in English), or by telephone (freecall) with trained telephone interviewers. Women could participate by telephone in any language, with the help of a Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) interpreter, in a three-way telephone call with trained telephone interviewers in the research team.

2.2 Data Quality Assurance

Telephone interviewers and data entry personnel completed extensive training prior to engagement with participants and with returned survey data.

Prior to the commencement of data analysis, a number of steps were undertaken to ensure the validity of the data. These steps consisted of:

- Checking the data entry of a proportion of paper surveys selected at random;
- Checking the data for outliers or anomalies;
- Checking the consistency of respondents' answers; and
- Recoding or categorising continuous data to aid analysis.

Data entry validation was conducted on just over ten percent of paper surveys, which was deemed a sufficient proportion to gauge the accuracy of data entry. Surveys were selected at random by their unique identification number and checked that respondents' responses had been entered correctly and that data entry rules and protocols had been followed. Any errors found were corrected.

All variables in the data file were checked for outliers or anomalies. Any anomalies found were then checked against the paper surveys to see if they were the result of data entry error or participant error. Outliers as a result of participant error were excluded from analyses, and any data entry errors were corrected.

Data was also checked for consistency of responses. For example, the hospital or birth centre respondents had their baby was checked to see it was correctly identified as a private or public facility. Infant birthweight was checked against infant gestational age at birth to see if the birthweight was in a range consistent with the gestational age of the baby.

2.3 Data Analysis

Continuous data was recoded for ease of analysis. For example, height as measured in centimetres or feet and inches was recoded into one measure (centimetres) and time as measured in hours and/or minutes was recoded into one measure (hours or minutes). For some variables, continuous data was collapsed into categories based on the distribution of responses or in accordance with categories reported in publications such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Australia's Mothers and Babies 2006 report.

Data are routinely reported separately for primiparous and multiparous women, by area of residence, and for private and public care. Of the 689 women who experienced a live singleton birth and had reportable data, 2 women birthed as public patients in a private facility and 32 birthed as a private patient in a public facility (1 woman reported that she didn't know what type of patient she was at time of birthing). Therefore, data comparing experiences of women who birthed in private and public facilities is presented

² Varying inclusion of a second copy of the survey instrument with the two-week thankyou/reminder mailing aimed to assess the relative cost-effectiveness of the two reminder protocols for encouraging survey response.

according to type of facility (public or private) rather than patient type. Five women had a home birth and are excluded from any analysis comparing public and private facilities.

2.4 Ethical Approval

Ethical approval for the survey was granted from the Behavioural and Social Sciences Ethical Review Committee of The University of Queensland on October 15th, 2009.

Findings

3.0 Findings from the Having a Baby in Queensland Pilot Survey

3.1 Participants

We sampled 2,384 women via the hospital notifications provided to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Queensland of all women who gave birth between 22nd July 2009 and 4th August 2009. The sample comprised 2,326 women who had a singleton birth, 49 women who had experienced a multiple birth and 9 women who had experienced a stillbirth. Prior to mailing the invitation package, women were excluded from the sample if they:

- Had a multiple birth where one or more babies died and one or more babies lived (n=1)
- Had a baby who had died subsequent to the hospital birth notification and had an infant death registration record (n=14). Note, two women whose baby had subsequently died were excluded from the sample after the invitation package had been sent due to late notification
- Had no available postal address in the Births, Deaths and Marriages' database records (n=6).

Overall, 2,366 women were mailed packages, however 69 women could not be reached as one or both of the invitation package and reminder package were returned to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Thus, the total number of women who were invited to participate in the study was 2,295.

Data from multiple births and stillbirths are not reported here because the small numbers are a risk to confidentiality and anonymity of respondents.

3.2 Participant characteristics

At the time of survey completion, the mean infant age for respondents who had a live singleton birth was 15.9 weeks ($SD = 1.4$ weeks, range = 13-20 weeks).

Table 1. Infant age at time of survey completion among respondents who had a live singleton birth

Infant age in weeks	Survey Sample (n=693)	
	n	%
13-14	119	(17.2)
15-16	364	(52.5)
17-18	167	(24.1)
19-20	38	(5.5)
Not stated	5	(0.7)

Maternal characteristics:

- The average age of respondents when they gave birth to their baby was 30.0 years ($SD = 5.3$ years, range = 15-44 years).
 - The respondent sample under-represented women aged less than 24 years at the time of birth of their baby (14.2%), relative to the population of birthing women in Queensland (23%).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) women were under-represented in the respondent sample (1.7%) relative to the population of Queensland birthing women (5.4%).
- About half of the sample was primiparous (46.6%), and primiparous women were slightly over-represented in the sample relative to the population of Queensland birthing women (40.1%).
- Respondents had a pre-pregnancy average Body Mass Index (BMI) of 24.7 ($SD = 5.3$, range = 15.6-57.0). The majority of respondents had a pre-pregnancy BMI in the normal range (54%).
- 8.9% of respondents had used assisted reproductive technology for their most recent pregnancy, compared with 3.6% of women who birthed in Queensland in 2007.
- The majority of the pilot survey sample resided in major cities (64.5%). Representation of women residing in outer regional (15.9%) and remote areas (3.2%) was comparable with the population of women birthing in Queensland (16.1% and 4.1% respectively).
- The majority of participants had internet access when they needed it (94.8%) and most had internet access at home (90.1%).
 - Women who birthed in private facilities were significantly more likely to have internet access at home (97.3%) than women who birthed in public facilities (86%; $\chi^2(1) = 23.82$, $p < .001$)
 - Women who lived in inner regional areas were significantly less likely to have internet access when they needed it ($\chi^2(3) = 17.81$, $p < .001$) and less likely to have internet access at home ($\chi^2(1) = 15.16$, $p = .002$), than women residing in other areas of Queensland.
 - Women who had completed secondary level education were more likely to have internet access when they needed it ($\chi^2(1) = 9.06$, $p = .003$), and internet access at home ($\chi^2(1) = 17.57$, $p < .001$), than women who had not completed secondary level education;
 - Women aged less than 20 years at the time of their birth were significantly less likely to have internet access when they needed it ($\chi^2(5) = 15.20$, $p = .006$) and to have internet access at home ($\chi^2(5) = 40.73$, $p < .001$), than older women.

Infant characteristics:

- The mean infant gestational age at birth of respondents who had a live singleton birth was 39.1 weeks ($SD = 2.1$ weeks, range = 21-44 weeks).
 - Rates of infants born pre-term (0.6%) were comparable with the population of infants born in Queensland (0.8%). Rates of post-term births were higher in the sample (3.3%) than in the population (0.7%).
- The mean birthweight of babies born was 3,499.1 grams ($SD = 564.1$ grams, range = 620-5,870 grams).
- The majority of infants of respondents were born in a public facility (60.2%), 37.8% were born in a private facility, and 0.7% were born at home.
 - The proportion of infants born in a private facility (37.8%) of women in the respondent sample was higher than in the population of all infants born in Queensland in 2007 (30.4%).

Table 2. Characteristics of women who completed the pilot survey and women who gave birth in Queensland in 2007

Maternal Characteristics	Survey Sample (n=693) ³		QLD Population (n=59,228) ⁴	
	n	%	n	%
Maternal age in years				
Less than 20	17	(2.5)	3,260	(5.5)
20-24	81	(11.7)	10,390	(17.5)
25-29	197	(28.4)	16,565	(28.0)
30-34	209	(30.2)	17,609	(29.7)
35-39	103	(14.9)	9,643	(16.3)
40 and over	24	(3.5)	1,761	(3.0)
Not stated	62	(8.9)	-	
ATSI status				
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	12	(1.7)	3,170	(5.4)
Non-Indigenous	672	(97.0)	56,018	(94.6)
Not stated	9	(1.3)	40	(0.1)
Parity				
Primipara	323	(46.6)	23,732	(40.1)
Multipara	364	(52.5)	35,496	(59.9)
Not stated	6	(0.9)	-	
Pre-pregnancy BMI				
Underweight (BMI <18.5)	28	(4.0)	-	
Normal (BMI 18.50 - 24.99)	374	(54.0)	-	
Overweight (BMI 25.00 - 29.99)	130	(18.8)	-	
Obese (BMI ≥30.00)	97	(14.0)	-	
Not stated	64	(9.2)	-	
Assisted reproductive technology				
Yes	62	(8.9)	2,145	(3.6)
No	626	(90.3)	57,080	(96.4)
Not stated	5	(0.7)	3	(0.0)
Remoteness of residence⁵				
Major city	447	(64.5)	35,437	(59.6)
Inner regional	112	(16.2)	11,981	(20.1)
Outer regional	110	(15.9)	9,602	(16.1)
Remote	15	(2.2)	1,498	(2.5)
Very remote	7	(1.0)	972	(1.6)
Not stated	2	(0.3)	-	

³ Women who had a live singleton birth.

⁴ Figures for Queensland were sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Australia's Mothers and Babies 2007 report and Queensland Health's Perinatal Statistics 2007 report. Figures are based on all women who gave birth in Queensland in 2007, including women who had single, twin or multiple babies.

⁵ Figures for the Queensland Population Sample are based on n=59,490.

Table 2 (continued). Characteristics of women who completed the pilot survey and women who gave birth in Queensland in 2007

Maternal Characteristics	Survey Sample (n=693)		QLD Population (n=59,228)	
	n	%	n	%
Health District reside in				
Cairns and Hinterland	41	(5.9)	3,508	(5.9)
Cape York	2	(0.3)	246	(0.4)
Central Queensland	33	(4.8)	3,071	(5.2)
Central West	1	(0.1)	163	(0.3)
Darling Downs – West Moreton	83	(12.0)	7,190	(12.1)
Gold Coast	52	(7.5)	5,286	(8.9)
Mackay	26	(3.8)	2,362	(4.0)
Metro North	147	(21.2)	11,313	(19.1)
Metro South	182	(26.3)	14,601	(24.7)
Mt Isa	7	(1.0)	702	(1.2)
South West	5	(0.7)	489	(0.8)
Sunshine Coast – Wide Bay	69	(10.0)	6,261	(10.6)
Torres Strait – Northern Peninsula	-		274	(0.5)
Townsville	37	(5.3)	3,232	(5.5)
Interstate/Overseas	6	(0.9)	526	(0.9)
Not stated	2	(0.3)	-	-
Country of birth				
Australia	551	(79.5)	48,550	(82.0)
New Zealand	37	(5.3)	2,839	(4.8)
United Kingdom	28	(4.0)	1,481	(2.5)
Former Yugoslavia	-		33	(0.1)
Other Europe and former USSR	12	(1.7)	959	(1.6)
Lebanon	-		25	(0.0)
Other Middle East and North Africa	3	(0.4)	332	(0.6)
China and Hong Kong	4	(0.6)	352	(0.6)
India	3	(0.4)	260	(0.4)
Philippines	6	(0.9)	481	(0.8)
Vietnam	4	(0.6)	382	(0.6)
Other Asia	12	(1.7)	1,389	(2.3)
Northern America	11	(1.6)	348	(0.6)
South and Central America and the Caribbean	5	(0.7)	236	(0.4)
Africa (excluding North Africa)	9	(1.3)	638	(1.1)
Other countries	4	(0.6)	897	(1.5)
Not stated	4	(0.6)	26	(0.0)

Table 3. Internet access,⁶ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=687)								Type of Facility (n=675)				Total Sample (n=689)	
	Major City (n=445)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=108)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=413)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Internet access when needed														
Yes	431	(96.9)	98	(87.5)	101	(93.5)	22	(100)	383	(92.7)	258	(98.5)	653	(94.8)
No	14	(3.1)	14	(12.5)	7	(6.5)	0	(0)	30	(7.3)	4	(1.5)	36	(5.2)
Internet access at home														
Yes	411	(92.4)	91	(81.3)	96	(88.9)	22	(100)	355	(86.0)	255	(97.3)	621	(90.1)
No	34	(7.6)	21	(18.8)	12	(11.1)	0	(0)	58	(14.0)	7	(2.7)	68	(9.9)

⁶ Question D20. Do you have Internet access when you want it? Do you have Internet access at home?

Table 4. Internet access, by parity and education level

	Parity (n=683)				Secondary Education (n=681)				
	Primipara (n=320)		Multipara (n=363)		Not completed (n=133)		Completed (n=548)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Internet access when needed									
Yes	305	(95.3)	342	(94.2)	119	(89.5)	526	(96.0)	
No	15	(4.7)	21	(5.8)	14	(10.5)	22	(4.0)	
Internet access at home									
Yes	290	(90.6)	326	(89.8)	107	(80.5)	507	(92.5)	
No	30	(9.4)	37	(10.2)	26	(19.5)	41	(7.5)	

Table 5. Internet access, by maternal age

	Mother's Age in Years (n=686)											
	Less than 20 (n=13)		20-24 (n=78)		25-29 (n=215)		30-34 (n=222)		35-39 (n=128)		40 and over (n=30)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Internet access when needed												
Yes	9	(69.2)	71	(91.0)	204	(94.9)	213	(95.9)	125	(97.7)	28	(93.3)
No	4	(30.8)	7	(9.0)	11	(5.1)	9	(4.1)	3	(2.3)	2	(6.7)
Internet access at home												
Yes	7	(53.8)	62	(79.5)	190	(88.4)	209	(94.1)	124	(96.9)	26	(86.7)
No	6	(46.2)	16	(20.5)	25	(11.6)	13	(5.9)	4	(3.1)	4	(13.3)

Table 6. Characteristics of babies born of women who completed the pilot survey and babies born in Queensland in 2007

Infant Characteristics	Survey Sample (n=693) ⁷		QLD Population (n=60,244) ⁸	
	n	%	n	%
Infant gestational age in weeks				
Less than 28	4	(0.6)	490	(0.8)
28-36	34	(4.9)	4,763	(7.9)
37-41	618	(89.2)	54,566	(90.6)
42 or more	23	(3.3)	414	(0.7)
Not stated	14	(2.0)	11	(0.0)
Infant birthweight in grams				
Less than 1,500	5	(0.7)	926	(1.5)
1,500-2,499	20	(2.9)	3,183	(5.3)
2,500-3,999	538	(77.6)	48,556	(80.6)
4,000 and over	113	(16.3)	7,561	(12.6)
Not stated	17	(2.5)	18	(0.0)
Facility type				
Public	417	(60.2)	41,850	(69.5)
Private	262	(37.8)	18,309	(30.4)
Home births	5	(0.7)	81	(0.1)
Not stated	9	(1.3)	4	(0.0)

⁷ Figures are based on singleton babies of live births.

⁸ Figures for Queensland were sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Australia's Mothers and Babies 2007 report and Queensland Health's Perinatal Statistics 2007 report. Figures are based on all babies born in Queensland in 2007, including babies who were stillborn and died after birth.

3.3 Care provided during pregnancy

Findings presented in this section focus on women's access to preconception and antenatal care, antenatal checks, antenatal screening, hospital admissions and access to antenatal education. Differences in area of residence, public and private birth facilities, and primiparous and multiparous women are described.

ACCESS TO PRECONCEPTION CARE

Women were asked in the survey whether they were trying for a baby when they became pregnant and whether they received special medical help from a doctor or clinic to become pregnant.

- Overall, 68% of women were trying for a baby when they became pregnant and 9% of women received special medical help from a doctor or clinic to become pregnant.
- Little difference was evident between women who were having their first baby and women who had previously given birth in relation to planned conception. Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to have been trying for a baby compared with women who birthed in a public facility (85% vs 57%).
- None of the small number of women sampled from remote areas received special medical help to become pregnant and less than ten percent of women residing in other areas used assisted reproductive technology (ART) to become pregnant.
- A significantly higher proportion of women who birthed in a private facility, compared to women who birthed in a public facility, received special medical help to become pregnant (18% vs 3%).
- A significantly higher proportion of primiparous women received special medical help to become pregnant compared with multiparous women (13% vs 6%).

Table 7. Planned conception and use of assisted reproductive technology (ART), by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Planned conception⁹														
Yes	307	(69.0)	72	(65.5)	70	(64.2)	18	(81.8)	236	(57.0)	222	(85.4)	468	(68.0)
No	128	(28.8)	35	(31.8)	35	(32.1)	4	(18.2)	164	(39.6)	35	(13.5)	203	(29.5)
Don't know	10	(2.2)	3	(2.7)	4	(3.7)	-		14	(3.4)	3	(1.2)	17	(2.5)
Missing	2		2		1		-		3		2		5	
Use of assisted reproductive technology (ART)¹⁰														
Yes	43	(9.7)	9	(8.2)	10	(9.2)	-		13	(3.1)	47	(18.1)	62	(9.0)
No	402	(90.3)	101	(91.8)	99	(90.8)	22	(100.0)	401	(96.9)	213	(81.9)	626	(91.0)
Missing	2		2		1		-		3		2		5	

Table 8. Planned conception and use of assisted reproductive technology, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Planned conception				
Yes	223	(69.7)	242	(66.9)
No	84	(26.3)	116	(32.0)
Don't know	13	(4.1)	4	(1.1)
Missing	3		2	
Use of assisted reproductive technology (ART)				
Yes	42	(13.1)	20	(5.5)
No	278	(86.9)	342	(94.5)
Missing	3		2	

⁹ Question A12. Were you 'trying for a baby' when you became pregnant?

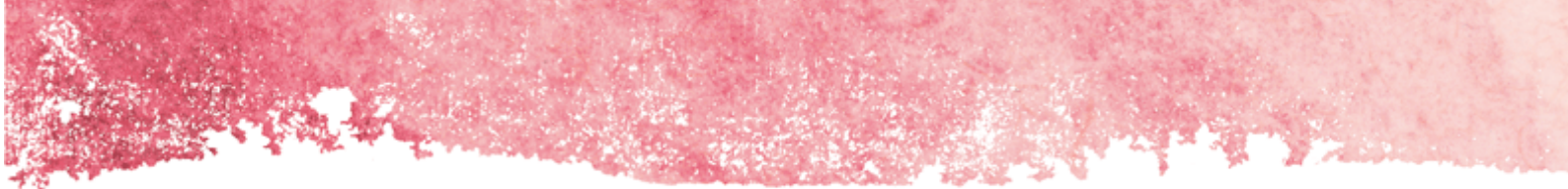
¹⁰ Question A13. Did you receive special medical help from a doctor or clinic to be able to become pregnant?

ACCESS TO ANTENATAL CARE

Women were asked a series of questions about their early pregnancy care, including when they first realised they might be pregnant, which care provider they saw first, and when they had their booking appointment.

Results indicated that:

- On average, women were five weeks pregnant ($SD = 2$ weeks, range = 0-19 weeks) when they first realised they might be pregnant. This result was consistent for women residing in major city areas, inner regional areas, outer regional areas and remote areas, and for primiparous women and multiparous women.
- A significant difference was evident between women who birthed in a private facility and women who birthed in a public facility with regards to when they first realised they might be pregnant. Women who birthed in a private facility ($M = 4.38$, $SD = 1.65$) on average realised they were pregnant earlier than women who birthed in a public facility ($M = 5.10$, $SD = 2.31$), $t(656) = 4.68$, $p < .001$.
- The majority of women went to or were visiting a General Practitioner (GP; 89%) when they first realised they might be pregnant.
- Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to have seen a GP when they first realised they might be pregnant than women who birthed in a private facility. Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to have seen an Obstetrician, OBGYN or Gynaecologist, or Fertility Specialist.
- Women who were having their first baby were significantly more likely to have seen an IVF/Fertility Specialist when they first realised they might be pregnant (5% vs 2%), than women who had previously given birth.
- On average, women were six weeks pregnant ($SD: 3$ weeks; range: 0-25 weeks) when they first saw a care provider about their pregnancy. Little difference was found between women in terms of area of residence. Women who birthed in a private facility visited their care provider significantly earlier in their pregnancy ($M = 5.55$ weeks, $SD = 2.28$) than women who birthed in a public facility ($M = 6.76$ weeks, $SD = 3.17$; $t(656) = 5.71$, $p < .001$). Women who were having their first baby visited their care provider significantly earlier in their pregnancy ($M = 5.77$ weeks, $SD = 2.53$) than women who had previously given birth ($M = 6.79$ weeks, $SD = 3.18$; $t(668) = -4.62$, $p < .001$).
- The majority of women (90%) indicated that their first pregnancy care visit was at 'about the right time'. Women of differing areas of residence and parity were equally satisfied with the timing of their first pregnancy care visit. Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to have indicated that the visit was 'too late' (5%) than women who birthed in a private facility (2%).
- On average, women were 17 weeks pregnant ($SD = 8$ weeks, range = 1-40 weeks) when they had their booking appointment at the planned place of birth. Women who resided in outer regional areas ($M = 19.27$, $SD = 8.34$) and remote areas ($M = 21.57$, $SD = 8.07$) had their booking appointment later in their pregnancy than women who resided in major city areas ($M =$



16.27, $SD = 7.80$) or inner regional areas ($M = 16.26$, $SD = 7.73$). Women who birthed in a public facility had their booking appointment significantly later in their pregnancy ($M = 17.63$ weeks, $SD = 7.31$) than women who birthed in a private facility ($M = 15.90$ weeks, $SD = 8.92$; $t(448) = 2.55$, $p = .01$). Primiparous and multiparous women did not differ in the timing of their booking appointment.

- The majority of women (78%) indicated that the timing of their booking appointment was 'about the right time', though one in five women (21%) indicated that the timing was 'too late'. Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to have indicated the timing of their booking appointment as 'too late' (26%), than women who birthed in a private facility (11%).

Table 9. Care provider first visited for pregnancy,¹¹ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Care provider first visited														
General Practitioner (GP)	391	(88.3)	99	(89.2)	99	(91.7)	20	(90.9)	391	(94.4)	208	(80.6)	610	(88.9)
Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist/ OBGYN	23	(5.2)	3	(2.7)	3	(2.8)	-		4	(1.0)	25	(9.7)	29	(4.2)
IVF/ Fertility Specialist	17	(3.8)	4	(3.6)	1	(0.9)	-		4	(1.0)	17	(6.6)	22	(3.2)
Midwife	6	(1.4)	2	(1.8)	2	(1.9)	2	(9.1)	10	(2.4)	1	(0.4)	12	(1.7)
Other	6	(1.4)	3	(2.7)	3	(2.8)	-		4	(1.0)	7	(2.7)	12	(1.7)
Did not go to a care provider in pregnancy	-		-		-		-		1	(0.2)	-		1	(0.1)
<i>Missing</i>	4		1		2		-		3		4		7	

Table 10. Care provider first visited for pregnancy, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
General Practitioner (GP)	282	(88.4)	322	(89.2)
Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist/ OBGYN	11	(3.4)	18	(5.0)
IVF/ Fertility Specialist	15	(4.7)	7	(1.9)
Midwife	3	(0.9)	9	(2.5)
Other	8	(2.5)	4	(1.1)
Did not go to a care provider in pregnancy	-		1	(0.3)
<i>Missing</i>	4		3	

¹¹ Question A14. Which care provider did you go to (or were you visiting) when you first realised you might be pregnant?

Table 11. Timing of early contact and booking appointment in weeks gestation, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range		
Weeks gestation when first realised might be pregnant ¹²	440	(5±2) 0-18	110	(5±2) 2-19	109	(5±2) 0-16	22	(5±2) 1-13	410	(5±2) 0-19	258	(4±2) 0-11	682	(5±2) 0-19
<i>Missing</i>	7		2		1		-		7		4		11	
Weeks gestation when saw first care provider ¹³	444	(6±3) 0-25	109	(6±3) 0-19	109	(7±3) 1-17	22	(7±3) 3-13	413	(7±3) 0-25	258	(6±2) 0-16	685	(6±3) 0-25
<i>Missing</i>	3		3		1		-		4		4		8	
Weeks gestation when had booking appointment ¹⁴	410	(16±8) 1-40	106	(16±8) 4-38	106	(19±8) 2-40	21	(22±8) 8-38	385	(18±7) 2-40	246	(16±9) 1-40	644	(17±8) 1-40
<i>Missing</i>	37		6		4		1		32		16		49	

Table 12. Timing of early contact and booking appointment in weeks gestation, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
Weeks pregnant when first realised might be pregnant	317	(5±2) 0-19	359	(5±2) 0-18
<i>Missing</i>	6		5	
Weeks pregnant when saw first care provider	320	(6±3) 0-19	359	(7±3) 0-25
<i>Missing</i>	3		5	
Weeks pregnant when had booking appointment	298	(17±8) 1-37	340	(17±8) 2-40
<i>Missing</i>	25		24	

¹² Question A11. Thinking about your youngest baby, how many weeks pregnant were you when you first realised you might be pregnant?

¹³ Question A15. How many weeks pregnant were you when you first saw this care provider about your pregnancy?

¹⁴ Question A17. How many weeks pregnant were you when you had your 'booking' appointment? This is the first appointment at your planned place of birth.

Table 13. Appropriate timing of early contact and booking appointment, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Timing of first pregnancy care visit¹⁵														
Too early	20	(4.6)	5	(4.6)	11	(10.1)	2	(9.1)	25	(6.1)	12	(4.7)	38	(5.6)
Too late	17	(3.9)	5	(4.6)	5	(4.6)	1	(4.5)	22	(5.3)	6	(2.4)	28	(4.1)
About the right time	402	(91.6)	99	(90.8)	93	(85.3)	19	(86.4)	365	(88.6)	236	(92.9)	614	(90.3)
Missing	8		3		1		-		5		8		13	
Timing of booking appointment¹⁶														
Too early	4	(0.9)	4	(3.7)	2	(1.9)	-		6	(1.5)	4	(1.6)	10	(1.5)
Too late	85	(20.1)	24	(22.2)	24	(22.6)	3	(14.3)	104	(26.3)	28	(11.2)	136	(20.6)
About the right time	334	(79.0)	80	(74.1)	80	(75.5)	18	(85.7)	285	(72.2)	218	(87.2)	513	(77.8)
Missing	24		4		4		1		22		12		34	

Table 14. Appropriate timing of early contact and booking appointment, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Timing of first pregnancy care visit				
Too early	14	(4.4)	24	(6.7)
Too late	11	(3.5)	17	(4.7)
About the right time	291	(92.1)	318	(88.6)
Missing	7		5	
Timing of booking appointment				
Too early	6	(2.0)	4	(1.2)
Too late	57	(18.6)	77	(22.2)
About the right time	243	(79.4)	266	(76.7)
Missing	17		17	

¹⁵ Question A16. In your opinion, was this...?

¹⁶ Question A18. In your opinion, was this...?

PREGNANCY CARE VISITS

Women were asked a series of questions about care visits and screening tests during their pregnancy. Only one respondent did not go to a care provider during pregnancy.

- On average, women had 13 antenatal check-ups ($SD = 6$ check-ups, range = 1-65 check-ups). Women did not differ in the number of check-ups they had in terms of area of residence or type of facility birthed in. Women who were having their first baby had significantly higher average number of check-ups ($M = 13.82$, $SD = 6.14$) than women who had previously given birth ($M = 12.68$, $SD = 6.05$; $t(664) = 2.42$, $p = .016$).
- The majority of women visited two or more types of care providers during pregnancy; 83% saw a GP at least once, 69% saw a midwife at least once, and 68% saw an obstetrician (OB) at least once. The proportion of women who saw all three types of care providers during pregnancy was 31%.
- The average number of antenatal check-ups with an obstetrician was higher than the number of antenatal check-ups with other care providers.
- Overall, 83% of women indicated that the number of antenatal check-ups they had was 'about right'. Across areas of residence and parity, women were in equal agreement that the number of antenatal check-ups was sufficient, however in terms of type of facility birthed in, women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to say that they had 'too few' check-ups than women who birthed in a private facility (12% vs 4%).
- Women travelled 28 minutes one-way on average for their check-ups ($SD = 45$ minutes, range = 0-660 minutes), but travel time varied considerably by women's area of residence. Women residing in remote areas travelled 85 minutes on average ($SD = 154$ minutes, range = 2-660 minutes), about an hour longer than women residing in major city areas ($M = 22$ minutes, $SD = 26$ minutes, range = 0-390).
- Overall, the average time spent in a waiting room for check-ups was 32 minutes ($SD = 31$ minutes, range = 0-360 minutes), however the average waiting time varied significantly by women's area of residence and type of birth facility. Women in remote areas waited the longest ($M = 41$ minutes) and women in major city areas the least ($M = 30$ minutes). Women who birthed in a public facility waited significantly longer ($M = 38$ minutes, $SD = 36.05$) than women who birthed in a private facility ($M = 24$ minutes, $SD = 17.63$; $t(636) = 6.61$, $p < 0.001$) for their pregnancy care visits.

- At a typical check-up, women spent an average of 17 minutes with their care provider ($SD = 12$ minutes, range = 2-120 minutes). Women who birthed in a public facility spent significantly more time with their care provider ($M = 17.91$, $SD = 12.30$) than women who birthed in a private facility ($M = 14.27$, $SD = 6.24$; $t(645) = 5.05$, $p < 0.001$).

Table 15. Number of different care providers visited during pregnancy

	Women who saw a care provider during pregnancy (n=692)	
	n	%
1 type of care provider	90	(13.4)
2 types of care providers	306	(45.5)
3 types of care providers	250	(37.2)
4 types of care providers	25	(3.7)
5 types of care providers	1	(0.1)
Missing	20	

Table 16. Proportion of women who visited each type of care provider at least once for pregnancy check-ups

	Women who saw a care provider during pregnancy (n=692)	
	n	%
General Practitioner (GP)	555	(82.6)
Midwife	463	(68.9)
Obstetrician	455	(67.7)
Nurse	45	(6.7)
Other	39	(5.6)
Missing	20	

Table 17. Average number of antenatal check-ups with each type of care provider

	Women who saw a care provider during pregnancy (n=692)	
	n	(Mean \pm S.D) Range
General Practitioner (GP)	555	(5 \pm 5) 1-35
Midwife	463	(5 \pm 4) 1-30
Obstetrician	455	(8 \pm 5) 1-39
Nurse	45	(3 \pm 4) 1-20
Other	39	(5 \pm 6) 1-30
Missing	20	

Figure 1. Combination of care providers seen during pregnancy

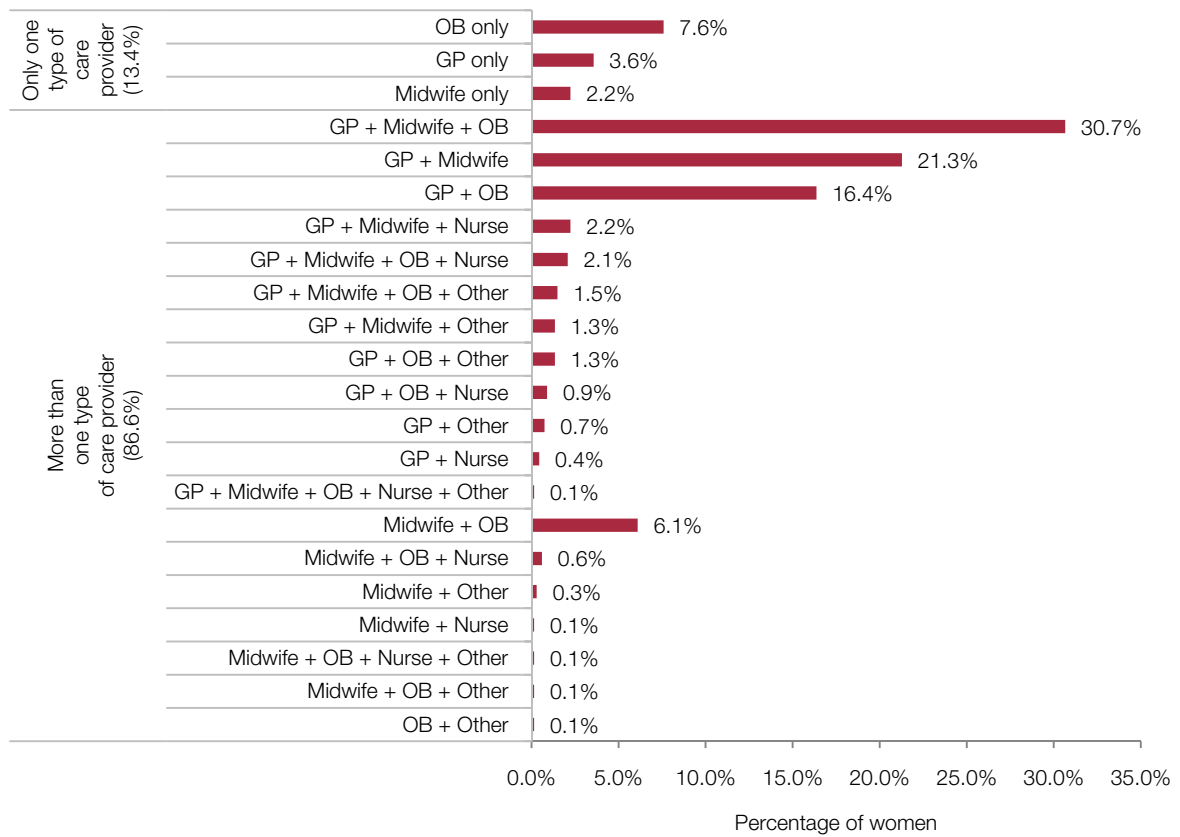


Table 18. Total number of antenatal check-ups,¹⁷ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=678)				All who saw a care provider during pregnancy (n=692)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=416)		Private (n=262)			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
1-5 check-ups	14	(3.2)	6	(5.7)	-		1	(4.5)	18	(4.5)	3	(1.2)	21	(3.1)
6-10 check-ups	128	(29.4)	33	(31.4)	29	(26.9)	7	(31.8)	139	(34.8)	53	(20.5)	197	(29.3)
11-15 check-ups	201	(46.1)	35	(33.3)	53	(49.1)	8	(36.4)	148	(37.0)	145	(56.0)	298	(44.3)
16-20 check-ups	56	(12.8)	24	(22.9)	13	(12.0)	2	(9.1)	49	(12.3)	43	(16.6)	95	(14.1)
21+ check-ups	37	(8.5)	7	(6.7)	13	(12.0)	4	(18.2)	46	(11.5)	15	(5.8)	61	(9.1)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>7</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>-</i>		<i>16</i>		<i>3</i>		<i>20</i>	

Table 19. Total number of antenatal check-ups, by parity

	Parity (n=686)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=363)	
	n	%	n	%
1-5 check-ups	7	(2.2)	13	(3.7)
6-10 check-ups	76	(24.1)	119	(33.9)
11-15 check-ups	140	(44.4)	155	(44.2)
16-20 check-ups	61	(19.4)	34	(9.7)
21+ check-ups	31	(9.8)	30	(8.5)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>12</i>	

¹⁷ Question A19. How many check-ups did you have with each of these types of care providers during pregnancy?

Table 20. Average number of pregnancy care visits, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=678)				Women who saw a care provider during pregnancy (n=692)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=416)		Private (n=262)		n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range		
Average number of antenatal check-ups ¹⁸	436	(13±6) 1-65	105	(13±5) 1-25	108	(14±6) 6-52	22	(14±9) 3-43	400	(13±6) 1-52	259	(14±6) 1-65	672	(13±6) 1-65
<i>Missing</i>	11		7		2		-		6		3		20	

Table 21. Average number of pregnancy care visits, by parity

	Parity (n=686)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=363)	
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
Average number of antenatal check-ups	315	(14±6) 1-65	351	(13±6) 1-48
<i>Missing</i>	8		12	

¹⁸ Question A19. How many check-ups did you have with each of these types of care providers during pregnancy?

Table 22. Adequacy of the number of antenatal check-ups,¹⁹ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=678)				All who saw a care provider during pregnancy (n=692)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=416)		Private (n=262)			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Too many	35	(8.0)	8	(7.3)	11	(10.1)	-		30	(7.4)	24	(9.2)	54	(7.9)
Too few	39	(8.9)	14	(12.7)	6	(5.5)	2	(9.1)	50	(12.3)	9	(3.5)	61	(8.9)
About the right number	366	(83.2)	88	(80.0)	92	(84.4)	20	(90.9)	328	(80.4)	227	(87.3)	567	(83.1)
<i>Missing</i>	7		2		1		-		9		2		11	

Table 23. Adequacy of the number of antenatal check-ups, by parity

	Parity (n=686)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=363)	
	n	%	n	%
Too many	28	(8.8)	26	(7.3)
Too few	26	(8.2)	33	(9.2)
About the right number	264	(83.0)	299	(83.5)
<i>Missing</i>	5		6	

¹⁹ Question A22. Thinking about the number of check-ups you had altogether, was this...?

Table 24. Average time spent travelling, waiting and visiting with care providers for pregnancy check-ups, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range		
Average minutes of travel (one-way) for check-ups ²⁰	443	(21±19) 0-300	111	(29±32) 2-240	109	(40±56) 3-360	22	(85±154) 2-660	413	(27±50) 0-660	260	(30±35) 2-360	686	(28±45) 0-660
<i>Missing</i>	4		1		1		-		4		2		7	
Average minutes spent in waiting room for check-ups ²¹	443	(30±30) 0-360	110	(39±32) 5-180	107	(35±32) 0-150	22	(41±35) 5-120	409	(38±36) 0-360	260	(24±18) 2-120	682	(32±31) 0-360
<i>Missing</i>	5		2		3		-		8		2		11	
Average minutes spent with care provider at a typical check-up ²²	443	(17±12) 2-120	110	(16±10) 5-60	109	(18±13) 5-90	22	(16±6) 5-30	412	(18±12) 5-90	260	(14±6) 2-60	685	(17±12) 2-120
<i>Missing</i>	4		2		1		-		5		2		8	

²⁰ Question A23. Roughly, how long did you have to travel (one-way), on average, for your check-ups?

²¹ Question A24. At a typical check-up, how long did you have to wait in a waiting room for your appointment?

²² Question A25. At a typical check-up, how long did you spend with your care provider?

PREGNANCY SCREENING

Women were asked questions regarding scans and tests that they may have had during their pregnancy.

- Almost all women (98%) had blood and screening tests during their pregnancy, with no differences between women by area of residence, type of birth facility, or parity.
- Women had four ultrasound scans during their pregnancy on average ($SD = 3$ scans, range = 0-30 scans). Women residing in outer regional areas had significantly more ultrasound scans than women in inner regional areas and major city areas. Women who birthed in a private facility had significantly more ultrasound scans ($M = 4.28$, $SD = 2.96$) than women who birthed in a public facility ($M = 3.31$, $SD = 2.26$; $t(444) = -4.55$, $p < .001$). There was no significant difference in the number of ultrasound scans of primiparous and multiparous women.

Table 25. Proportion of women who had blood and screening tests during pregnancy²³

	Total Sample (n=693)	
	n	%
Yes	676	(98.3)
No	12	(1.7)
Missing	5	

²³ Question A20. Did you have any blood tests or other tests (e.g. to 'screen' for things) during your pregnancy?

Table 26. Average number of ultrasound scans during pregnancy, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range		
Average number of ultrasounds ²⁴	442	(3±2) 0-30	112	(4±3) 1-17	108	(5±4) 1-20	22	(3±1) 1-7	413	(3±2) 0-20	259	(4±3) 1-30	686	(4±3) 0-30
<i>Missing</i>	5		-		2		-		4		3		7	

Table 27. Average number of ultrasound scans during pregnancy, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
Average number of ultrasounds	319	(4±3) 0-30	361	(4±2) 0-17
<i>Missing</i>	4		3	

²⁴ Question A26. How many ultrasound scans did you have in total during your pregnancy?

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS DURING PREGNANCY

Women were asked whether they had been hospitalised at any time during their pregnancy before the birth of their baby. Results indicated that:

- 84% of women did not stay in hospital overnight during their pregnancy before the birth of their baby.
- Among the 112 women who did stay in hospital overnight before their birth, the average stay in hospital was 3 nights ($SD = 4$ nights, range = 1-28 nights). The most common reasons for their hospitalisation were non-pregnancy related reasons (25%) and pre-eclampsia (18%).

Table 28. Proportion of women who were hospitalised during their pregnancy²⁵

	Total Sample (n=693)	
	n	%
Yes	112	(16.3)
No	576	(83.7)
Missing	5	

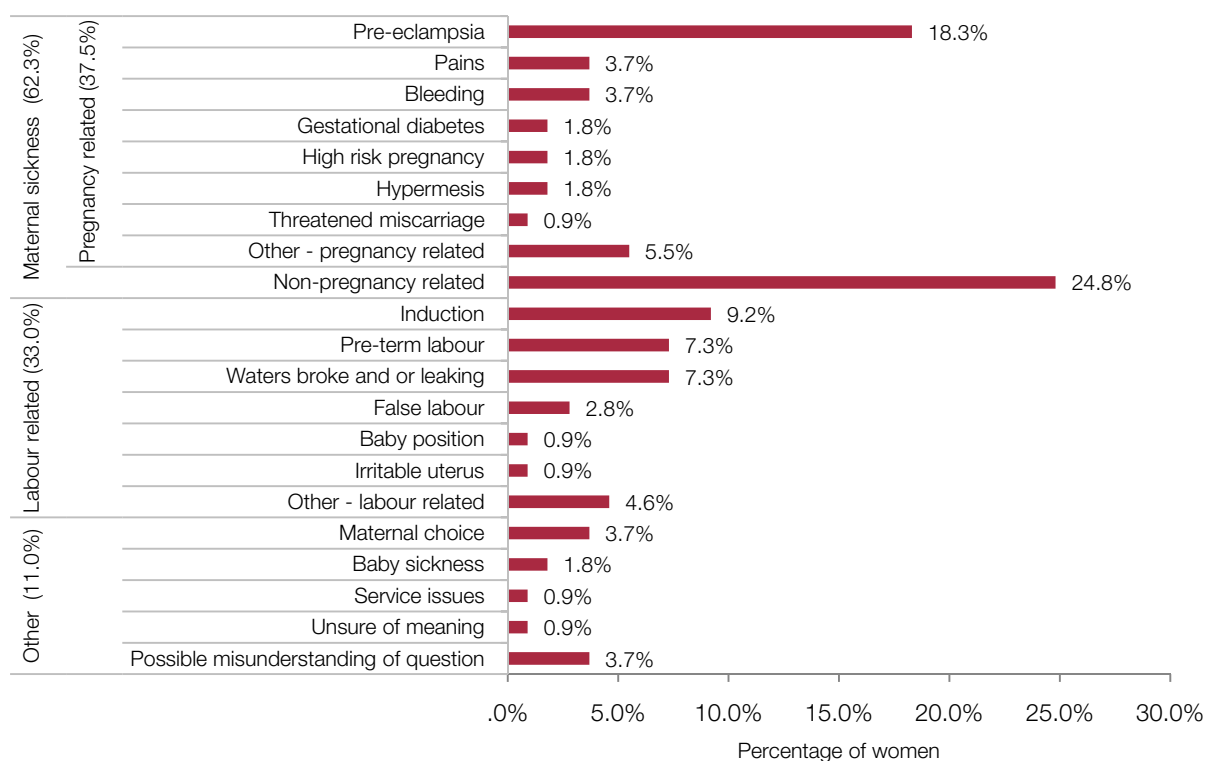
Table 29. Number of overnight stays in hospital during pregnancy²⁶

	All women who stayed in hospital during pregnancy and specified the number of nights (n=111)		
	Mean	SD	Range
Number of overnight stays	3	4	1-28

²⁵ Question A42. While you were pregnant, but before you went into labour (or before your labour was induced), did you stay in hospital overnight?

²⁶ Question A43. How many nights in total?

Figure 2. Reasons for hospitalisation during pregnancy (N = 109) ²⁷



ACCESS TO ANTENATAL EDUCATION

Women were asked whether they attended any antenatal classes to prepare them for the birth of their baby.

- Approximately 45% of women attended classes to prepare for their birth, and most of those had attended antenatal classes at a hospital.
- Women who did not attend antenatal classes were significantly more likely to reside in remote areas (82%) rather than in major city areas (51%), inner regional areas (61%) or outer regional areas (60%).
- Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to have attended antenatal classes in a local clinic or community centre (4.6%) than women who birthed in a private facility (0.8%). Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to have attended antenatal classes that they paid for (12%) than women who birthed in a public facility (2.4%).
- The majority of women who had previously given birth did not attend antenatal classes (89.7%). The majority of first time mothers did attend classes, and 70.7% of all primiparous women attended classes that were located at a hospital.

²⁷ n=109 (All women who stayed in hospital during pregnancy and gave a reason). Due to multiple responses percentages may total greater than 100%.

Table 30. Attendance at antenatal classes,²⁸ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Attended hospital antenatal classes	176	(39.8)	36	(32.1)	35	(32.1)	3	(13.6)	152	(36.7)	96	(37.1)	250	(36.4)
Attended antenatal classes in local clinic or community centre	12	(2.7)	6	(5.4)	4	(3.7)	-		19	(4.6)	2	(0.8)	22	(3.2)
Attended antenatal classes paid for	34	(7.7)	6	(5.4)	-		1	(4.5)	10	(2.4)	31	(12.0)	41	(6.0)
Other	37	(8.4)	3	(2.7)	5	(4.6)	-		29	(7.0)	15	(5.8)	46	(6.7)
Did not go to antenatal classes	223	(50.5)	68	(60.7)	65	(59.6)	18	(81.8)	227	(54.8)	139	(53.7)	375	(54.6)
Missing	5		-		1		-		3		3		6	

Table 31. Attendance at antenatal classes, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Attended hospital antenatal classes	227	(70.7)	21	(5.8)
Attended antenatal classes in local clinic or community centre	21	(6.5)	1	(0.3)
Attended antenatal classes paid for	35	(10.9)	6	(1.7)
Other	27	(8.4)	18	(5.0)
Did not go to antenatal classes	49	(15.3)	323	(89.7)
Missing	2		4	

²⁸ Question A32. During your pregnancy, did you attend any classes to prepare you for your baby's birth? Note, this question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

CHOICES AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO WOMEN IN PREGNANCY

Women were asked whether they had a choice in having some or all of their ultrasound scans and blood and screening tests during pregnancy. Women were also asked about the perceived adequacy of information they received during their pregnancy about various topics.

Results indicated that:

- 54% of women felt they had a choice for all ultrasound scans, 28% felt they had a choice for some scans, and 18% did not feel they had a choice about whether to have ultrasound scans. There were no notable differences in perceived choice for having ultrasound scans by area of residence or parity. However, women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to feel they had a choice 'for all scans' than women who birthed in a public facility.
- 59% of women felt they had a choice for all blood and screening tests during pregnancy, 15% felt they had a choice for some tests, and 26% did not feel they had a choice about whether to have blood and screening tests. There were no notable differences in perceived choice of tests by area of residence, type of birth facility or parity.

Women were asked if the reasons for having ultrasound scans and blood tests during pregnancy were clearly explained to them.

- 89.4% of women reported that the reasons for having ultrasound scans were clearly explained to them for all scans. There were no significant differences in the proportion who reported that reasons for ultrasound scans were clearly explained by area of residence, type of birth facility, or parity.
- 86.8% of women reported that the reasons for blood tests were clearly explained to them for all tests.
 - Women in outer regional areas were significantly more likely than those residing in a major city to say 'yes, for all tests' (92% vs 86%).
 - Women who birthed in private facilities were significantly more likely to say 'yes, for all tests' than those who birthed in public facilities (91% vs 85%)
 - There was no effect of parity on reporting that the reasons for blood tests had been clearly explained.

Women were asked whether they received enough information during their pregnancy about being pregnant, being in labour, giving birth, caring for a new baby, feeding a new baby, and caring for themselves after birth.

- About 85% of women agreed that they had enough information about being pregnant.
- Three quarters of all women agreed that they had enough information during their pregnancy about being in labour and giving birth. Women who birthed in public facilities were less likely to agree that they had enough information about giving birth (71%) than women who birthed in private facilities (82.3%).
- About two thirds of women agreed that they received enough information about caring for a new baby (64.8%), feeding a new baby (65.2%), and caring for themselves after birth (63%). Primiparous women were less likely than multiparous women to say they had enough information about caring for a new baby (56.9% vs. 72%), feeding a new baby (57.7% vs. 71.5%) and caring for themselves after birth (55.8% vs. 69.6%).

Women were asked if they had accessed information about pregnancy, labour and birth from online sources.

- 67.7% of all women had used online sources of information about pregnancy, labour and birth.
 - Women who lived in major cities were significantly more likely to have used online sources of information than women residing in other areas ($\chi^2(3) = 9.97, p = .02$)
 - Women who birthed in private facilities were significantly more likely to have used online sources of information (74.8%) than women who birthed in public facilities (64.3%; $\chi^2(1) = 7.69, p = .006$).
 - Primiparous women were significantly more likely to have used online sources of information (78.5%) than multiparous women (58.1%; $\chi^2(1) = 30.88, p < .001$)
 - Women who had completed a secondary education were significantly more likely to have used online information about pregnancy, labour and birth (70.4%) than women who had not completed a secondary education (55.4%; $\chi^2(1) = 10.18, p = .001$)

Table 32. Choice to have ultrasound scans and blood and screening tests, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Choice in ultrasound scans²⁹														
Yes, for all scans	236	(53.3)	63	(56.3)	58	(54.2)	12	(54.5)	204	(49.5)	157	(60.4)	369	(53.8)
Yes, for some scans	124	(28.0)	34	(30.4)	29	(27.1)	5	(22.7)	128	(31.1)	60	(23.1)	192	(28.0)
No	83	(18.7)	15	(13.4)	20	(18.7)	5	(22.7)	80	(19.4)	43	(16.5)	125	(18.2)
Missing	4		-		3		-		5		2		7	
Choice in blood and screening tests³⁰														
Yes, for all tests	262	(59.1)	71	(63.4)	64	(58.7)	12	(54.5)	240	(58.0)	161	(61.9)	409	(59.4)
Yes, for some tests	65	(14.7)	19	(17.0)	18	(16.5)	1	(4.5)	61	(14.7)	40	(15.4)	103	(15.0)
No	116	(26.2)	22	(19.6)	27	(24.8)	9	(40.9)	113	(27.3)	59	(22.7)	176	(25.6)
Missing	4		-		1		-		3		2		5	

Table 33. Choice to have ultrasound scans and blood and screening tests, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Choice in ultrasound scans				
Yes, for all scans	168	(52.8)	198	(54.7)
Yes, for some scans	92	(28.9)	98	(27.1)
No	58	(18.2)	66	(18.2)
Missing	5		2	
Choice in blood and screening tests				
Yes, for all tests	196	(61.3)	211	(58.3)
Yes, for some tests	49	(15.3)	53	(14.6)
No	75	(23.4)	98	(27.1)
Missing	3		2	

²⁹ Question A27. Do you feel that you had a choice about whether to have ultrasound scan(s)?

³⁰ Question A30. Do you feel that you had a choice about whether to have these test(s)?

Table 34. Reasons for ultrasound scans clearly explained³¹

	Total Sample (n=693)	
	n	%
Yes, for all scans	614	(89.4)
Yes, for some scans	59	(8.6)
No	14	(2.0)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>6</i>	

Table 35. Reasons for blood and screening tests clearly explained³²

	Total Sample (n=693)	
	n	%
Yes, for all tests	596	(86.8)
Yes, for some tests	76	(11.1)
No	15	(2.2)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>6</i>	

³¹ Question A28. Were the reasons for having ultrasound scan(s) clearly explained to you?

³² Question A31. Were the reasons for having test(s) clearly explained to you?

Table 36. Perceived adequacy of information received in pregnancy,³³ by area of residence and type of facility

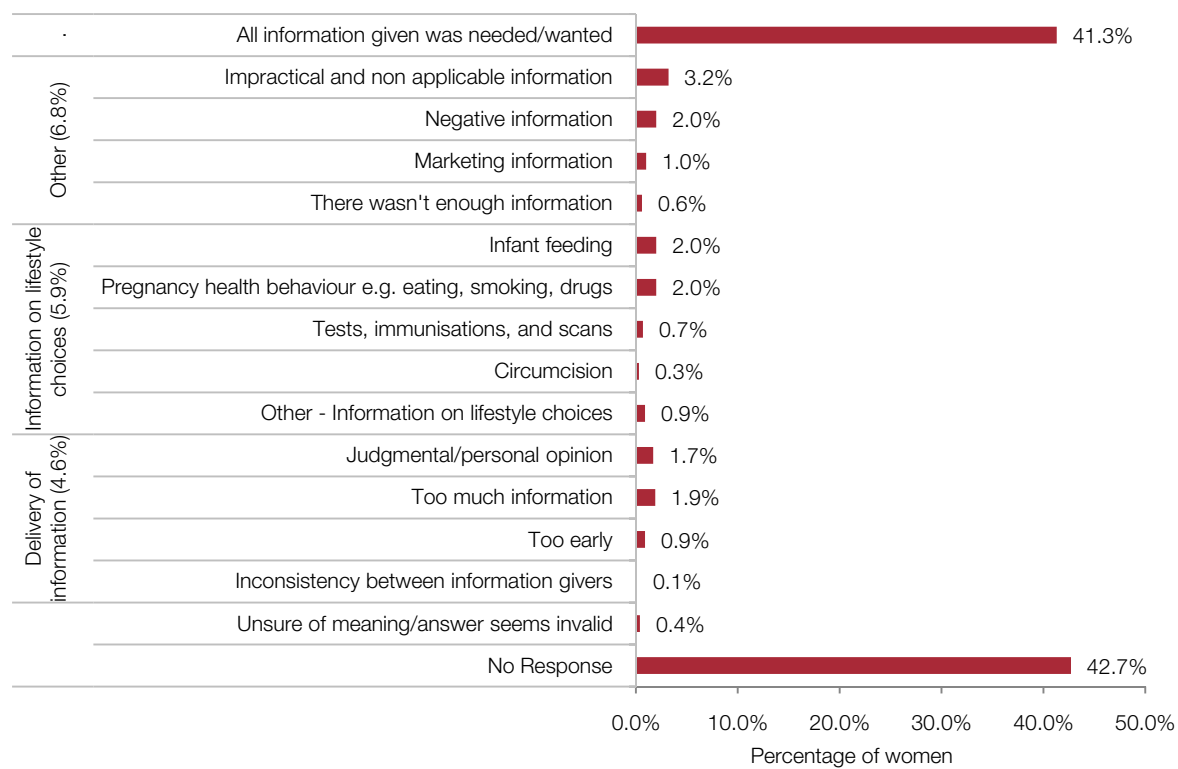
	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Had enough information about being pregnant														
Strongly disagree/disagree	39	(8.8)	10	(8.9)	7	(6.4)	3	(13.6)	32	(7.7)	27	(10.4)	59	(8.6)
Neither disagree or agree	30	(6.8)	7	(6.3)	8	(7.3)	2	(9.1)	34	(8.2)	10	(3.8)	47	(6.8)
Strongly agree/agree	374	(84.4)	95	(84.8)	95	(86.4)	17	(77.3)	349	(84.1)	223	(85.8)	583	(84.6)
Missing	4		-		-		-		2		2		4	
Had enough information about being in labour														
Strongly disagree/disagree	66	(15.0)	18	(16.2)	12	(11.0)	4	(18.2)	71	(17.1)	29	(11.2)	100	(14.6)
Neither disagree or agree	52	(11.8)	8	(7.2)	14	(12.8)	2	(9.1)	49	(11.8)	24	(9.3)	76	(11.1)
Strongly agree/agree	323	(73.2)	85	(76.6)	83	(76.1)	16	(72.7)	294	(71.0)	206	(79.5)	509	(74.3)
Missing	6		1		1		-		3		3		8	
Had enough information about giving birth														
Strongly disagree/disagree	65	(14.7)	19	(17.0)	9	(8.3)	4	(18.2)	68	(16.4)	29	(11.2)	97	(14.1)
Neither disagree or agree	47	(10.6)	10	(8.9)	15	(13.8)	2	(9.1)	52	(12.6)	17	(6.5)	74	(10.8)
Strongly agree/agree	330	(74.7)	83	(74.1)	85	(78.0)	16	(72.7)	294	(71.0)	214	(82.3)	516	(75.1)
Missing	5		-		1		-		3		2		6	
Had enough information about caring for a new baby														
Strongly disagree/disagree	113	(25.6)	22	(19.6)	22	(20.0)	7	(31.8)	88	(21.3)	71	(27.4)	164	(23.9)
Neither disagree or agree	45	(10.2)	19	(17.0)	12	(10.9)	2	(9.1)	50	(12.1)	26	(10.0)	78	(11.4)
Strongly agree/agree	283	(64.2)	71	(63.4)	76	(69.1)	13	(59.1)	276	(66.7)	162	(62.5)	445	(64.8)
Missing	6		-		-		-		3		3		6	
Had enough information about feeding a new baby														
Strongly disagree/disagree	109	(24.7)	21	(18.9)	24	(21.8)	6	(27.3)	84	(20.3)	73	(28.1)	160	(23.3)
Neither disagree or agree	48	(10.9)	16	(14.4)	14	(12.7)	1	(4.5)	50	(12.1)	25	(9.6)	79	(11.5)
Strongly agree/agree	285	(64.5)	74	(66.7)	72	(65.5)	15	(68.2)	279	(67.6)	162	(62.3)	448	(65.2)
Missing	5		1		-		-		4		2		6	
Had enough information about caring for oneself after having a baby														
Strongly disagree/disagree	111	(25.0)	27	(24.1)	26	(23.6)	9	(40.9)	100	(24.1)	69	(26.5)	173	(25.1)
Neither disagree or agree	54	(12.2)	10	(8.9)	17	(15.5)	1	(4.5)	55	(13.3)	26	(10.0)	82	(11.9)
Strongly agree/agree	278	(62.8)	75	(67.0)	67	(60.9)	12	(54.5)	260	(62.7)	165	(63.5)	434	(63.0)
Missing	4		-		-		-		2		2		4	

³³ Question A34. Thinking about the information you received during pregnancy, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I had enough information about...?

Table 37. Perceived adequacy of information received in pregnancy, by parity

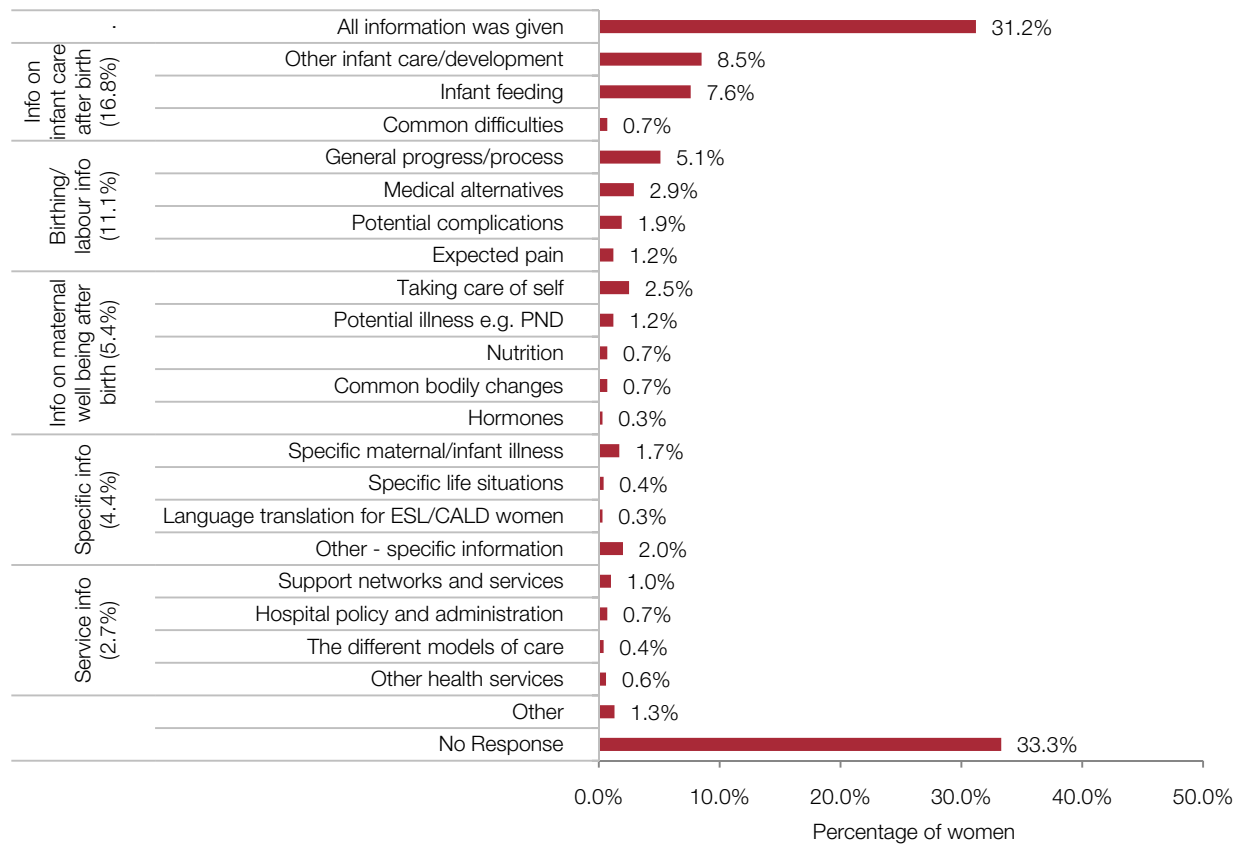
	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Had enough information about being pregnant				
Strongly disagree/disagree	24	(7.5)	35	(9.7)
Neither disagree or agree	24	(7.5)	23	(6.4)
Strongly agree/agree	273	(85.0)	304	(84.0)
Missing	2		2	
Had enough information about being in labour				
Strongly disagree/disagree	39	(12.2)	61	(16.9)
Neither disagree or agree	28	(8.8)	47	(13.1)
Strongly agree/agree	252	(79.0)	252	(70.0)
Missing	4		4	
Had enough information about giving birth				
Strongly disagree/disagree	35	(11.0)	62	(17.1)
Neither disagree or agree	35	(11.0)	38	(10.5)
Strongly agree/agree	249	(78.1)	262	(72.4)
Missing	4		2	
Had enough information about caring for a new baby				
Strongly disagree/disagree	96	(30.0)	66	(18.3)
Neither disagree or agree	42	(13.1)	35	(9.7)
Strongly agree/agree	182	(56.9)	260	(72.0)
Missing	3		3	
Had enough information about feeding a new baby				
Strongly disagree/disagree	89	(27.9)	70	(19.3)
Neither disagree or agree	46	(14.4)	33	(9.1)
Strongly agree/agree	184	(57.7)	259	(71.5)
Missing	4		2	
Had enough information about caring for oneself after having a baby				
Strongly disagree/disagree	93	(29.0)	78	(21.5)
Neither disagree or agree	49	(15.3)	32	(8.8)
Strongly agree/agree	179	(55.8)	252	(69.6)
Missing	2		2	

Figure 3. Information given during pregnancy that was not needed or wanted (n = 693)³⁴



³⁴ Question A35. What information were you given during pregnancy that you didn't need or want?

Figure 4. Information needed or wanted during pregnancy that was not given (n=693)³⁵



³⁵ Question A36. What information did you need or want during pregnancy that you were not given?

Table 38. Use of online information about pregnancy, labour and birth,³⁶ by area of residence and facility type

	Area of Residence (n=650)								Type of Facility (n=637)				Total Sample (n=651)	
	Major City (n=417)		Inner Regional (n=108)		Outer Regional (n=103)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=387)		Private (n=250)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	300	(71.9)	67	(62.0)	60	(58.3)	13	(59.1)	249	(64.3)	187	(74.8)	441	(67.7)
No	117	(28.1)	41	(38.0)	43	(41.7)	9	(40.9)	138	(35.7)	63	(25.2)	210	(32.3)

Table 39. Use of online information about pregnancy, labour and birth, by parity

	Parity (n=649)			
	Primipara (n=303)		Multipara (n=346)	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	238	(78.5)	201	(58.1)
No	65	(21.5)	145	(41.9)

³⁶ Question D10. Thinking about all your pregnancies, which sources of information about pregnancy, labour and birth have you found useful? *Note:* Use of online information includes all women who did not say that they 'did not use' the 'Having a Baby in Queensland website' or 'Other websites'.

Table 40. Use of online information about pregnancy, labour and birth, by maternal age

	Mother's Age in Years (n=648)											
	Less than 20 (n=12)		20-24 (n=77)		25-29 (n=207)		30-34 (n=205)		35-39 (n=119)		40 and over (n=28)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	10	(83.3)	47	(61.0)	146	(70.5)	133	(64.9)	89	(74.8)	13	(46.4)
No	2	(16.7)	30	(39.0)	61	(29.5)	72	(35.1)	30	(25.2)	15	(53.6)

Table 41. Use of online information about pregnancy, labour and birth, by maternal education

	Secondary Education (n=642)			
	Not completed (n=121)		Completed (n=521)	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	67	(55.4)	367	(70.4)
No	54	(44.6)	154	(29.6)

3.4 Care provided during labour and birth

Findings presented in this section focus on place of birth, medical treatment in labour (induction, fetal monitoring and pain relief), emergency transfers during labour, type of birth, and support received during labour and birth. Differences between women birthing in public and private birth facilities and between primiparous and multiparous women are described.

PLACE OF BIRTH

Women were asked where they had planned to give birth and where they gave birth to their baby.

- The majority of women intended to have their baby in a hospital and gave birth to their baby in a hospital as planned.
- Among the 31 women who intended to have their baby in a birth centre, 12 had their baby in a birth centre and 19 had their baby in a hospital.

Table 42. Planned place of birth³⁷

		Total Sample (n=693)	
		n	%
	In hospital	652	(94.6)
In a birth centre attached to a hospital		31	(4.5)
	At home	6	(0.9)
	<i>Missing</i>	4	

Table 43. Place of Birth³⁸

		Total Sample (n=693)	
		n	%
	In hospital	667	(97.4)
In a birth centre attached to a hospital		13	(1.9)
	At home	5	(0.7)
	<i>Missing</i>	8	

³⁷ Question B2. Before labour, where did you plan to give birth to your baby?

³⁸ Question B81. Where was your baby born?

Table 44. Cross-tabulation (whole counts) of planned place of birth and birth place

		Birth place (n = 693)				Total
		In hospital	In a birth centre	At home	Missing	
Planned place of birth	In hospital	642	1	1	8	652
	In a birth centre	19	12	0	0	31
	At home	2	0	4	0	6
	Missing	4	0	0	0	4
	Total	667	13	5	8	693

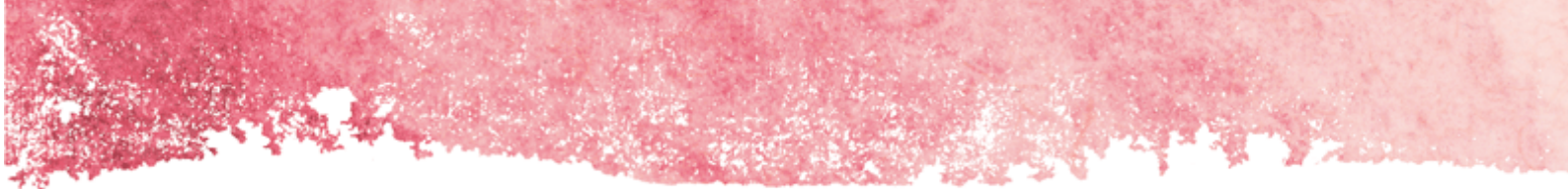
MEDICAL TREATMENT IN LABOUR AND BIRTH

Women were asked a number of questions about their medical treatment and intervention during labour and birth, including induction of labour, fetal monitoring, pain relief, and first infant contact at birth.

- Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely than women who birthed in a private facility to say that they did not have any medical procedures, and multiparous women were more likely than primiparous women to say they did not have any medical procedures.
- Overall, 61% of women felt the medical procedures they had during their birth were necessary. Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to say that 'all of the medical procedures they had were necessary', compared with women who birthed in a public facility (68% vs 57%).

Induction of labour:

- 56% of women had a labour that started naturally, 26% of women had a labour that was induced and 18% of women did not have a labour.
- Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to have had a labour that started naturally, whereas women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to have not had a labour. Primiparous women were significantly more likely to have had an induced labour, and multiparous women were more likely to not have had a labour (see differences in rates of scheduled caesarean birth between primiparous and multiparous women).
- Among the 176 women who had their labour induced, 55% had their waters broken, 46% had a hormone drip, and 45% had a tablet, pessary or gel.
- On average, women were 40 weeks pregnant when their labour was induced ($SD = 2$ weeks, range = 29-42 weeks). There were no differences in gestation at time of induction of labour by type of facility or parity.
- The most frequent reason given for labour induction was that the baby was overdue (42%).
- Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to say they 'didn't want to wait any longer' as a reason for having an induction of labour (19%) than women who birthed in a public facility (7%). Primiparous women were significantly more likely than multiparous women to give the reason for induction that their waters had broken and there was a fear of infection. Multiparous women were more likely than primiparous women to say that the reason for their



induction of labour was they did not want to wait any longer or that they wanted to control the timing of their birth.

- Overall, the majority of women (77%) felt they were adequately prepared for their labour being induced. A significantly higher proportion of women who birthed in a private facility compared with women who birthed in a public facility (85% vs 72%), and a significantly higher proportion of multiparous women compared with primiparous women (88% vs 70%), felt they were adequately prepared for an induction of labour.

Fetal monitoring:

- A monitor used constantly around the stomach was the most common reported method of fetal monitoring during labour (44%).

Pain relief:

- The most common methods of pain relief during during labour and or birth were breathing techniques (78%) and changing positions (77%), which most women found to be very helpful or somewhat helpful.

Infant contact

- The majority of women said that a care provider was the first person to touch their baby while it was being born (82.9%); 8.7% of women touched their baby first, and 8.4% reported that their partner or support person was the first person to touch their baby.
- Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to report that a care provider touched their baby first (88.3%) than those in a public facility (80.3%), and less likely to say they touched their baby first (6.2% private vs 9.8% public; $\chi^2(2) = 7.34, p = .03$). Less than 1% of women who had a caesarean birth touched their baby first as it was being born, compared with 12.4% of women who had a vaginal birth ($\chi^2(2) = 24.46, p < .001$).

Table 45. Perceived necessity of medical procedures during birth,³⁹ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
All of them	237	(57.2)	175	(67.6)	205	(64.5)	208	(57.5)	418	(60.9)
Most of them	59	(14.3)	39	(15.1)	50	(15.7)	48	(13.3)	99	(14.4)
Some of them	24	(5.8)	9	(3.5)	23	(7.2)	11	(3.0)	34	(5.0)
Not many of them	9	(2.2)	1	(0.4)	5	(1.6)	5	(1.4)	10	(1.5)
None of them	2	(0.5)	1	(0.4)	3	(0.9)	-		3	(0.4)
Does not apply (no medical procedures)	83	(20.0)	34	(13.1)	32	(10.1)	90	(24.9)	122	(17.8)
<i>Missing</i>	3		3		5		2		7	

Table 46. How labour began,⁴⁰ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
It started by itself naturally	263	(63.5)	115	(43.9)	178	(55.5)	206	(56.7)	387	(56.1)
It was started off or induced	103	(24.9)	74	(28.2)	103	(32.1)	72	(19.8)	177	(25.7)
Didn't go into labour	48	(11.6)	73	(27.9)	40	(12.5)	85	(23.4)	126	(18.3)
<i>Missing</i>	3		-		2		1		3	

³⁹ Question B72. Do you feel the medical procedures during your birth were necessary?

⁴⁰ Question B24. How did your labour begin?

Table 47. Method of labour induction,⁴¹ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=180)				Parity (n=178)				All women who were induced (n=180)	
	Public (n=106)		Private (n=74)		Primipara (n=105)		Multipara (n=73)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Waters broken	53	(51.5)	45	(60.8)	52	(50.5)	45	(62.5)	98	(55.4)
Hormone drip	46	(44.7)	35	(47.3)	57	(55.3)	23	(31.9)	81	(45.8)
Tablet, pessary or gel	40	(38.8)	39	(52.7)	48	(46.6)	30	(41.7)	79	(44.6)
Membrane sweep	35	(34.0)	12	(16.2)	26	(25.2)	20	(27.8)	47	(26.6)
Other	7	(6.8)	-		4	(3.9)	3	(4.2)	7	(4.0)
Missing	3		-		2		1		3	

Table 48. Weeks pregnant when labour induced, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=180)				Parity (n=178)				All women who were induced (n=180)	
	Public (n=106)		Private (n=74)		Primipara (n=105)		Multipara (n=73)		n	(Mean ± S.D) Range
	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range	n	(Mean ± S.D) Range		
Weeks pregnant when labour induced ⁴²	103	(40±2) 29-42	73	(40±1) 36-42	102	(40±1) 36-42	72	(40±2) 29-42	176	(40±2) 29-42
Missing	3		1		3		1		4	

⁴¹ Question B25. Which of the following were used to induce your labour? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

⁴² Question B26. How many weeks pregnant were you when your labour was induced?

Table 49. Reasons for labour induction and perceived preparedness, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=180)				Parity (n=178)				All women who were induced (n=180)	
	Public (n=106)		Private (n=74)		Primipara (n=105)		Multipara (n=73)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Reason for labour induction⁴³										
Baby was overdue	48	(46.6)	27	(36.5)	45	(43.7)	28	(38.9)	75	(42.4)
Care providers worried about mothers health	16	(15.5)	12	(16.2)	17	(16.5)	11	(15.3)	28	(15.8)
Water broken and fear of infection	19	(18.4)	8	(10.8)	22	(21.4)	5	(6.9)	27	(15.3)
Care providers worried about baby's health	16	(15.5)	10	(13.5)	17	(16.5)	9	(12.5)	26	(14.7)
Didn't want to wait any longer	7	(6.8)	14	(18.9)	7	(6.8)	14	(19.4)	21	(11.9)
Regular contractions starting and stopping	13	(12.6)	7	(9.5)	10	(9.7)	10	(13.9)	20	(11.3)
Care providers concerned about size of baby	11	(10.7)	6	(8.1)	9	(8.7)	8	(11.1)	17	(9.6)
Wanted to control timing of birth	3	(2.9)	5	(6.8)	1	(1.0)	7	(9.7)	8	(4.5)
Hospital policy	3	(2.9)	1	(1.4)	3	(2.9)	1	(1.4)	4	(2.3)
Don't know	-		-		-		-		-	
Other	17	(16.5)	18	(24.3)	22	(21.4)	13	(18.1)	35	(19.8)
Missing	3		-		2		1		3	
Adequate preparation for labour induction⁴⁴										
Yes	74	(71.8)	63	(85.1)	72	(69.9)	63	(87.5)	137	(77.4)
No	29	(28.2)	11	(14.9)	31	(30.1)	9	(12.5)	40	(22.6)
Missing	3		-		2		1		3	

⁴³ Question B27. Why was your labour induced? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

⁴⁴ Question B29. Do you feel you were adequately prepared for your labour being induced?

Table 50. Fetal monitoring during labour,⁴⁵ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=558)				Parity (n=562)				All women who had a labour (n=567)	
	Public (n=369)		Private (n=189)		Primipara (n=283)		Multipara (n=279)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Monitor was used constantly around stomach	154	(42.2)	91	(48.4)	152	(54.1)	91	(33.0)	246	(43.8)
Monitor was used now and then around stomach	114	(31.2)	66	(35.1)	82	(29.2)	100	(36.2)	183	(32.6)
Hand held heart monitor was used now and then	121	(33.2)	37	(19.7)	73	(26.0)	87	(31.5)	161	(28.6)
Monitor was used constantly with clip on baby's head	60	(16.4)	14	(7.4)	52	(18.5)	21	(7.6)	74	(13.2)
Staff listened with a stethoscope now and then	23	(6.3)	4	(2.1)	15	(5.3)	12	(4.3)	28	(5.0)
Baby was not monitored	13	(3.6)	7	(3.7)	5	(1.8)	16	(5.8)	21	(3.7)
Don't know	7	(1.9)	6	(3.2)	6	(2.1)	7	(2.5)	13	(2.3)
Other	13	(3.6)	5	(2.7)	11	(3.9)	7	(2.5)	19	(3.4)
Missing	4		1		2		3		5	

⁴⁵ Question B36. During your labour, how was your baby monitored (checked)? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

Table 51. Methods and perceived effectiveness of pain relief during labour and birth⁴⁶

		Total (n=693)		Very helpful		Somewhat helpful		Not at all helpful	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Breathing techniques	Used it	476	(77.8)	194	(40.8)	221	(46.4)	61	(12.8)
	Did not use it	136	(22.2)						
	<i>Missing</i>	81							
Changing positions	Used it	461	(76.6)	149	(32.3)	249	(54.0)	63	(13.7)
	Did not use it	141	(23.4)						
	<i>Missing</i>	91							
Gas	Used it	337	(55.5)	137	(40.7)	103	(30.6)	97	(28.8)
	Did not use it	270	(44.5)						
	<i>Missing</i>	86							
Massage	Used it	315	(52.7)	109	(34.6)	148	(47.0)	58	(18.4)
	Did not use it	283	(47.3)						
	<i>Missing</i>	95							
Epidural or spinal	Used it	293	(46.2)	258	(88.1)	25	(8.5)	10	(3.4)
	Did not use it	341	(58.3)						
	<i>Missing</i>	59							
Using a shower	Used it	268	(44.5)	159	(59.3)	94	(35.1)	15	(5.6)
	Did not use it	334	(55.5)						
	<i>Missing</i>	91							
Using a birthing ball	Used it	211	(35.2)	76	(36.0)	91	(43.1)	44	(20.9)
	Did not use it	389	(64.8)						
	<i>Missing</i>	93							
Injection of pethidine or a similar painkiller	Used it	148	(24.9)	51	(34.5)	56	(37.8)	41	(27.7)
	Did not use it	446	(75.1)						
	<i>Missing</i>	99							
Using a bath or birth pool	Used it	80	(13.5)	49	(61.3)	21	(26.3)	10	(12.5)
	Did not use it	513	(86.5)						
	<i>Missing</i>	100							
Local anaesthetic to perineum	Used it	56	(9.6)	34	(60.7)	19	(33.9)	3	(5.4)
	Did not use it	527	(90.4)						
	<i>Missing</i>	110							
TENS machine	Used it	26	(4.4)	9	(34.6)	7	(26.9)	10	(38.5)
	Did not use it	559	(95.6)						
	<i>Missing</i>	108							
Water injection in your back	Used it	24	(4.1)	9	(37.5)	8	(33.3)	7	(29.2)
	Did not use it	557	(95.9)						
	<i>Missing</i>	112							
General anaesthetic	Used it	17	(2.9)	14	(82.4)	2	(11.8)	1	(5.9)
	Did not use it	567	(97.1)						
	<i>Missing</i>	109							

⁴⁶ Question B57. Which of the following, if any, did you find useful to relieve discomfort or pain during labour and/or birth?

Table 52. Infant contact at birth, by mode of birth, type of facility and parity⁴⁷

	Mode of Birth (n=683)				Parity (n=677)				Type of Facility (n=670)				Total Sample (n=683)	
	Vaginal Birth (n=461)		Caesarean Birth (n=222)		Primipara (n=318)		Mulitpara (n=359)		Public (n=411)		Private (n=259)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
First person to touch baby as it was being born														
Me	56	(12.1)	2	(0.9)	26	(8.2)	32	(8.9)	39	(9.5)	16	(6.2)	58	(8.5)
My partner, husband, companion	37	(8.0)	18	(8.1)	24	(7.5)	29	(8.1)	38	(9.2)	14	(5.4)	55	(8.1)
A midwife	226	(49.0)	11	(5.0)	97	(30.5)	137	(38.2)	197	(47.9)	39	(15.1)	237	(34.7)
An obstetrician	130	(28.2)	173	(77.9)	158	(49.7)	144	(40.1)	113	(27.5)	186	(71.8)	303	(44.4)
Other	12	(2.6)	18	(8.1)	13	(4.1)	17	(4.7)	24	(5.8)	4	(1.5)	30	(4.4)
Missing	5	(0.7)	5	(0.7)	5	(0.7)	5	(0.7)	6	(0.9)	3	(0.4)	10	(1.4)

⁴⁷ Question B58. Who was the first person to touch your baby while being born?

TRANSFERS IN LABOUR

Women were asked whether they had an emergency transfer after labour had started. The majority of women (92%) did not have an emergency transfer.

Table 53. Proportion of women who had an emergency transfer after labour had started⁴⁸

	All women who had a labour (n=567)	
	n	%
Yes	44	(7.9)
No	511	(92.1)
Missing	12	

MODE OF DELIVERY

Women were asked how they wanted to give birth and how they gave birth.

- The majority of women (79%) wanted a vaginal birth; 11% wanted a caesarean birth and 10% did not have a preference. Women's preferences for how they wanted to give birth did not differ by area of residence or type of birth facility. A significantly higher proportion of multiparous women wanted a caesarean birth than primiparous women (15% vs 6%).
- Multiparous women who had experienced a previous caesarean birth ($N=106$) were more likely to report wanting a caesarean birth (43.7%) than multiparous women who had not had a previous caesarean birth ($N=253$; 2.8% wanted a caesarean birth).
- Overall, 67% of women had a vaginal birth and 33% had a caesarean birth.
- Of the 542 women who wanted a vaginal birth, 78% had a vaginal birth and 22% had a caesarean birth. Of the 72 women who wanted a caesarean birth, 89% had a caesarean birth and 11% had a vaginal birth.
- Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to have had an unassisted vaginal birth than women who birthed in a private facility (62% vs 43%). Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to have had a caesarean birth than women who birthed in a public facility (43% vs 26%).
- Multiparous women were significantly more likely to have had an unassisted vaginal birth than primiparous women.
- Multiparous women who had experienced a previous caesarean birth were significantly more likely to have a caesarean birth (78.3%) than multiparous women who had not had a previous caesarean birth (11.1%; $\chi^2(1) = 158.10, p < .001$).

⁴⁸ Question B40. Did you have an emergency transfer after labour had started?

Table 54. Preferred mode of birth in pregnancy,⁴⁹ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Wanted a vaginal birth	349	(79.0)	89	(81.7)	84	(77.1)	18	(81.8)	338	(82.0)	197	(76.1)	542	(79.2)
Wanted a caesarean birth	47	(10.6)	10	(9.2)	13	(11.9)	2	(9.1)	35	(8.5)	32	(12.4)	72	(10.5)
Did not have a preference	44	(10.0)	9	(8.3)	12	(11.0)	2	(9.1)	37	(9.0)	29	(11.2)	67	(9.8)
Don't know	2	(0.5)	1	(0.9)	-	-	-	-	2	(0.5)	1	(0.4)	3	(0.4)
<i>Missing</i>	5		3		7		-	-	5		3		9	

Table 55. Preferred mode of birth in pregnancy, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Wanted a vaginal birth	262	(81.4)	277	(77.8)
Wanted a caesarean birth	18	(5.6)	52	(14.6)
Did not have a preference	40	(12.4)	26	(7.3)
Don't know	2	(0.6)	1	(0.3)
<i>Missing</i>	1		8	

⁴⁹ Question B5. Before labour, how did you want to give birth?

Table 56. Mode of birth,⁵⁰ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
An unassisted vaginal birth (no forceps or vacuum)	259	(62.4)	111	(42.9)	138	(43.1)	236	(65.2)	377	(54.8)
A vaginal birth - assisted with forceps	4	(1.0)	4	(1.5)	8	(2.5)	-	-	8	(1.2)
A vaginal birth - assisted with a vacuum	42	(10.1)	33	(12.7)	58	(18.1)	17	(4.7)	75	(10.9)
A vaginal birth - assisted by forceps and a vacuum	3	(0.7)	-	-	3	(0.9)	-	-	3	(0.4)
A caesarean birth	107	(25.8)	111	(42.9)	113	(35.3)	109	(30.1)	225	(32.7)
Missing	2		3		3		2		5	

Table 57. Cross-tabulation (whole counts) of preferred mode of birth and mode of birth

	Preferred mode of birth					Total
	Wanted a vaginal birth	Wanted a caesarean birth	Did not have a preference	Don't know	Missing	
An unassisted vaginal birth (no forceps or vacuum)	343	7	21	1	5	377
A vaginal birth – assisted with forceps	7	-	1	-	-	8
A vaginal birth – assisted with a vacuum	67	1	7	-	-	75
A vaginal birth – assisted by forceps and a vacuum	3	-	-	-	-	3
A caesarean birth	118	64	38	2	3	225
Missing	4	-	-	-	1	5
Total	542	72	67	3	9	693

⁵⁰ Question B42. How was your baby born?

Table 58. Mode of birth for multiparous women, by previous caesarean section

	Multiparous Women (n=359)			
	No Previous CS (n=253)		Previous CS (n=106)	
	n	%	n	%
Vaginal birth	225	(88.9)	23	(21.7)
Caesarean birth	28	(11.1)	83	(78.3)

VAGINAL BIRTH

Women who had a vaginal birth were asked questions regarding the location and position they were in when they had their baby, and perineal injury.

- The majority of women were on a bed when they had their baby (88%). Primiparous women were more likely than multiparous women, to birth while on a bed, and women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to give birth on a bed than women who birthed in a public facility.
- The most common positions for birth were lying flat (36%), propped up or sitting (34%), or standing, squatting or kneeling (18%). Women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to have had their baby standing, squatting or kneeling than those who birthed in a private facility. Women who birthed in private facility were more likely to have birthed while propped up or sitting than women who birthed in a public facility. Women who were giving birth for the first time were more likely to have had their baby lying flat on their back, whereas women who had previously given birth were more likely to have had their baby standing, squatting or kneeling.
- About one fifth (19%) of women who had a vaginal birth had an episiotomy. Women were significantly more likely to have an episiotomy if they birthed in a private facility than if they birthed in a public facility, and if they were giving birth for the first time.
- The majority of women (61%) had a perineal tear during their vaginal birth; 23% reported having a first degree tear, 21% had a second degree tear, 4% had a third or fourth degree tear, and the remaining 13% had a tear but did not know the severity. Women were significantly more likely to have a tear if they were giving birth for the first time. There was no significant difference in perineal tearing by type of birth facility.
- 62% of women had stitches near the opening of their vagina after birth. Women who birthed in a private facility or who were birthing for the first time were significantly more likely to have stitches after birth than those who birthed in a public facility or had birthed before, respectively.

Table 59. Location and position when baby was born vaginally, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=461)				Parity (n=465)				All women who had a vaginal birth (n=468)	
	Public (n=310)		Private (n=151)		Primipara (n=210)		Multipara (n=255)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Location for birth⁵¹										
On a bed	265	(85.5)	141	(94.0)	192	(91.9)	213	(83.9)	408	(87.6)
On the floor	18	(5.8)	3	(2.0)	6	(2.9)	15	(5.9)	21	(4.5)
In the shower	6	(1.9)	1	(0.7)	3	(1.4)	4	(1.6)	7	(1.5)
In water (a pool or bath)	6	(1.9)	4	(2.7)	3	(1.4)	11	(4.3)	14	(3.0)
Other	15	(4.8)	1	(0.7)	5	(2.4)	11	(4.3)	16	(3.4)
Missing	-		1		1		1		2	
Position when baby was born⁵²										
Lying flat on back	111	(36.0)	52	(34.7)	89	(42.6)	74	(29.2)	165	(35.5)
Propped up or sitting	92	(29.9)	66	(44.0)	67	(32.1)	91	(36.0)	159	(34.2)
Standing, squatting or kneeling	69	(22.4)	13	(8.7)	26	(12.4)	58	(22.9)	84	(18.1)
Lying on side	22	(7.1)	14	(9.3)	18	(8.6)	20	(7.9)	38	(8.2)
Other	14	(4.5)	5	(3.3)	9	(4.3)	10	(4.0)	19	(4.1)
Missing	2		1		1		2		3	

⁵¹ Question B45. Where were you when your baby was born?

⁵² Question B48. What position were you in when your baby was born?

Table 60. Perineal injury and stitches during vaginal birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=461)				Parity (n=465)				All women who had a vaginal birth (n=468)	
	Public (n=310)		Private (n=151)		Primipara (n=210)		Multipara (n=255)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Episiotomy during birth⁵³										
Yes	40	(12.9)	50	(33.3)	64	(30.6)	24	(9.4)	90	(19.3)
No	269	(87.1)	100	(66.7)	145	(69.4)	230	(90.6)	376	(80.7)
Missing	1		1		1		1		2	
Perineal tear during birth⁵⁴										
Yes, a first degree tear or a graze	74	(24.3)	29	(19.7)	36	(17.6)	70	(27.7)	106	(23.1)
Yes, a second degree tear	65	(21.3)	31	(21.1)	57	(27.9)	39	(15.4)	96	(20.9)
Yes, a third or fourth degree tear	15	(4.9)	4	(2.7)	16	(7.8)	3	(1.2)	19	(4.1)
Yes, but don't know what type of tear	30	(9.8)	29	(19.7)	38	(18.6)	22	(8.7)	60	(13.1)
No, didn't have a tear	121	(39.7)	54	(36.7)	57	(27.9)	119	(47.0)	178	(38.8)
Missing	5		4		6		2		9	
Stitches after birth⁵⁵										
Yes	171	(55.3)	117	(78.0)	169	(80.5)	118	(46.6)	290	(62.2)
No	138	(44.7)	33	(22.0)	41	(19.5)	135	(53.4)	176	(37.8)
Missing	1		1		-		2		2	

⁵³ Question B43. During your birth, did you have an episiotomy (cut) to enlarge your vagina?

⁵⁴ Question B44. During your birth, did you have a tear near the opening of your vagina (a perineal tear)?

⁵⁵ Question B49. After your birth, did you have stitches near the opening of your vagina?

CAESAREAN BIRTH

Women who had a caesarean birth were asked about if and when their caesarean birth was scheduled and why they had a caesarean birth.

- 51% of women had a caesarean birth that was scheduled in advance and carried out *before* labour, 5% had a caesarean birth that was scheduled in advance but carried out *after* labour had started, and 44% had an unplanned ('emergency') caesarean birth.
- Women who had a caesarean birth scheduled in advance and carried out *before* labour were more likely to have birthed in a private facility than in a public facility, and to have previously given birth.
- Women who had an unplanned ('emergency') caesarean birth were more likely to have birthed in a public facility than in a private facility, and to have not previously given birth.
- Multiparous women who had experienced a previous caesarean birth were significantly more likely to have their caesarean birth scheduled in advance (85.5%) than multiparous women who had not experienced a previous caesarean birth (14.5%; $\chi^2(1) = 10.74, p = .001$).
- The most common reason women reported for having a caesarean birth was that it was recommended by their care provider (51%).
- Reasons for having a caesarean birth differed in terms of the type of facility birthed in and parity. Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely report that 'it was recommended by my care provider' and 'my baby wouldn't fit through my pelvis' than women who had a caesarean birth in a public facility, whereas women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to cite 'my labour failed to progress' as a reason for caesarean birth.
- Primiparous women who had a caesarean birth were more likely than multiparous women to give the reasons 'my labour failed to progress' and 'my baby was distressed', whereas multiparous women were more likely to cite 'I had a caesarean before this pregnancy' as the reason for their caesarean birth.

Table 61. Scheduling and reason for caesarean birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=219)				Parity (n=223)				All women who had a caesarean birth (n=226)	
	Public (n=107)		Private (n=112)		Primipara (n=113)		Multipara (n=110)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Scheduling of caesarean birth⁵⁶										
Scheduled in advance and carried out before went into labour	44	(41.1)	66	(59.5)	35	(31.3)	79	(71.8)	115	(51.1)
Scheduled in advance, but carried out after had gone into labour	7	(6.5)	4	(3.6)	4	(3.6)	7	(6.4)	12	(5.3)
Unplanned ('an emergency')	56	(52.3)	41	(36.9)	73	(65.2)	24	(21.8)	98	(43.6)
Missing	-		1		1		-		1	
Reason for caesarean birth⁵⁷										
It was recommended by care provider	43	(40.2)	69	(62.2)	57	(50.9)	57	(51.8)	115	(51.1)
Had a previous caesarean before this pregnancy	35	(32.7)	41	(36.9)	-		75	(68.2)	77	(34.2)
Labour failed to progress	40	(37.4)	22	(19.8)	51	(45.5)	10	(9.1)	62	(27.6)
Baby wouldn't fit through pelvis	14	(13.1)	29	(26.1)	27	(24.1)	17	(15.5)	44	(19.6)
Baby was distressed	20	(18.7)	20	(18.0)	34	(30.4)	6	(5.5)	40	(17.8)
Baby was breech (feet or bottom first)	19	(17.8)	10	(9.0)	15	(13.4)	15	(13.6)	30	(13.3)
Because of worries about mother's health	15	(14.0)	15	(13.5)	13	(11.6)	16	(14.5)	30	(13.3)
Wanted baby to be born that way	7	(6.5)	11	(9.9)	4	(3.6)	14	(12.7)	19	(8.4)
Premature labour	3	(2.8)	1	(0.9)	-		4	(3.6)	4	(1.8)
It was hospital policy	1	(0.9)	2	(1.8)	1	(0.9)	2	(1.8)	3	(1.3)
Don't know	-		1	(0.9)	1	(0.9)	-		1	(0.4)
Other	21	(19.6)	20	(18.0)	20	(17.9)	21	(19.1)	41	(18.2)
Missing	-		1		1		-		1	

⁵⁶ Question B50. Was your caesarean birth...?

⁵⁷ Question B51. Why did you have a caesarean birth? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

SUPPORT DURING LABOUR AND BIRTH

Women were asked questions regarding the support they had during their labour and birth.

Results indicated that:

- The majority of women had a partner, husband or companion with them during their labour and or birth, and were happy with how much their support person could be involved during their birth.
- 70% of women and their support people were left alone at some point during labour or shortly after birth, however most women (82%) indicated they were not at all worried when this happened. 14% indicated that they were worried about being left alone during labour and 7% reported that they were worried about being left alone during birth.
- The majority of women felt that their support people were welcome during labour, birth and after birth; a result that did not differ across public and private facilities or for primiparous and multiparous women.
- Notable differences were found with regards to support people feeling welcome overnight; a higher proportion of women who birthed in a private facility (87%) compared with those who birthed in a public facility (34%), felt their support people were welcome overnight.

Table 62. Proportion of women who had support people with them during labour⁵⁸

	All women who had a labour (n=567)	
	n	%
Yes	539	(95.7)
Yes. but not as much as wanted	13	(2.3)
No	11	(2.0)
<i>Missing</i>	4	

Table 63. Proportion of women who had support people with them during birth⁵⁹

	Total Sample (n=693)	
	n	%
Yes	662	(96.2)
Yes. but not as much as wanted	9	(1.3)
No	17	(2.5)
<i>Missing</i>	5	

⁵⁸ Question B59. Did you have your partner, husband or a companion with you during your labour?

⁵⁹ Question B60. Did you have your partner, husband or a companion with you during the birth of your baby?

Table 64. Satisfaction with how much support people could be involved during birth⁶⁰

	Total Sample (n=693)	
	n	%
Yes	656	(95.8)
No	29	(4.2)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>8</i>	

Table 65. Proportion of women left alone during labour or shortly after birth⁶¹

	Total Sample (n=693)⁶²	
	n	%
Left alone during labour	362	(52.8)
Left alone after birth	321	(46.9)
Not at all	209	(30.5)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>8</i>	

Table 66. Proportion of women left alone during labour or shortly after birth and who were worried⁶³

	All women who were left alone during labour and/or birth (n=484)⁶⁴	
	n	%
Left alone during labour and worried	67	(14.1)
Left alone after birth and worried	34	(7.2)
Not at all worried	387	(81.5)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>9</i>	

⁶⁰ Question B61. Were you happy with how much your partner, husband or companion could be involved during your birth?

⁶¹ Question B63. Were you (and your support people) left alone by your care provider(s) at any time during labour or shortly after the birth?

⁶² *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

⁶³ Question B64. Was it worrying to be left alone at this time?

⁶⁴ *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

Table 67. Support people welcome during labour,⁶⁵ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=558)				Parity (n=562)				All women who had a labour (n=567)	
	Public (n=369)		Private (n=189)		Primipara (n=283)		Multipara (n=279)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	348	(97.2)	186	(99.5)	272	(98.6)	266	(97.4)	543	(98.0)
No	10	(2.8)	1	(0.5)	4	(1.4)	7	(2.6)	11	(2.0)
Missing	11		2		7		6		13	

Table 68. Support people welcome during birth, after birth and overnight, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Support people made to feel welcome during birth										
Yes	396	(97.1)	255	(98.5)	306	(97.1)	351	(98.0)	663	(97.6)
No	12	(2.9)	4	(1.5)	9	(2.9)	7	(2.0)	16	(2.4)
Missing	9		3		8		6		14	
Support people made to feel welcome after birth										
Yes	388	(95.8)	257	(99.2)	304	(97.1)	348	(97.2)	658	(97.2)
No	17	(4.2)	2	(0.8)	9	(2.9)	10	(2.8)	19	(2.8)
Missing	12		3		10		6		16	
Support people made to feel welcome overnight										
Yes	131	(34.4)	220	(86.6)	173	(57.3)	183	(54.0)	359	(55.5)
No	250	(65.6)	34	(13.4)	129	(42.7)	156	(46.0)	288	(44.5)
Missing	36		8		21		25		46	

⁶⁵ Question B62. Were your support people (e.g. partner, husband, companion) made to feel welcome...?

CHOICES AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO WOMEN IN LABOUR AND BIRTH

Women were asked about specific choices that were available to them during labour and birth, including choice of gender of care providers, place of birth, mode of birth, epidural use, labour induction, fetal monitoring, vaginal examinations, and water immersion in labour and birth.

Gender of care provider:

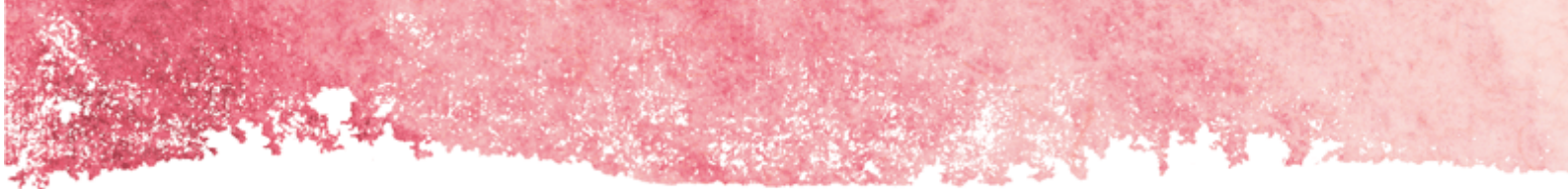
- Overall, 18% of women reported that they could choose the gender of their care provider(s) for labour and or birth; 53% of women said they could not choose but that they didn't want to, and 10% reported that they could not choose but had wanted to.
- A significantly higher proportion of women who birthed in a private facility could choose the gender of their care provider(s) than women who birthed in a public facility (30% vs. 9%).

Place of birth:

- 53% of respondents reported that they had a choice of a number of different hospitals for where to have their baby, 47% had a choice of one hospital only, 15% had a choice of a birth centre, and 10% had the choice to have their baby at home.
- Women in remote areas (5%) were significantly less likely than women in major city areas (16%) and outer regional areas (17%) to have the option of birthing in a birth centre attached to a hospital.
- Women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to say they had the choice of only one hospital, whereas women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to say they had the choice of a number of different hospitals.

Mode of birth:

- 47% of women indicated that they could have chosen either a vaginal birth or caesarean birth; 65% of women who birthed in a private facility said they could choose their mode of birth compared with 35.6% of women who birthed in a public facility.
- 39% of women indicated that they were only able to 'choose' a vaginal birth; reported restriction of choice to vaginal birth only was more common among women who birthed in a public facility (50.5%) than women who birthed in a private facility (21.2%).
- Women who birthed in a private facility were more likely than those who birthed in a public facility to say they could only 'choose' a caesarean birth (10% vs. 5.5%). Multiparous women were significantly more likely to say they could only 'choose' a caesarean birth (10%) than primiparous women (4%).
- 38% of women said a vaginal birth was recommended by their care providers; for 34% of women nothing was recommended. Women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to say that only a vaginal birth was recommended, whereas women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to say only a caesarean birth was recommended or that both a vaginal and caesarean birth were recommended by their care providers. Primiparous women were



significantly more likely to say a vaginal birth only was recommended than multiparous women, Multiparous women were more likely than primiparous women to say a caesarean birth only was recommended.

- Of women who had a caesarean birth, 52% felt they had a choice about having a caesarean birth. A significantly higher proportion of multiparous women than primiparous women felt they had a choice in having a caesarean birth (60% vs. 44%).

Epidural use:

- For 23% of women, an epidural was recommended by a care provider for pain relief during labour and birth. Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to have had an epidural recommended to them (30%) compared with women who birthed in a public facility (19%).

Induction of labour:

- Among the 180 women who were induced, 62% indicated they had a choice in their labour being induced. Those who had a choice were more likely to be multiparous than primiparous, and more likely to have birthed in a private facility than a public facility.

Fetal monitoring:

- Among women who had a labour, 44% reported having a choice in whether or how their baby was monitored.

Vaginal examinations in labour:

- 51% of women felt they had a choice in all of the vaginal examinations that were performed during their labour, 17% felt they had a choice for some examinations, and 32% did not feel they had a choice in any vaginal examinations that were performed. Women who birthed in a private facility were more likely than women who birthed in a public facility to report not having a choice about vaginal examinations in labour.

Water immersion in labour and birth

- 36.9% of women who had a labour reported having the choice of using a pool or bath in labour; and 11.9% of all women got in a pool or bath during their labour.
- 17% of women who had a vaginal birth reported having the choice to birth in a pool or bath, and 22.3% reported not having the choice when they wanted to.

Table 69. Choice of gender of care provider for labour and birth, by area of residence and type of facility⁶⁶

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	85	(19.1)	15	(13.5)	15	(13.9)	7	(31.8)	39	(9.4)	79	(30.4)	122	(17.7)
No, but I didn't want to	217	(48.8)	60	(54.1)	72	(66.7)	11	(50.0)	229	(55.2)	124	(47.7)	361	(52.5)
No, but I wanted to	49	(11.0)	8	(7.2)	8	(7.4)	3	(13.6)	53	(12.8)	15	(5.8)	68	(9.9)
Don't know	94	(21.1)	28	(25.2)	13	(12.0)	1	(4.5)	94	(22.7)	42	(16.2)	137	(19.9)
Missing	2		1		2		-		2		2		5	

Table 70. Choice of gender of care provider for labour and birth, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	61	(18.9)	60	(16.7)
No, but I didn't want to	169	(52.3)	190	(52.9)
No, but I wanted to	35	(10.8)	32	(8.9)
Don't know	58	(18.0)	77	(21.4)
Missing	-		5	

⁶⁶ Question B13. Could you choose whether your care provider(s) for labour and/or birth was/were male or female?

Table 71. Choice of place and type of birth, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Choice of place of birth⁶⁷														
A choice of different hospitals	246	(55.7)	53	(47.7)	55	(50.5)	8	(36.4)	179	(43.4)	179	(68.8)	363	(52.9)
Only one hospital	197	(44.6)	56	(50.5)	57	(52.3)	11	(50.0)	229	(55.6)	84	(32.3)	322	(46.9)
A birth centre attached to a hospital	70	(15.8)	11	(9.9)	19	(17.4)	1	(4.5)	59	(14.3)	41	(15.8)	101	(14.7)
Having baby at home	47	(10.6)	7	(6.3)	13	(11.9)	-		33	(8.0)	30	(11.5)	67	(9.8)
Other	8	(1.8)	2	(1.8)	-		3	(13.6)	9	(2.2)	4	(1.5)	13	(1.9)
Missing	5		1		1		-		5		2		7	
Type of birth could have chosen if wanted to⁶⁸														
Either a vaginal or a caesarean birth	220	(49.4)	47	(42.3)	46	(42.2)	9	(40.9)	148	(35.6)	169	(65.0)	323	(46.9)
A vaginal birth only	168	(37.8)	45	(40.5)	44	(40.4)	12	(54.5)	210	(50.5)	55	(21.2)	270	(39.2)
A caesarean birth only	32	(7.2)	9	(8.1)	9	(8.3)	1	(4.5)	23	(5.5)	26	(10.0)	51	(7.4)
Don't know	25	(5.6)	10	(9.0)	10	(9.2)	-		35	(8.4)	10	(3.8)	45	(6.5)
Missing	2		1		1		-		1		2		4	
Type of birth recommended by care provider⁶⁹														
A vaginal birth was recommended	167	(37.5)	41	(37.3)	45	(41.3)	10	(45.5)	176	(42.4)	83	(32.0)	264	(38.4)
Nothing was recommended	152	(34.1)	36	(32.7)	39	(35.8)	5	(22.7)	153	(36.9)	77	(29.7)	232	(33.7)
A caesarean birth was recommended	72	(16.2)	20	(18.2)	15	(13.8)	4	(18.2)	46	(11.1)	61	(23.6)	111	(16.1)
Both a vaginal birth and caesarean birth were recommended	51	(11.5)	11	(10.0)	9	(8.3)	2	(9.1)	34	(8.2)	37	(14.3)	74	(10.8)
Don't know	3	(0.7)	2	(1.8)	1	(0.9)	1	(4.5)	6	(1.4)	1	(0.4)	7	(1.0)
Missing	2		2		1		-		2		3		5	

⁶⁷ Question B1. Early in your pregnancy, which of the following options could you choose for where to have your baby? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

⁶⁸ Question B6. Which of the following types of birth do you feel you could have chosen if you wanted to?

⁶⁹ Question B7. During your pregnancy, was any type of birth recommended by your care provider(s)?

Table 72. Choice of place and type of birth, by parity

		Parity (n=687)			
		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
		n	%	n	%
Choice of place of birth					
	Only one hospital	142	(44.1)	177	(49.4)
	A choice of different hospitals	181	(56.2)	179	(50.0)
	A birth centre attached to a hospital	53	(16.5)	47	(13.1)
	Having baby at home	31	(9.6)	36	(10.1)
	Other	7	(2.2)	6	(1.7)
	Missing	1		6	
Types of birth could have chosen if wanted to					
	A vaginal birth only	125	(38.8)	143	(39.6)
	A caesarean birth only	13	(4.0)	37	(10.2)
	Either a vaginal birth or a caesarean birth	159	(49.4)	162	(44.9)
	Don't know	25	(7.8)	19	(5.3)
	Missing	1		3	
Mode of birth recommended by care provider					
	A vaginal birth was recommended	137	(42.5)	125	(34.7)
	A caesarean birth was recommended	33	(10.2)	76	(21.1)
	Both a vaginal birth and caesarean birth were recommended	28	(8.7)	45	(12.5)
	Nothing was recommended	119	(37.0)	112	(31.1)
	Don't know	5	(1.6)	2	(0.6)
	Missing	1		4	

Table 73. Choice to have a caesarean birth⁷⁰ among women who had a caesarean birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=219)				Parity (n=223)				All who had a caesarean birth (n=226)	
	Public (n=107)		Private (n=112)		Primipara (n=113)		Multipara (n=110)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	58	(54.2)	55	(50.0)	50	(44.2)	65	(60.2)	117	(52.2)
No	49	(45.8)	55	(50.0)	63	(55.8)	43	(39.8)	107	(47.8)
Missing	-		2		-		2		2	

⁷⁰ Question B54. Do you feel you had a choice about having a caesarean birth?

Table 74. Recommendation of an epidural, by area of residence and type of facility⁷¹

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	105	(24.0)	23	(20.7)	23	(21.7)	2	(9.1)	76	(18.5)	76	(29.8)	155	(22.9)
No	332	(76.0)	88	(79.3)	83	(78.3)	20	(90.9)	335	(81.5)	179	(70.2)	523	(77.1)
Missing	10		1		4		-		6		7		15	

Table 75. Recommendation of an epidural, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	76	(24.1)	75	(21.1)
No	240	(75.9)	281	(78.9)
Missing	7		8	

Table 76. Choice about labour induction,⁷² by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=180)				Parity (n=178)				All women who were induced (n=180)	
	Public (n=106)		Private (n=74)		Primipara (n=105)		Multipara (n=73)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	57	(55.3)	52	(70.3)	51	(49.5)	58	(80.6)	109	(61.6)
No	46	(44.7)	22	(29.7)	52	(50.5)	14	(19.4)	68	(38.4)
Missing	3		-		2		1		3	

⁷¹ Question B9. During your pregnancy, did a care provider recommend that you have an epidural for pain relief during labour and birth?

⁷² Question B28. Do you feel you had a choice about your labour being induced?

Table 77. Choice in baby monitoring, vaginal examinations and pool or bath during labour among women who had a labour, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=558)				Parity (n=562)				All who had a labour (n=567)	
	Public (n=369)		Private (n=189)		Primipara (n=283)		Multipara (n=279)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Choice in monitoring of the baby during labour ⁷³										
Yes	160	(44.1)	76	(40.6)	122	(43.6)	119	(43.3)	243	(43.5)
No	203	(55.9)	111	(59.4)	158	(56.4)	156	(56.7)	316	(56.5)
Missing	6		2		3		4		8	
Choice in vaginal examinations ⁷⁴										
Yes, for all examinations	185	(51.4)	90	(48.4)	128	(46.0)	151	(55.7)	281	(50.7)
Yes, for some examinations	71	(19.7)	24	(12.9)	52	(18.7)	41	(15.1)	95	(17.1)
No	104	(28.9)	72	(38.7)	98	(35.3)	79	(29.2)	178	(32.1)
Missing	9		3		5		8		13	
Choice of pool or bath during labour ⁷⁵										
No, but didn't want to be in a pool or bath	149	(41.4)	66	(35.1)	92	(33.3)	124	(44.9)	218	(39.2)
No, but wanted to be in a pool or bath	104	(28.9)	29	(15.4)	80	(29.0)	53	(19.2)	133	(23.9)
Yes, but didn't get in a pool or bath	70	(19.4)	69	(36.7)	65	(23.6)	72	(26.1)	139	(25.0)
Yes, and I got in a pool or bath	37	(10.3)	24	(12.8)	39	(14.1)	27	(9.8)	66	(11.9)
Missing	9		1		7		3		11	

Table 78. Choice to have baby in a pool or bath during birth⁷⁶ among women who had a vaginal birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=461)				Parity (n=465)				All who had a vaginal birth (n=468)	
	Public (n=310)		Private (n=151)		Primipara (n=210)		Multipara (n=255)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	46	(14.8)	30	(20.1)	29	(13.9)	49	(19.3)	80	(17.2)
No, but didn't want to	179	(57.7)	100	(67.1)	130	(62.2)	151	(59.4)	282	(60.5)
No, but wanted to	85	(27.4)	19	(12.8)	50	(23.9)	54	(21.3)	104	(22.3)
Missing	-		2		1		1		2	

⁷³ Question B37. Do you feel you had a choice in whether/how your baby was monitored?

⁷⁴ Question B35. Do you feel you had a choice in having vaginal examinations?

⁷⁵ Question B39. Could you choose whether you could be in a pool or bath during your labour?

⁷⁶ Question B46. Did you have the choice to have your baby in a pool or bath?

3.5 Care provided after birth

Findings presented in this section focus on mother-infant contact at birth, recovery after birth, length of stay in the birthing facility, and postnatal care at home. Differences in public and private birth facilities and primiparous and multiparous women are described. Regional differences are also described for postnatal care at home and check-ups.

MOTHER-INFANT CONTACT AT BIRTH

Women were asked how soon after birth they first held their baby and for how long, whether contact was skin-to-skin, and whether their baby was in the same room as them after birth.

- Forty-four percent of all women held their baby within one minute after birth. The majority of women (76%) held their baby within five minutes after birth.
- Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely to have held their baby immediately or within one minute than women who birthed in a private facility.
- Multiparous women were significantly more likely to hold their baby sooner than primiparous women; 81% of multiparous women held their baby five minutes after birth or sooner compared with 71% of primiparous women.
- Women who had a caesarean birth were significantly less likely to have held their baby within five minutes of birth (49.6%) than women who had a vaginal birth (88.5%; $\chi^2(6) = 208.42, p < .001$)
- The majority of women (89%) felt they first held their baby at 'about the right time', however for 11% of women it was 'too late'. Multiparous women were significantly more likely to say they first held their baby at 'about the right time' than primiparous women (91% vs. 86%).
- For 73% of women, first contact with their baby was skin-to-skin. Women who birthed in a public facility were significantly more likely than women who birthed in a private facility to be skin-to-skin with their baby at first contact (77% vs. 67%).
- Regarding the length of time women first held their baby, 36% held their baby for less than 15 minutes, 28% for 15 to 30 minutes, 20% for 31 minutes to one hour, and 15% for more than one hour.
- Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely than those in a public facility to have held their baby for the first time for less than 15 minutes; women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to have held their baby for 30 minutes or more.
- Overall, 73% of women had their baby in the same room as them 'all of the time' after birth. A significantly greater proportion of women who birthed in a private facility compared with women who birthed in a public facility indicated they had their baby in the same room 'most of the time' (21% vs. 14%). A greater proportion of multiparous women than primiparous women indicated they had their baby in the same room 'all of the time' (76% vs. 69%).
- The majority of women (89%) indicated that their baby was in the same room as them for an amount of time that was 'about right'.

Table 79. Mother and baby contact at birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
How soon after birth first held baby⁷⁷										
Immediately/ less than 1 minute	62	(15.1)	21	(8.1)	44	(13.8)	42	(11.7)	86	(12.6)
1 minute	126	(30.7)	89	(34.4)	93	(29.2)	122	(34.1)	216	(31.6)
Over 1 minute to 5 minutes	117	(28.5)	95	(36.7)	88	(27.6)	125	(34.9)	216	(31.6)
Over 5 minutes to 30 minutes	48	(11.7)	37	(14.3)	50	(15.7)	37	(10.3)	88	(12.9)
Over 30 minutes to 1 hour	23	(5.6)	4	(1.5)	15	(4.7)	12	(3.4)	28	(4.1)
Over 1 hour	34	(8.3)	13	(5.0)	29	(9.1)	20	(5.6)	49	(7.2)
Missing	7		3		4		6		10	
Timing of when first held baby⁷⁸										
Too soon	4	(1.0)	-		3	(0.9)	1	(0.3)	4	(0.6)
Too late	48	(11.7)	24	(9.3)	42	(13.2)	32	(8.9)	74	(10.8)
About the right time	360	(87.4)	235	(90.7)	273	(85.8)	327	(90.8)	606	(88.6)
Missing	5		3		5		4		9	
Skin-to-skin contact⁷⁹										
Yes	318	(77.4)	175	(67.0)	227	(70.9)	269	(74.7)	501	(73.0)
No	93	(22.6)	86	(33.0)	93	(29.1)	91	(25.3)	185	(27.0)
Missing	6		1		3		4		7	
Length of time first held baby⁸⁰										
Less than 15 minutes	120	(30.8)	115	(45.3)	121	(39.4)	114	(33.2)	239	(36.4)
15 minutes to 30 minutes	105	(26.9)	78	(30.7)	79	(25.7)	106	(30.9)	186	(28.4)
Over 30 minutes to 1 hour	89	(22.8)	41	(16.1)	69	(22.5)	63	(18.4)	132	(20.1)
Over 1 hour	76	(19.5)	20	(7.9)	38	(12.4)	60	(17.5)	99	(15.1)
Missing	27		8		16		21		37	

⁷⁷ Question C1. How soon after birth did you first hold your baby?

⁷⁸ Question C2. In your opinion, was this...?

⁷⁹ Question C3. The first time you held your baby, was your baby's skin against your skin (that is, not wrapped, dressed or in a nappy and straight on your skin)?

⁸⁰ Question C4. How long did you hold your baby for at this time?

Table 80. Timing of mother and baby contact at birth, by mode of birth⁸¹

	All Women (n=683)			
	Vaginal Birth (n=461)		Caesarean Birth (n=222)	
	n	%	n	%
Immediately	85	(18.4)	1	(0.5)
1 minute	195	(42.3)	21	(9.5)
2-5 minutes	128	(27.8)	88	(39.6)
6-30 minutes	40	(8.7)	48	(21.6)
31-60 minutes	8	(1.7)	20	(9.0)
Between 1-6 hours	3	(0.7)	27	(12.2)
More than 6 hours	2	(0.4)	17	(7.7)

Table 81. Rooming-in of mother and baby, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Baby in the same room after birth⁸²										
All of the time	309	(75.2)	180	(69.0)	222	(69.2)	275	(76.4)	500	(72.9)
Most of the time	57	(13.9)	55	(21.1)	58	(18.1)	55	(15.3)	114	(16.6)
Some of the time	25	(6.1)	16	(6.1)	23	(7.2)	17	(4.7)	41	(6.0)
Never	20	(4.9)	10	(3.8)	18	(5.6)	13	(3.6)	31	(4.5)
Missing	6		1		2		4		7	
Satisfaction with the amount of time baby was in the room after birth⁸³										
Too little	30	(7.3)	18	(6.9)	28	(8.8)	21	(5.8)	49	(7.2)
Too much	18	(4.4)	9	(3.5)	14	(4.4)	12	(3.3)	27	(3.9)
About right	364	(88.3)	233	(89.6)	277	(86.8)	326	(90.8)	608	(88.9)
Missing	5		2		4		5		9	

⁸¹ Question C1. How soon after birth did you first hold your baby?

⁸² Question C5. After you had your baby, was your baby in the same room as you...?

⁸³ Question C6. In your opinion, was this amount of time...?

RECOVERY AFTER BIRTH

Women were asked about their recovery and health after birth and whether they had experienced a medical check-up since having their baby.

Results indicated that:

- 34% of women agreed they had experienced unpleasant side effects since their birth.
- The majority of women (84%) agreed that any pain they experienced after birth was manageable,
 - Women who had birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to report that their after-birth pain was manageable (89.3%) than women who had birthed in a public facility (81.3%).
- Slightly more than half of all women (57%) agreed they could move around as freely as they liked after birth.
 - Primiparous women were less likely to agree that they could move around as freely as they liked after birth (48.6%) than multiparous women (64%).
- 73% of women agreed that they could care for their baby as much as they wanted to after birth; a result consistent across type of facility birthed in and parity.
- Overall, 78% of women agreed they were happy with the support they received from care providers while recovering from their birth.
 - Women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to agree they were happy with the support received from care providers during recovery from their birth (85.1%) than women who birthed in a public facility, and multiparous women were more likely to agree (84.4%) than primiparous women (71.0%).
- A quarter of all women reported 'often' experiencing breastfeeding problems since the birth of their baby, and 23.9% reported experiencing breastfeeding problems 'sometimes'.
- 41% of women reported often experiencing tiredness or fatigue since their birth.
- 5.7% of women reported often feeling depressed, and 21.9% reported sometimes feeling depressed since their birth.
- One fifth of respondents reported experiencing back pain or backache 'often' since their birth.
- 5.4% of women reported experiencing flashbacks to their birth 'often', and this was more commonly reported among women who had birthed in public facilities (6.6%) than women who had birthed in private facilities (3.9%).
- Most women (88%) had had a check-up for their own health since their birth.
 - A significantly higher proportion of women in outer regional (10.9%) and remote (14.3%) areas indicated they not had a check-up but wanted one, than women in major city (3.1%) and inner regional areas (3.6%). Women who gave birth in a private facility were significantly more likely to have had a check-up than women who gave birth in a public facility. Multiparous women were less likely to have had a check-up than primiparous women, but were more likely to indicate that they didn't want one.

Table 82. Recovery of mother after birth,⁸⁴ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Experienced unpleasant side effects after birth										
Strongly disagree/disagree	207	(50.1)	145	(55.8)	162	(50.5)	196	(54.3)	360	(52.4)
Neither disagree or agree	67	(16.2)	27	(10.4)	47	(14.6)	47	(13.0)	96	(14.0)
Strongly agree/agree	139	(33.7)	88	(33.8)	112	(34.9)	118	(32.7)	231	(33.6)
Missing	4		2		2		3		6	
Pain experienced after birth was manageable										
Strongly disagree/disagree	51	(12.4)	16	(6.1)	34	(10.6)	35	(9.7)	69	(10.1)
Neither disagree or agree	26	(6.3)	12	(4.6)	19	(5.9)	21	(5.8)	41	(6.0)
Strongly agree/agree	335	(81.3)	233	(89.3)	268	(83.5)	304	(84.4)	576	(84.0)
Missing	5		1		2		4		7	
Could move around as freely as would have liked to after birth										
Strongly disagree/disagree	141	(34.1)	90	(34.5)	133	(41.4)	103	(28.5)	237	(34.5)
Neither disagree or agree	45	(10.9)	14	(5.4)	32	(10.0)	27	(7.5)	60	(8.7)
Strongly agree/agree	227	(55.0)	157	(60.2)	156	(48.6)	231	(64.0)	390	(56.8)
Missing	4		1		2		3		6	
Could care for baby as much as wanted to after birth										
Strongly disagree/disagree	83	(20.2)	62	(23.8)	77	(24.0)	72	(20.1)	150	(21.9)
Neither disagree or agree	21	(5.1)	16	(6.1)	19	(5.9)	18	(5.0)	37	(5.4)
Strongly agree/agree	306	(74.6)	183	(70.1)	225	(70.1)	268	(74.9)	497	(72.7)
Missing	7		1		2		6		9	
Was happy with the support received from care providers while recovering from birth										
Strongly disagree/disagree	67	(16.3)	24	(9.2)	62	(19.3)	29	(8.1)	91	(13.3)
Neither disagree or agree	41	(10.0)	15	(5.7)	31	(9.7)	27	(7.5)	59	(8.6)
Strongly agree/agree	304	(73.8)	222	(85.1)	228	(71.0)	304	(84.4)	536	(78.1)
Missing	5		1		2		4		7	

⁸⁴ Question C7. How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements about your recovery after birth?

Table 83. Maternal health after birth,⁸⁵ by area of residence and facility type

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
The 'baby blues'														
Never/Rarely	284	(64.8)	77	(70.6)	72	(66.1)	17	(77.3)	275	(67.2)	166	(64.8)	451	(66.4)
Sometimes	128	(29.2)	23	(21.1)	31	(28.4)	4	(18.2)	110	(26.9)	73	(28.5)	186	(27.4)
Often	26	(5.9)	9	(8.3)	6	(5.5)	1	(4.5)	24	(5.9)	17	(6.6)	42	(6.2)
Missing	9	(2.0)	3	(2.7)	1	(0.9)	0	(0)	8	(1.9)	6	(2.3)	14	(2.0)
Painful stitches														
Never/Rarely	291	(66.3)	69	(62.7)	75	(68.2)	12	(54.5)	278	(67.5)	162	(63.6)	447	(65.5)
Sometimes	112	(25.5)	29	(26.4)	28	(25.5)	7	(31.8)	101	(24.5)	72	(28.1)	177	(26.0)
Often	36	(8.2)	12	(10.9)	7	(6.4)	3	(13.6)	33	(8.0)	22	(8.6)	58	(8.5)
Missing	8	(1.8)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	5	(1.2)	6	(2.3)	11	(1.6)
Breastfeeding problems														
Never/Rarely	223	(50.7)	58	(53.2)	55	(50.0)	14	(63.6)	221	(53.5)	121	(47.3)	351	(51.5)
Sometimes	104	(23.6)	27	(24.8)	27	(24.5)	5	(22.7)	100	(24.5)	61	(23.8)	163	(23.9)
Often	113	(25.7)	24	(22.0)	28	(25.5)	3	(13.6)	92	(22.3)	74	(28.9)	168	(24.6)
Missing	7	(1.6)	3	(2.7)	0	(0)	0	(0)	4	(1.0)	6	(2.3)	11	(1.6)
Feeling depressed														
Never/Rarely	309	(70.1)	81	(73.6)	88	(80.0)	16	(72.7)	299	(72.4)	184	(71.6)	495	(72.4)
Sometimes	104	(23.6)	22	(20.0)	18	(16.4)	6	(27.3)	87	(21.1)	61	(23.7)	150	(21.9)
Often	28	(6.3)	7	(6.4)	4	(3.6)	0	(0)	27	(6.5)	12	(4.7)	39	(5.7)
Missing	6	(1.3)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	4	(1.0)	5	(1.9)	9	(1.3)
Wound infection														
Never/Rarely	408	(92.5)	102	(92.7)	102	(93.6)	22	(100)	380	(92.0)	240	(93.8)	634	(92.8)
Sometimes	23	(5.2)	8	(7.3)	5	(4.6)	0	(0)	23	(5.6)	14	(5.5)	37	(5.4)
Often	10	(2.3)	0	(0)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	10	(2.4)	2	(0.8)	12	(1.8)
Missing	6	(1.3)	2	(1.8)	1	(0.9)	0	(0)	4	(1.0)	6	(2.3)	10	(1.4)

⁸⁵ Question C34. How often have you experienced each of the following since having your baby...?

Table 83 (continued). Maternal health after birth,⁸⁶ by area of residence and facility type

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Incontinence (leaking urine)														
Never/Rarely	361	(81.9)	98	(89.1)	93	(84.5)	19	(86.4)	345	(83.5)	215	(83.3)	572	(83.6)
Sometimes	64	(14.5)	9	(8.2)	15	(13.6)	3	(13.6)	57	(13.8)	34	(13.2)	91	(13.3)
Often	16	(3.6)	3	(2.7)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	11	(2.7)	9	(3.5)	21	(3.1)
Missing	6	(1.3)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	4	(1.0)	4	(1.5)	9	(1.3)
Tiredness or fatigue														
Never/Rarely	42	(9.5)	19	(17.3)	12	(10.9)	3	(13.6)	56	(13.5)	21	(8.1)	77	(11.2)
Sometimes	221	(47.7)	55	(50.0)	52	(47.3)	9	(40.9)	205	(49.5)	115	(44.6)	327	(47.7)
Often	189	(42.8)	36	(32.7)	46	(41.8)	10	(45.5)	153	(37.0)	122	(47.3)	281	(41.0)
Missing	5	(1.1)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	3	(0.7)	4	(1.5)	8	(1.2)
Back pain or backache														
Never/Rarely	180	(40.7)	53	(48.2)	47	(42.7)	12	(54.5)	177	(42.9)	112	(43.4)	293	(42.8)
Sometimes	166	(37.6)	37	(33.6)	45	(40.9)	7	(31.8)	158	(38.3)	93	(36.0)	255	(37.2)
Often	96	(21.7)	20	(18.2)	18	(16.4)	3	(13.6)	78	(18.9)	53	(20.5)	137	(20.0)
Missing	5	(1.1)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	4	(1.0)	4	(1.5)	8	(1.2)
Difficulties or pain during intercourse														
Never/Rarely	284	(65.4)	76	(70.4)	76	(69.1)	18	(81.8)	283	(69.7)	167	(65.5)	455	(67.4)
Sometimes	101	(23.3)	25	(23.1)	26	(23.6)	3	(13.6)	90	(22.2)	59	(23.1)	155	(23.0)
Often	49	(11.3)	7	(6.5)	8	(7.3)	1	(4.5)	33	(8.1)	29	(11.4)	65	(9.6)
Missing	13	(2.9)	4	(3.6)	0	(0)	0	(0)	11	(2.6)	7	(2.7)	18	(2.6)
Poor sleep (not related to your baby)														
Never/Rarely	318	(72.6)	72	(65.5)	79	(71.8)	17	(77.3)	288	(69.9)	191	(74.9)	487	(71.5)
Sometimes	86	(19.6)	28	(25.5)	23	(20.9)	2	(9.1)	86	(20.9)	51	(20.0)	139	(20.4)
Often	34	(7.8)	10	(9.1)	8	(7.3)	3	(13.6)	38	(9.2)	13	(5.1)	55	(8.1)
Missing	9	(2.0)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	5	(1.2)	7	(2.7)	12	(1.7)

⁸⁶ Question C34. How often have you experienced each of the following since having your baby...?

Table 83 (continued). Maternal health after birth,⁸⁷ by area of residence and facility type

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
'Flash backs' to your labour or birth														
Never/Rarely	352	(80.0)	90	(81.8)	94	(85.5)	17	(77.3)	315	(76.6)	228	(88.4)	554	(81.1)
Sometimes	64	(14.5)	14	(12.7)	11	(10.0)	3	(13.6)	69	(16.8)	20	(7.8)	92	(13.5)
Often	24	(5.5)	6	(5.5)	5	(4.5)	2	(9.1)	27	(6.6)	10	(3.9)	37	(5.4)
Missing	7	(1.6)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	6	(1.4)	4	(1.5)	10	(1.4)
Haemorrhoids (piles)														
Never/Rarely	321	(73.0)	90	(81.8)	85	(78.0)	17	(77.3)	305	(74.2)	195	(75.9)	514	(75.4)
Sometimes	69	(15.7)	15	(13.6)	14	(12.8)	5	(22.7)	66	(16.1)	37	(14.4)	103	(15.1)
Often	50	(11.4)	5	(4.5)	10	(9.2)	0	(0)	40	(9.7)	25	(9.7)	65	(9.5)
Missing	7	(1.6)	2	(1.8)	1	(0.9)	0	(0)	6	(1.4)	5	(1.9)	11	(1.6)
Varicose veins														
Never/Rarely	387	(88.2)	101	(91.8)	99	(90.0)	20	(90.9)	366	(89.1)	231	(89.9)	608	(89.1)
Sometimes	31	(7.1)	3	(2.7)	5	(4.5)	2	(9.1)	24	(5.8)	15	(5.8)	41	(6.0)
Often	21	(4.8)	6	(5.5)	6	(5.5)	0	(0)	21	(5.1)	11	(4.3)	33	(4.8)
Missing	8	(1.8)	2	(1.8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	6	(1.4)	5	(1.9)	11	(1.6)

⁸⁷ Question C34. How often have you experienced each of the following since having your baby...?

Table 84. Maternal health after birth,⁸⁸ by parity

		Parity (n=687)			
		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
		n	%	n	%
The 'baby blues'					
	Never/Rarely	201	(63.6)	247	(69.0)
	Sometimes	93	(29.4)	91	(25.4)
	Often	22	(7.0)	20	(5.6)
	Missing	7	(2.2)	6	(1.7)
Painful stitches					
	Never/Rarely	182	(57.4)	262	(72.8)
	Sometimes	96	(30.3)	79	(21.9)
	Often	39	(12.3)	19	(5.3)
	Missing	6	(1.9)	4	(1.5)
Breastfeeding problems					
	Never/Rarely	127	(40.2)	221	(61.2)
	Sometimes	88	(27.8)	73	(20.2)
	Often	101	(32.0)	67	(18.6)
	Missing	7	(2.2)	3	(0.8)
Feeling depressed					
	Never/Rarely	228	(71.5)	263	(73.1)
	Sometimes	74	(23.2)	75	(20.8)
	Often	17	(5.3)	22	(6.1)
	Missing	4	(1.2)	4	(1.5)
Wound infection					
	Never/Rarely	294	(92.5)	335	(93.1)
	Sometimes	18	(5.7)	19	(5.3)
	Often	6	(1.9)	6	(1.7)
	Missing	5	(1.6)	4	(1.5)
Incontinence (leaking urine)					
	Never/Rarely	265	(83.3)	302	(83.7)
	Sometimes	46	(14.5)	45	(12.5)
	Often	7	(2.2)	14	(3.9)
	Missing	5	(1.6)	3	(0.8)
Tiredness or fatigue					
	Never/Rarely	35	(11.0)	42	(11.6)
	Sometimes	150	(47.5)	175	(48.5)
	Often	134	(42.0)	144	(39.3)
	Missing	4	(1.2)	3	(0.8)
Back pain or backache					
	Never/Rarely	131	(41.1)	160	(44.3)
	Sometimes	123	(38.6)	130	(36.0)
	Often	65	(20.4)	71	(19.7)
	Missing	4	(1.2)	3	(0.8)
Difficulties or pain during intercourse					
	Never/Rarely	189	(60.0)	264	(74.4)
	Sometimes	90	(28.6)	63	(17.7)
	Often	36	(11.4)	28	(7.9)
	Missing	8	(2.5)	9	(2.5)
Poor sleep (not related to your baby)					
	Never/Rarely	229	(72.5)	254	(70.6)
	Sometimes	66	(20.9)	72	(20.0)
	Often	21	(6.6)	34	(9.4)
	Missing	7	(2.2)	4	(1.5)
'Flash backs' to your labour or birth					
	Never/Rarely	257	(80.8)	292	(81.1)
	Sometimes	45	(14.2)	47	(13.1)
	Often	16	(5.0)	21	(5.8)
	Missing	5	(1.6)	4	(1.5)

⁸⁸ Question C34. How often have you experienced each of the following since having your baby...?

Table 81(continued). Maternal health after birth,⁸⁹ by parity

		Parity (n=687)			
		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
		n	%	n	%
Haemorrhoids (piles)					
	Never/Rarely	239	(75.4)	271	(75.3)
	Sometimes	38	(12.0)	64	(17.8)
	Often	40	(12.6)	25	(6.9)
	<i>Missing</i>	6	(1.9)	4	(1.5)
Varicose veins					
	Never/Rarely	295	(92.5)	308	(86.0)
	Sometimes	14	(4.4)	27	(7.5)
	Often	10	(3.1)	23	(6.4)
	<i>Missing</i>	4	(1.2)	4	(1.5)

⁸⁹ Question C34. How often have you experienced each of the following since having your baby...?

Table 85. Maternal postnatal check-up,⁹⁰ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	401	(90.1)	100	(90.1)	89	(80.9)	17	(81.0)	351	(84.6)	246	(94.6)	609	(88.4)
No, but wanted one	14	(3.1)	4	(3.6)	12	(10.9)	3	(14.3)	25	(6.0)	7	(2.7)	33	(4.8)
No, but didn't want one	30	(6.7)	7	(6.3)	9	(8.2)	1	(4.8)	39	(9.4)	7	(2.7)	47	(6.8)
Missing	2		1		-		1		2		2		4	

Table 86. Maternal postnatal check-up by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	294	(91.6)	311	(85.9)
No, but wanted one	13	(4.0)	20	(5.5)
No, but didn't want one	14	(4.4)	31	(8.6)
Missing	2		2	

⁹⁰ Question C41. Have you had a check-up of your own health since having your baby?

LENGTH OF STAY IN BIRTHING FACILITY

Women who birthed in a hospital or birth centre (all except 5 respondents who birthed at home) were asked how long they stayed in their birth facility and whether their stay was an appropriate length of time.

- Women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to report staying two or less nights in their birth facility (50.2%) than women who birthed in a private facility (6.5%).
- Multiparous women were more likely to have stayed in their birth facility for two nights or less (44.7%) than primiparous women (20.3%).
- Despite the significant differences found between public and private facilities and primiparous and multiparous women in length of stay, the majority of women in each of these groups felt their stay in the birthing facility was 'about the right length of time'.
- 15.8% of women had a baby who spent some time in a neonatal unit after birth. Of these women ($N= 109$), 43% had a baby who stayed for one day or less, 37.4% had a baby that stayed for between 2 and 7 days, and 19.6% had a baby that stayed in neonatal care for more than a week.

Table 87. Length of stay in hospital or birth centre, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=682)				All who gave birth in a hospital or birth centre (n=688)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=321)		Multipara (n=361)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Length of stay in hospital or birth centre⁹¹										
Less than 24 hours	32	(7.7)	3	(1.1)	6	(1.9)	29	(8.1)	35	(5.1)
1-2 nights	176	(42.5)	14	(5.4)	59	(18.4)	131	(36.6)	192	(28.1)
3-4 nights	145	(35.0)	149	(57.1)	152	(47.5)	143	(39.9)	296	(43.3)
5 or more nights	61	(14.7)	95	(36.4)	103	(32.2)	55	(15.4)	161	(23.5)
Missing	3		1		1		3		4	
Appropriateness of length of stay in hospital or birth centre⁹²										
Too long	55	(13.3)	13	(5.0)	35	(11.0)	33	(9.2)	69	(10.1)
Too short	52	(12.6)	36	(13.8)	43	(13.5)	46	(12.8)	89	(13.0)
About the right length of time	306	(74.1)	211	(81.2)	240	(75.5)	279	(77.9)	524	(76.8)
Missing	4		2		3		3		6	

⁹¹ Question C9. Altogether, how long did you stay in the hospital or birth centre where your baby was born?

⁹² Question C10. In your opinion, was this length of time...?

POSTNATAL CARE AT HOME

Women were asked about their confidence in taking care of their baby and the contact they had had with health care providers since being at home with their baby. For five women, their baby had not come home at the time of survey completion.

Results indicated that:

- The majority of women felt either extremely confident (32.4%) or fairly confident (35.3%) looking after their new baby when first at home.
 - Women who birthed in private facilities were significantly less likely to feel extremely confident looking after their new baby when first at home (22.7%) than women who had birthed in public facilities (38.1%; $\chi^2(5) = 19.55, p < .01$).
 - Primiparous women were significantly less likely to feel extremely confident (10.9%) than multiparous women (51.5%; $\chi^2(5) = 178.75, p < .001$).
- Within the first 10 days of being at home after their birth, 81% of women had had some form of contact with a care provider; 46% of women had been visited at home by a midwife or nurse, 44% had visited a general practitioner, 42% had been telephoned by a midwife or nurse, and 23% had visited a midwife or nurse (e.g. at a community health centre).
- Women who resided in remote areas were significantly less likely to have been visited at home by a midwife or nurse in the first 10 days of being at home (14%), than women who resided in outer regional (48%), inner regional (46%), and major city areas (46%).
- In the time since their birth, 53% of women had received a telephone call from a care provider at least once, 47% had been visited at home by a health care provider at least once, and 90% had visited a health care provider at least once. A significantly higher proportion of women residing in remote areas had never been visited at home by a health care provider (83%) than women in outer regional (48%), inner regional (52%) and major city areas (53%).
- Since having their baby, 81% of women indicated that the amount of contact they had had with care providers was 'about right'; 18% indicated that there was 'too little' contact.

Table 88. Confidence taking care of baby at home,⁹³ by area of residence and facility type

	Area of Residence (n=688)								Type of Facility (n=675)				Total Sample (n=689)	
	Major City (n=444)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=415)		Private (n=260)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Extremely confident	138	(31.1)	43	(38.4)	35	(31.8)	6	(27.3)	158	(38.1)	59	(22.7)	223	(32.4)
Fairly confident	146	(32.9)	42	(37.5)	42	(38.2)	13	(59.1)	137	(33.0)	102	(39.2)	243	(35.3)
Confident	107	(24.1)	16	(14.3)	19	(17.3)	1	(4.5)	81	(19.5)	61	(23.5)	143	(20.8)
Not very confident	39	(8.8)	9	(8.0)	11	(10.0)	0	(0)	28	(6.7)	28	(10.8)	59	(8.6)
Not at all confident	14	(3.2)	2	(1.8)	3	(2.7)	1	(4.5)	10	(2.4)	10	(3.8)	20	(2.9)
My baby hasn't come home yet	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(4.5)	1	(0.2)	0	(0)	1	(0.1)

Table 89. Confidence taking care of baby at home, by parity

	Parity (n=684)			
	Primipara (n=321)		Multipara (n=363)	
	n	%	n	%
Extremely confident	35	(10.9)	187	(51.5)
Fairly confident	113	(35.2)	126	(34.7)
Confident	103	(32.1)	40	(11.0)
Not very confident	52	(16.2)	7	(1.9)
Not at all confident	18	(5.6)	2	(0.6)
My baby hasn't come home yet	0	(0)	1	(0.3)

⁹³ Question C34. When you first had your new baby at home, how confident did you feel about looking after him or her?

Table 90. Contact with care providers in the first 10 days after birth,⁹⁴ by area of residence and parity

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Visited at home by a midwife or nurse	206	(46.3)	52	(46.4)	53	(48.2)	3	(13.6)	151	(46.9)	162	(44.6)	315	(45.6)
Visited a General Practitioner (GP)	193	(43.4)	52	(46.4)	54	(49.1)	8	(36.4)	139	(43.2)	168	(46.3)	307	(44.4)
Telephoned by a midwife or nurse	178	(40.0)	51	(45.5)	51	(46.4)	7	(31.8)	132	(41.0)	153	(42.1)	289	(41.8)
Visited a midwife or nurse (e.g. at a community health centre)	95	(21.3)	28	(25.0)	31	(28.2)	5	(22.7)	84	(26.1)	75	(20.7)	159	(23.0)
None of the above	92	(20.7)	15	(13.4)	18	(16.4)	6	(27.3)	56	(17.4)	73	(20.1)	131	(19.0)
Baby hasn't come home yet	2	(0.4)	2	(1.8)	1	(0.9)	-	-	3	(0.9)	2	(0.6)	5	(0.7)
Missing	2		-		-		-		1		1		2	

⁹⁴ Question C16. In the first 10 days of being at home with your baby, did any of the following happen...? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

Table 91. Amount of contact with care providers since birth, by area of residence and parity

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Number of times post-birth been telephoned by a care provider⁹⁵														
None	202	(48.9)	41	(42.3)	41	(42.7)	10	(55.6)	129	(44.8)	164	(49.2)	294	(47.0)
Once	90	(21.8)	32	(33.0)	16	(16.7)	5	(27.8)	62	(21.5)	78	(23.4)	143	(22.9)
Twice	65	(15.7)	15	(15.5)	19	(19.8)	2	(11.1)	53	(18.4)	48	(14.4)	101	(16.2)
Three or more times	56	(13.6)	9	(9.3)	20	(20.8)	1	(5.6)	44	(15.3)	43	(12.9)	87	(13.9)
Missing	34		15		14		4		35		31		68	
Number of times post-birth been visited at home by a health care provider														
None	219	(52.6)	53	(52.0)	48	(47.5)	15	(83.3)	151	(50.2)	182	(54.7)	336	(52.7)
Once	58	(13.9)	21	(20.6)	10	(9.9)	2	(11.1)	45	(15.0)	45	(13.5)	91	(14.3)
Twice	62	(14.9)	17	(16.7)	12	(11.9)	1	(5.6)	44	(14.6)	48	(14.4)	92	(14.4)
Three or more times	77	(18.5)	11	(10.8)	31	(30.7)	-		61	(20.3)	58	(17.4)	119	(18.7)
Missing	31		10		9		4		22		31		55	
Number of times post-birth visited a health care provider														
None	44	(10.5)	11	(10.5)	9	(8.7)	2	(9.5)	30	(9.9)	36	(10.5)	66	(10.1)
Once	37	(8.8)	7	(6.7)	7	(6.7)	1	(4.8)	21	(6.9)	28	(8.1)	52	(8.0)
Twice	72	(17.1)	13	(12.4)	20	(19.2)	4	(19.0)	43	(14.2)	66	(19.2)	109	(16.7)
3 times	76	(18.1)	21	(20.0)	23	(22.1)	3	(14.3)	48	(15.8)	75	(21.8)	124	(19.0)
4 times	64	(15.2)	17	(16.2)	13	(12.5)	6	(28.6)	45	(14.9)	55	(16.0)	100	(15.3)
5 to 7 times	61	(14.5)	20	(19.0)	20	(19.2)	5	(23.8)	56	(18.5)	49	(14.2)	106	(16.3)
8 or more times	67	(15.9)	16	(15.2)	12	(11.5)	-		60	(19.8)	35	(10.2)	95	(14.6)
Missing	26		7		6		1		20		20		41	
Appropriate amount of contact with care providers post-birth⁹⁶														
Too little	79	(17.8)	21	(18.8)	16	(14.7)	7	(31.8)	60	(18.8)	62	(17.1)	123	(17.9)
Too much	3	(0.7)	-		2	(1.8)	-		1	(0.3)	4	(1.1)	5	(0.7)
About right	362	(81.5)	91	(81.3)	91	(83.5)	15	(68.2)	259	(80.9)	297	(81.8)	561	(81.4)
Missing	3		-		1		-		3		1		4	

⁹⁵ Question C18. Altogether, how many times since going home (or having your baby at home) have you...?

⁹⁶ Question C19. Thinking about the amount of contact you had with care providers since having your baby, was this...?

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO WOMEN AFTER BIRTH

Women were asked about the perceived adequacy of information they received after their birth, and if they had the opportunity to talk to a health care provider about their birth experience.

- Three quarters of all women agreed that they had received enough information after their birth about caring for a new baby (77.9%), feeding a new baby (75%) and caring for themselves after their birth (71.6%).
 - Women having their first baby were less likely than women who had birthed before to agree that they received enough information after their birth about caring for a new baby (69.9% vs. 85.2%), feeding a new baby (67.1% vs. 82%) and caring for themselves after birth (64% vs. 78.3%).
- About half of all respondents said they had the opportunity after their birth to talk to a care provider about their birth experience, and 21.5% said they did not have the opportunity but they would have liked to.
 - Women birthing in private facilities were more likely to say they did have the opportunity to talk about their birth experience (58.1%) than women who had birthed in public facilities (49.3%).

Table 92. Perceived adequacy of information received after having a baby,⁹⁷ by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Had enough information about caring for a new baby														
Strongly disagree/disagree	63	(14.1)	12	(10.7)	13	(11.8)	4	(18.2)	52	(12.5)	37	(14.2)	92	(13.3)
Neither disagree or agree	34	(7.6)	11	(9.8)	13	(11.8)	3	(13.6)	41	(9.9)	20	(7.7)	61	(8.8)
Strongly agree/agree	349	(78.3)	89	(79.5)	84	(76.4)	15	(68.2)	323	(77.6)	204	(78.2)	538	(77.9)
Missing	1		-		-		-		1		1		2	
Had enough information about feeding a new baby														
Strongly disagree/disagree	81	(18.2)	15	(13.4)	15	(13.8)	4	(18.2)	60	(14.5)	54	(20.8)	115	(16.7)
Neither disagree or agree	33	(7.4)	12	(10.7)	9	(8.3)	3	(13.6)	41	(9.9)	16	(6.2)	57	(8.3)
Strongly agree/agree	331	(74.4)	85	(75.9)	85	(78.0)	15	(68.2)	314	(75.7)	190	(73.1)	517	(75.0)
Missing	2		-		1		-		2		2		4	
Had enough information about caring for oneself after having a baby														
Strongly disagree/disagree	66	(14.8)	19	(17.0)	20	(18.2)	4	(18.2)	64	(15.4)	42	(16.1)	109	(15.8)
Neither disagree or agree	54	(12.1)	12	(10.7)	19	(17.3)	2	(9.1)	57	(13.7)	30	(11.5)	87	(12.6)
Strongly agree/agree	326	(73.1)	81	(72.3)	71	(64.5)	16	(72.7)	295	(70.9)	189	(72.4)	495	(71.6)
Missing	1		-		-		-		1		1		2	

⁹⁷ Question C31. Thinking about the information you received from any source after having your baby, how much do you disagree or agree with the following statements? I had enough information about...?

Table 93. Perceived adequacy of information received after having a baby, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Had enough information about caring for a new baby				
Strongly disagree/disagree	68	(21.1)	23	(6.3)
Neither disagree or agree	29	(9.0)	31	(8.5)
Strongly agree/agree	225	(69.9)	310	(85.2)
<i>Missing</i>	1		-	
Had enough information about feeding a new baby				
Strongly disagree/disagree	74	(23.0)	41	(11.3)
Neither disagree or agree	32	(9.9)	24	(6.6)
Strongly agree/agree	216	(67.1)	297	(82.0)
<i>Missing</i>	1		2	
Had enough information about caring for oneself after having a baby				
Strongly disagree/disagree	67	(20.8)	42	(11.5)
Neither disagree or agree	49	(15.2)	37	(10.2)
Strongly agree/agree	206	(64.0)	285	(78.3)
<i>Missing</i>	1		-	

Table 94. Opportunity to talk to a care provider about birth experience,⁹⁸ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	204	(49.3)	151	(58.1)	164	(51.1)	196	(54.4)	362	(52.7)
No, but would have liked to	101	(24.4)	45	(17.3)	81	(25.2)	65	(18.1)	148	(21.5)
No, but it didn't matter	109	(26.3)	64	(24.6)	76	(23.7)	99	(27.5)	177	(25.8)
<i>Missing</i>	3		2		2		4		6	

⁹⁸ Question C8. Did you have the opportunity to talk about your birth experience and your feelings with a care provider after your birth?

3.6 Women's experience of care

Findings presented in this section focus on women's overall perceptions of the care provided, continuity of care, and overall satisfaction with maternity care. Differences in area of residence, public and private birth facilities and primiparous and multiparous women are described.

QUALITY OF CARE DURING PREGNANCY

Women's perceptions of the quality of care they received during pregnancy were measured with questions that asked about global satisfaction with care, aspects of interpersonal care (the degree to which they were talked to in a way they could understand, treated with respect, kindness and understanding, etc.), and feelings about their care (whether they felt safe, supported, in control, etc.).

- The majority of women said they were looked after 'very well' during their pregnancy (54.5%). Women who birthed in private facilities were more likely to report having been looked after 'very well' during their pregnancy (70.5%) than women who birthed in public facilities (44.8%).
- With regards to quality of interpersonal care during pregnancy:
 - 92% of women agreed carers treated them with respect
 - 92% agreed carers respected their privacy
 - 91% agreed carers talked in a way they could understand
 - 89% agreed carers treated them with kindness and understanding
 - 89% agreed carers were open and honest
 - 88% agreed carers genuinely cared about their wellbeing
 - 85% agreed carers respected their decisions
 - 83% agreed carers treated them as individuals
 - Between 5% and 13% of women agreed one or more of their carers did not treat them in these ways.
- With regards to women's feelings about the care they received during pregnancy:
 - 90% of women felt safe
 - 87% felt confident in the skills of their care providers
 - 86% agreed the care they received suited their needs
 - 67% felt in control
 - 28% received conflicting information and advice from different care providers
 - 22% felt at times they did not know what was happening
 - 19% wanted to be more involved in decisions
 - 9% did not feel supported
 - 8% did not feel comfortable asking questions.

Table 95. How well women were looked after by care providers during pregnancy, by area of residence and type of facility⁹⁹

	Area of Residence (n=688)								Type of Facility (n=676)				Total Sample (n=690)	
	Major City (n=444)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=415)		Private (n=261)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Very Badly = 1	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0.9)	0	(0)	1	(0.2)	0	(0)	1	(0.1)
2	3	(0.7)	1	(0.9)	1	(0.9)	0	(0)	3	(0.7)	2	(0.8)	5	(0.7)
3	40	(9.0)	19	(17.0)	7	(6.4)	4	(18.2)	57	(13.7)	10	(3.8)	70	(10.1)
4	163	(36.7)	30	(26.8)	36	(32.7)	8	(36.4)	168	(40.5)	65	(24.9)	238	(34.5)
Very Well = 5	238	(53.6)	62	(55.4)	65	(59.1)	10	(45.5)	186	(44.8)	184	(70.5)	376	(54.5)

Table 96. How well women were looked after by care providers during pregnancy, by parity

	Parity (n=684)			
	Primipara (n=322)		Multipara (n=362)	
	n	%	n	%
Very Badly = 1	0	(0)	1	(0.3)
2	2	(0.6)	3	(0.8)
3	29	(9.0)	41	(11.3)
4	122	(37.9)	114	(31.5)
Very Well = 5	169	(52.5)	203	(56.1)

⁹⁹ Question A49. Overall, how well were you looked after by your care provider(s) during pregnancy?

Table 97. Women's reported quality of interpersonal care during pregnancy¹⁰⁰

	Disagree		Neither disagree or agree		Agree		Total Sample (n=693)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Mean ¹⁰¹	SD	Missing (n)
My carers treated me with respect	12	(1.7)	42	(6.1)	633	(92.1)	4.33	0.68	6
One or more of my carers did not treat me with respect	560	(82.5)	47	(6.9)	72	(10.6)	1.84	1.05	14
My carers respected my privacy	16	(2.3)	39	(5.7)	633	(92.0)	4.30	0.69	5
One or more of my carers did not respect my privacy	587	(86.2)	63	(9.3)	31	(4.6)	1.71	0.84	12
My carers talked to me in a way I could understand	16	(2.3)	43	(6.2)	631	(91.4)	4.29	0.71	3
One or more of my carers did not talk to me in a way I could understand	536	(78.6)	75	(11.0)	71	(10.4)	1.94	1.03	11
My carers treated me with kindness and understanding	14	(2.0)	62	(9.0)	611	(88.9)	4.28	0.72	6
One or more of my carers did not treat me with kindness and understanding	538	(78.8)	63	(9.2)	82	(12.0)	1.91	1.09	10
My carers were open and honest	18	(2.6)	60	(8.7)	611	(88.7)	4.23	0.72	4
One or more of my carers were not open and honest	565	(83.2)	79	(11.6)	35	(5.2)	1.76	0.89	14
My carers genuinely cared about my wellbeing	14	(2.0)	71	(10.3)	603	(87.6)	4.25	0.73	5
One or more of my carers did not care about my wellbeing	556	(81.9)	85	(12.5)	38	(5.6)	1.78	0.92	14
My carers respected my decisions	47	(6.8)	59	(8.6)	583	(84.6)	4.12	0.87	4
One or more of my carers did not respect my decisions	523	(76.9)	71	(10.4)	86	(12.6)	1.97	1.09	13
My carers treated me as an individual	40	(5.8)	80	(11.6)	568	(82.6)	4.09	0.85	5
One or more of my carers did not treat me as an individual	517	(75.9)	92	(13.5)	72	(10.6)	1.96	1.04	12

¹⁰⁰ Question A47. Thinking about your care during your pregnancy, how much do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

¹⁰¹ Reported on a five-point scale from 1 ('strongly disagree') to 5 ('strongly agree')

Table 98. Women's feelings about the care they received during pregnancy¹⁰²

	Disagree		Neither disagree or agree		Agree		Total Sample (n=693)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Mean ¹⁰³	SD	Missing (n)
I felt safe	17	(2.5)	51	(7.4)	619	(90.1)	4.21	0.70	6
I felt confident in the skills of my care provider(s)	31	(4.5)	56	(8.1)	601	(87.4)	4.24	0.81	5
The care I received suited my needs	31	(4.5)	64	(9.3)	591	(86.2)	4.11	0.77	7
I felt in control	84	(12.4)	143	(21.0)	453	(66.6)	3.73	0.96	13
I received conflicting information and advice from different care providers	385	(56.2)	109	(15.9)	191	(27.9)	2.56	1.28	8
At times I didn't know what was happening	434	(63.2)	101	(14.7)	152	(22.1)	2.37	1.14	6
I wanted to be more involved in decisions	266	(38.9)	285	(41.7)	132	(19.3)	2.73	1.06	10
I did not feel supported	548	(80.4)	75	(11.0)	59	(8.7)	1.94	0.98	11
I did not feel comfortable asking questions	553	(80.6)	76	(11.1)	57	(8.3)	1.93	0.93	7

¹⁰² Question A48. Thinking again about the care you received during your pregnancy, how much do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

¹⁰³ Reported on a five-point scale from 1 ('strongly disagree') to 5 ('strongly agree')

QUALITY OF CARE DURING LABOUR AND BIRTH

The questions women answered about their quality of care during pregnancy were also asked for their labour and birth care to gauge any differences in quality of care between different stages of care. Women were also asked about how well their care providers communicated and worked as team during their labour and birth, and to select words they would use to describe their care providers.

- 63.2% of all women said they were looked after 'very well' by their care providers during labour and birth. Women who birthed in private facilities were more likely to report being looked after 'very well' (71.8%) than those who birthed in public facilities (58.2%). Multiparous women were more likely to say they were looked after 'very well' during their labour and birth (66.5%) than primiparous women (59.2%).
- With regards to quality of interpersonal care during labour and birth:
 - 96% of women agreed carers talked in a way they could understand
 - 95% agreed carers treated them with respect
 - 94% agreed carers treated them with kindness and understanding
 - 93% agreed carers genuinely cared about their wellbeing
 - 91% agreed carers respected their privacy
 - 91% agreed carers were open and honest
 - 89% agreed carers treated them as individuals
 - 87% agreed carers respected their decisions
 - Between 3% and 9% of women agreed that one or more of their carers did not treat them in these ways.
- With regards to women's feelings about the care they received during labour and birth:
 - 91% of women felt confident in the skills of their care providers
 - 91% felt safe
 - 87% agreed the care they received suited their needs
 - 56% felt in control
 - 31% felt at times they did not know what was happening
 - 17% wanted to be more involved in decisions
 - 17% received conflicting information and advice from different care providers
 - 7% did not feel comfortable asking questions
 - 6% did not feel supported.
- Overall, 79% of women agreed that their care providers communicated well with each other during their labour and birth. Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to agree that their care providers communicated well with each other than women who birthed in a public facility (85% vs. 75%).
- Overall, 83% of women agreed that their care providers worked well as a team. Agreement was significantly higher for women who birthed in a private facility than for women who birthed in a public facility (87% vs. 80%).
- The majority of women described their care providers during labour and birth positively, with most describing their care providers as supportive (88%), kind (77%), and considerate (72%).

Table 99. How well women were looked after by care providers during labour and birth, by area of residence and type of facility¹⁰⁴

	Area of Residence (n=681)								Type of Facility (n=670)				Total Sample (n=682)	
	Major City (n=442)		Inner Regional (n=110)		Outer Regional (n=107)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=411)		Private (n=259)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Very Badly = 1	1	(0.2)	1	(0.9)	1	(0.9)	1	(4.5)	3	(0.7)	1	(0.4)	4	(0.6)
2	8	(1.8)	4	(3.6)	1	(0.9)	0	(0)	10	(2.4)	3	(1.2)	13	(1.9)
3	27	(6.1)	8	(7.3)	8	(7.5)	2	(9.1)	30	(7.3)	12	(4.6)	45	(6.6)
4	131	(29.6)	24	(21.8)	25	(23.4)	8	(36.4)	129	(31.4)	57	(22.0)	189	(27.7)
Very Well = 5	275	(62.2)	73	(66.4)	72	(67.3)	11	(50.0)	239	(58.2)	186	(71.8)	431	(63.2)

Table 100. How well women were looked after by care providers during labour and birth, by parity¹⁰⁵

	Parity (n=677)			
	Primipara (n=319)		Multipara (n=358)	
	n	%	n	%
Very Badly = 1	3	(0.9)	1	(0.3)
2	6	(1.9)	7	(2.0)
3	17	(5.3)	28	(7.8)
4	104	(32.6)	84	(23.5)
Very Well = 5	189	(59.2)	238	(66.5)

¹⁰⁴ Question B77. Overall, how well were you looked after by your care provider(s) during labour and birth?

¹⁰⁵ Question B77. Overall, how well were you looked after by your care provider(s) during labour and birth?

Table 101. Women's reported quality of interpersonal care during labour and birth¹⁰⁶

	Disagree		Neither disagree or agree		Agree		Total Sample (n=693)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Mean ¹⁰⁷	SD	Missing (n)
My carers talked to me in a way I could understand	7	(1.0)	24	(3.5)	651	(95.5)	4.33	0.61	11
One or more of my carers did not talk to me in a way I could understand	601	(90.0)	42	(6.3)	25	(3.7)	1.69	0.80	25
My carers treated me with respect	8	(1.2)	24	(3.5)	649	(95.3)	4.33	0.62	12
One or more of my carers did not treat me with respect	590	(88.2)	34	(5.1)	45	(6.7)	1.75	0.90	24
My carers treated me with kindness and understanding	12	(1.8)	30	(4.4)	636	(93.8)	4.31	0.65	15
One or more of my carers did not treat me with kindness and understanding	572	(85.6)	37	(5.5)	59	(8.8)	1.78	0.95	25
My carers genuinely cared about my wellbeing	8	(1.2)	43	(6.3)	628	(92.5)	4.33	0.66	14
One or more of my carers did not care about my wellbeing	573	(85.9)	63	(9.4)	31	(4.6)	1.72	0.87	26
My carers respected my privacy	11	(1.6)	51	(7.5)	617	(90.9)	4.27	0.67	14
One or more of my carers did not respect my privacy	589	(87.9)	53	(7.9)	28	(4.2)	1.70	0.83	23
My carers were open and honest	9	(1.3)	54	(7.9)	617	(90.7)	4.27	0.67	13
One or more of my carers were not open and honest	586	(88.0)	60	(9.0)	20	(3.0)	1.70	0.78	27
My carers treated me as an individual	21	(3.1)	57	(8.4)	602	(88.5)	4.21	0.75	13
One or more of my carers did not treat me as an individual	559	(83.6)	71	(10.6)	39	(5.8)	1.80	0.89	24
My carers respected my decisions	33	(4.9)	56	(8.2)	590	(86.9)	4.17	0.81	14
One or more of my carers did not respect my decisions	554	(82.8)	65	(9.7)	50	(7.5)	1.83	0.96	24

¹⁰⁶ Question B75. Thinking about your care during labour and birth, how much do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

¹⁰⁷ Reported on a five-point scale from 1 ('strongly disagree') to 5 ('strongly agree')

Table 102. Women's feelings about the care they received during labour and birth¹⁰⁸

	Disagree		Neither disagree or agree		Agree		Total Sample (n=693)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Mean ¹⁰⁹	SD	Missing (n)
I felt confident in the skills of my care provider(s)	18	(2.6)	42	(6.1)	623	(91.2)	4.32	0.75	10
I felt safe	20	(2.9)	40	(5.8)	625	(91.2)	4.24	0.71	8
The care I received suited my needs	33	(4.8)	58	(8.5)	594	(86.7)	4.13	0.80	8
I felt in control	134	(19.8)	167	(24.7)	376	(55.5)	3.49	1.08	16
At times I didn't know what was happening	367	(53.8)	104	(15.2)	211	(30.9)	2.62	1.21	11
I wanted to be more involved in decisions	284	(41.8)	279	(41.1)	116	(17.1)	2.66	0.97	14
I received conflicting information and advice from different care providers	473	(69.7)	90	(13.3)	116	(17.1)	2.23	1.14	14
I did not feel comfortable asking questions	549	(80.6)	83	(12.2)	49	(7.2)	1.95	0.94	12
I did not feel supported	581	(85.7)	54	(8.0)	43	(6.3)	1.81	0.86	15

¹⁰⁸ Question B76. Thinking again about your care during labour and birth, how much do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

¹⁰⁹ Reported on a five-point scale from 1 ('strongly disagree') to 5 ('strongly agree')

Table 103. Perceptions of care providers' communication and collaboration¹¹⁰ during labour and birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Agreement that care providers communicated well with each other during labour and birth										
Strongly disagree/disagree	36	(8.7)	13	(5.1)	25	(7.9)	25	(6.9)	50	(7.3)
Neither disagree or agree	50	(12.0)	13	(5.1)	28	(8.8)	36	(9.9)	64	(9.3)
Strongly agree/agree	311	(74.9)	219	(85.2)	254	(80.1)	279	(77.1)	539	(78.7)
Does not apply	18	(4.3)	12	(4.7)	10	(3.2)	22	(6.1)	32	(4.7)
Missing	2		5		6		2		8	
Agreement that care providers worked well as a team during labour and birth										
Strongly disagree/disagree	21	(5.1)	9	(3.5)	16	(5.0)	15	(4.2)	31	(4.5)
Neither disagree or agree	45	(10.9)	12	(4.7)	28	(8.8)	29	(8.1)	57	(8.4)
Strongly agree/agree	329	(79.9)	224	(87.2)	265	(83.3)	292	(81.6)	563	(82.6)
Does not apply	17	(4.1)	12	(4.7)	9	(2.8)	22	(6.1)	31	(4.5)
Missing	5		5		5		6		11	

¹¹⁰ Question B73. Please indicate how much you disagree or agree with the following: 1) My care providers communicated well with each other about my care during labour and birth. 2) My care providers worked well as a team when providing my care during labour and birth.

Table 104. Descriptors of care providers during labour and birth,¹¹¹ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Supportive	359	(87.1)	227	(88.7)	276	(87.6)	317	(88.1)	599	(88.0)
Kind	326	(79.1)	191	(74.6)	237	(75.2)	284	(78.9)	527	(77.4)
Considerate	288	(69.9)	193	(75.4)	223	(70.8)	263	(73.1)	491	(72.1)
Warm	268	(65.0)	164	(64.1)	198	(62.9)	238	(66.1)	441	(64.8)
Polite	267	(64.8)	160	(62.5)	192	(61.0)	239	(66.4)	437	(64.2)
Informative	233	(56.6)	157	(61.3)	190	(60.3)	204	(56.7)	397	(58.3)
Sensitive	225	(54.6)	130	(50.8)	158	(50.2)	201	(55.8)	363	(53.3)
Humorous	202	(49.0)	119	(46.5)	128	(40.6)	193	(53.6)	326	(47.9)
Rushed	53	(12.9)	30	(11.7)	43	(13.7)	43	(11.9)	86	(12.6)
Bossy	39	(9.5)	13	(5.1)	28	(8.9)	24	(6.7)	52	(7.6)
Insensitive	19	(4.6)	11	(4.3)	24	(7.6)	6	(1.7)	30	(4.4)
Unhelpful	20	(4.9)	9	(3.5)	12	(3.8)	17	(4.7)	29	(4.3)
Rude	21	(5.1)	5	(2.0)	15	(4.8)	11	(3.1)	26	(3.8)
Condescending	15	(3.6)	7	(2.7)	17	(5.4)	5	(1.4)	22	(3.2)
Offhand	12	(2.9)	8	(3.1)	11	(3.5)	9	(2.5)	20	(2.9)
Inconsiderate	12	(2.9)	5	(2.0)	12	(3.8)	5	(1.4)	17	(2.5)
Missing	5		6		8		4		12	

¹¹¹ Question B71. We would like to know how you feel you were looked after during your labour and birth. Please circle any of the words below which describe the staff you saw during labour.
Note. This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

QUALITY OF POSTNATAL CARE

Women were asked questions regarding the quality of care they received after having their baby, both in the hospital or birth centre, and at home.

- 40.9% of all women said they were looked after 'very well' by their care providers after their birth. Multiparous women were more likely to report having been looked after 'very well' after their birth (46%) than primiparous women (35.2%).
- With regards to the quality of interpersonal care after birth:
 - 94% of women agreed carers treated them with respect
 - 93% agreed carers talked in a way they could understand
 - 92% agreed carers respected their privacy
 - 92% agreed carers treated them with kindness and understanding
 - 91% agreed carers were open and honest
 - 88% agreed carers genuinely cared about their wellbeing
 - 87% agreed carers respected their decisions
 - 85% agreed carers treated them as individuals
 - Between 4% and 14% of women agreed one or more of their carers did not treat them in these ways.
- With regards to women's feelings about the care they received after birth:
 - 91% of women felt safe
 - 86% felt confident in the skills of their care providers
 - 79% agreed the care they received suited their needs
 - 67% felt in control
 - 37% received conflicting information and advice from different care providers
 - 24% felt at times they did not know what was happening
 - 15% wanted to be more involved in decisions
 - 12% did not feel supported.
 - 8% did not feel comfortable asking questions.
- Among women who gave birth in a hospital or birth centre, 75% felt a care provider came and 'checked' on them during their stay about the right amount of time. Women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to say they were checked on about the right amount of time than women who birthed in a public facility, and women who gave birth for the first time were more likely to say they were checked on 'not often enough' than women who had previously birthed.

Table 105. How well women were looked after by care providers after birth, by area of residence and type of facility¹¹²

	Area of Residence (n=686)								Type of Facility (n=673)				Total Sample (n=687)	
	Major City (n=444)		Inner Regional (n=111)		Outer Regional (n=109)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=413)		Private (n=260)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Very Badly = 1	1	(0.2)	2	(1.8)	1	(0.9)	0	(0)	3	(0.7)	1	(0.4)	4	(0.6)
2	17	(3.8)	5	(4.5)	4	(3.7)	2	(9.1)	21	(5.1)	7	(2.7)	28	(4.1)
3	75	(16.9)	18	(16.2)	19	(17.4)	5	(22.7)	72	(17.4)	42	(16.2)	117	(17.0)
4	173	(39.0)	40	(36.0)	34	(31.2)	9	(40.9)	158	(38.3)	93	(35.8)	257	(37.4)
Very Well = 5	178	(40.1)	46	(41.4)	51	(46.8)	6	(27.3)	159	(38.5)	117	(45.0)	281	(40.9)

Table 106. How well women were looked after by care providers after birth, by parity

	Parity (n=682)			
	Primipara (n=321)		Multipara (n=361)	
	n	%	n	%
Very Badly = 1	3	(0.9)	1	(0.3)
2	14	(4.4)	13	(3.6)
3	60	(18.7)	57	(15.8)
4	131	(40.8)	124	(34.3)
Very Well = 5	113	(35.2)	166	(46.0)

¹¹² Question C23. Overall, how well were you looked after by your care provider(s) after having your baby?

Table 107. Women's reported quality of interpersonal care after birth¹¹³

	Disagree		Neither disagree or agree		Agree		Total Sample (n=693)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Mean ¹¹⁴	SD	Missing (n)
My carers treated me with respect	12	(1.8)	32	(4.7)	636	(93.5)	4.24	0.63	13
One or more of my carers did not treat me with respect	551	(82.7)	45	(6.8)	70	(10.5)	1.92	1.01	27
My carers talked to me in a way I could understand	15	(2.2)	30	(4.4)	636	(93.4)	4.22	0.64	12
One or more of my carers did not talk to me in a way I could understand	578	(86.3)	46	(6.9)	46	(6.9)	1.82	0.89	23
My carers respected my privacy	16	(2.4)	37	(5.4)	626	(92.2)	4.23	0.67	14
One or more of my carers did not respect my privacy	584	(87.7)	51	(7.7)	31	(4.7)	1.77	0.83	27
My carers treated me with kindness and understanding	18	(2.6)	37	(5.4)	626	(91.9)	4.22	0.67	12
One or more of my carers did not treat me with kindness and understanding	532	(79.6)	43	(6.4)	93	(13.9)	1.99	1.07	25
My carers were open and honest	9	(1.3)	50	(7.4)	621	(91.3)	4.21	0.64	13
One or more of my carers were not open and honest	578	(86.7)	65	(9.7)	24	(3.6)	1.79	0.81	26
My carers genuinely cared about my wellbeing	13	(1.9)	71	(10.4)	597	(87.7)	4.16	0.69	12
One or more of my carers did not care about my wellbeing	543	(81.4)	81	(12.1)	43	(6.4)	1.89	0.92	26
My carers respected my decisions	26	(3.8)	65	(9.6)	589	(86.6)	4.14	0.77	13
One or more of my carers did not respect my decisions	547	(81.9)	66	(9.9)	55	(8.2)	1.90	0.95	25
My carers treated me as an individual	26	(3.8)	76	(11.2)	579	(85.0)	4.12	0.76	12
One or more of my carers did not treat me as an individual	535	(80.1)	78	(11.7)	55	(8.2)	1.92	0.95	25

¹¹³ Question C21. Thinking about your care after having your baby (both while in the hospital or birth centre and at home), how much do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

¹¹⁴ Reported on a five-point scale from 1 ('strongly disagree') to 5 ('strongly agree')

Table 108. Women's feelings about the care they received after birth¹¹⁵

	Disagree		Neither disagree or agree		Agree		Total Sample (n=693)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Mean ¹¹⁶	SD	Missing (n)
I felt safe	23	(3.4)	38	(5.6)	620	(91.0)	4.19	0.71	12
I felt confident in the skills of my care provider(s)	22	(3.2)	77	(11.3)	584	(85.5)	4.12	0.74	10
The care I received suited my needs	67	(9.8)	77	(11.3)	538	(78.9)	3.94	0.92	11
I felt in control	96	(14.2)	128	(18.9)	452	(66.9)	3.72	0.98	17
I received conflicting information and advice from different care providers	336	(49.6)	93	(13.7)	248	(36.6)	2.78	1.33	16
At times I didn't know what was happening	407	(59.9)	108	(15.9)	165	(24.3)	2.46	1.14	13
I wanted to be more involved in decisions	302	(44.5)	272	(40.1)	104	(15.3)	2.61	0.97	15
I did not feel supported	519	(76.8)	73	(10.8)	84	(12.4)	2.08	1.00	17
I did not feel comfortable asking questions	544	(80.0)	82	(12.1)	54	(7.9)	1.98	0.88	13

Table 109. Appropriateness of amount of care in birthing facility after birth,¹¹⁷ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=682)				All who gave birth in a hospital or birth centre (n=688)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=321)		Multipara (n=361)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Not often enough	114	(27.5)	28	(10.7)	80	(25.0)	64	(17.8)	145	(21.1)
Too often	16	(3.9)	8	(3.1)	13	(4.1)	10	(2.8)	24	(3.5)
About right	285	(68.7)	226	(86.3)	227	(70.9)	286	(79.4)	517	(75.4)
Missing	2		-		1		1		2	

¹¹⁵ Question C22. Thinking again about your care after having your baby, how much do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

¹¹⁶ Reported on a five-point scale from 1 ('strongly disagree') to 5 ('strongly agree').

¹¹⁷ Question C14. Thinking about how often a care provider came and 'checked' on you during your stay in the hospital or birth centre, was this...?

PERCEIVED QUALITY OF BIRTH FACILITIES

Women were asked whether there were any aspects of the labour and birth room and the post-birth environment in the hospital or birth centre that needed improvement.

- Overall 59% of women indicated that nothing needed improvement in the labour and birth room, Women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to say that 'nothing' needed improvement than women who birthed in a public facility. Women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to say the homeliness, furnishings, decoration, colour scheme and lighting needed improvement than women who birthed in private facilities.
- Significant differences were also found between public and private facilities in women's perceptions of the post-birth environment. Women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to say 'nothing' needed improvement, whereas women who birthed in a public facility were more likely to say noise, space, privacy, food, homeliness, lighting, decoration, colour scheme and cleanliness needed improvement than women who birthed in a private facility.

Table 110. Aspects of labour and birth room that needed improvement,¹¹⁸ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Nothing	211	(53.4)	166	(70.0)	171	(57.8)	209	(60.9)	382	(59.4)
'Homeliness'	80	(20.3)	27	(11.4)	41	(13.9)	67	(19.5)	109	(17.0)
Furnishings	70	(17.7)	19	(8.0)	44	(14.9)	45	(13.1)	90	(14.0)
Temperature	51	(12.9)	20	(8.4)	35	(11.8)	39	(11.4)	74	(11.5)
Decoration	56	(14.2)	14	(5.9)	35	(11.8)	34	(9.9)	70	(10.9)
Colour Scheme	47	(11.9)	15	(6.3)	29	(9.8)	35	(10.2)	64	(10.0)
Noise	33	(8.4)	15	(6.3)	23	(7.8)	26	(7.6)	49	(7.6)
Lighting	27	(6.8)	5	(2.1)	17	(5.7)	18	(5.2)	35	(5.4)
Privacy	23	(5.8)	10	(4.2)	18	(6.1)	15	(4.4)	33	(5.1)
Space	21	(5.3)	6	(2.5)	13	(4.4)	16	(4.7)	29	(4.5)
Cleanliness	9	(2.3)	3	(1.3)	7	(2.4)	6	(1.7)	13	(2.0)
Security	4	(1.0)	-		1	(0.3)	3	(0.9)	4	(0.6)
Missing	22		25		27		21		50	

¹¹⁸ Question B74. Were there any aspects of the room for labour and birth that needed improvement? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

Table 111. Aspects of the post-birth environment in birthing facility that needed improvement,¹¹⁹ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=379)				Parity (n=382)				All who gave birth in a hospital or birth centre (n=688)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=321)		Multipara (n=361)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Nothing	108	(27.0)	129	(52.2)	110	(35.8)	128	(37.3)	239	(36.5)
Noise	135	(33.8)	44	(17.8)	86	(28.0)	95	(27.7)	182	(27.8)
Temperature	84	(21.0)	47	(19.0)	75	(24.4)	58	(16.9)	133	(20.3)
Space	101	(25.3)	24	(9.7)	66	(21.5)	58	(16.9)	126	(19.2)
Privacy	108	(27.0)	17	(6.9)	65	(21.2)	59	(17.2)	125	(19.1)
Food	102	(25.5)	14	(5.7)	50	(16.3)	67	(19.5)	117	(17.9)
Furnishings	72	(18.0)	31	(12.6)	46	(15.0)	57	(16.6)	104	(15.9)
'Homeliness'	76	(19.0)	12	(4.9)	35	(11.4)	54	(15.7)	90	(13.7)
Lighting	44	(11.0)	14	(5.7)	27	(8.8)	33	(9.6)	61	(9.3)
Decoration	39	(9.8)	10	(4.0)	24	(7.8)	25	(7.3)	50	(7.6)
Colour Scheme	37	(9.3)	10	(4.0)	26	(8.5)	23	(6.7)	49	(7.5)
Cleanliness	23	(5.8)	2	(0.8)	10	(3.3)	16	(4.7)	26	(4.0)
Security	15	(3.8)	4	(1.6)	7	(2.3)	11	(3.2)	19	(2.9)
Missing	17		15		14		18		33	

¹¹⁹ Question C15. Were there any aspects of the post-birth environment in the hospital or birth centre that needed improvement? *Note.* This question was a multiple response question and thus percentages may total greater than 100%.

CONTINUITY OF MATERNITY CARE

Women were asked questions about the continuity of health care providers in their pregnancy, labour and birth, and after birth care.

- The majority of women reported having the name and contact details of a care provider that they could get in touch with at any time during pregnancy (87.9%) and after their birth (89.6%).

Pregnancy Care:

- Overall, 48% of women saw the same person for all of their pregnancy care visits, 26% saw the same person for some of their visits, and 26% did not see the same person. Women who birthed in a private facility were more likely to have seen the same person every time than women who birthed in a public facility.
- The majority of women (76%) agreed that they wanted to see the same person for all of their pregnancy care visits, and was more prevalent among women who birthed in a private facility than women who birthed in a public facility (85% vs 70%).

Labour and birth care:

- 40% of women had not met their care providers for labour and birth before their labour; 7% of women said they had met all of their care providers for labour and birth before they went into labour, and the majority of women had met some of their labour and birth care providers before (52.9%).
 - Women who birthed in a private facility were significantly more likely to say they had met at least some of their labour and birth care providers before they went into labour (81.1%), than women who birthed in a public facility (46.5%).
 - Overall, 41.4% of women agreed that they wanted to meet their care providers for labour and birth before they went into labour.
- The majority of women (55%) reported that they received continuity of at least one carer throughout their labour and birth. Women who birthed in private facilities were more likely to report having at least one person who cared for them throughout their labour and birth (67.1%) than women who birthed in public facilities (47%).
 - More than a quarter of respondents said that they did not receive continuity of carer throughout their labour and birth experience but would have liked to, and this was more common among women who birthed in public (32%) than private facilities (17.4%).
 - The majority of women reported having met the person who 'delivered' their baby early in their labour (59%); women who birthed in private facilities were more likely than those who birthed in public facilities to say they had met the person who 'delivered' their baby early in their labour (82.9% vs 64.6%); women who birthed in public facilities were significantly more likely to say they didn't meet the person who delivered their baby earlier in labour but they would have liked to (16.9%) than women who birthed in private facilities (5.9%).

Care after birth:

- 62.2% of women had met at least some of the people who cared for them after their birth during their labour or birth, and this was more common among women who birthed in private facilities (84.7%), than among women who birthed in public facilities (48.7%).

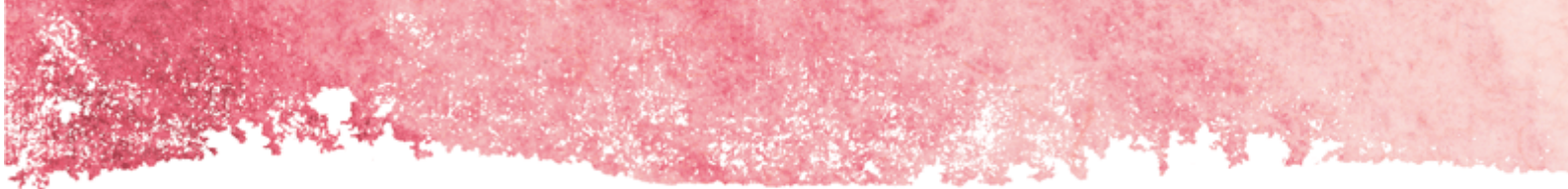
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- The majority of women saw the person who ‘delivered’ their baby again during their postnatal stay in their birth facility and this was more frequently reported by women who birthed in private (83.6%) than in public facilities (43.5%).
 - Women who birthed in public facilities were more likely to report that they did not see the person who ‘delivered’ their baby again during their postnatal stay but that they would have liked to (35.0%), than women who birthed in private facilities (8.8%)

Table 112. Name and contact details of a care provider to get in touch with at any time, by area of residency and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Name and contact details of care provider for 24/7 access during pregnancy¹²⁰														
Yes	399	(90.1)	93	(83.8)	92	(83.6)	19	(86.4)	338	(82.0)	254	(97.3)	604	(87.9)
No	44	(9.9)	18	(16.2)	18	(16.4)	3	(13.6)	74	(18.0)	7	(2.7)	83	(12.1)
Missing	4		1		-		-		5		1		6	
Name and contact details of care provider for 24/7 access at home after birth of baby¹²¹														
Yes	398	(89.4)	98	(87.5)	99	(90.0)	22	(100.0)	371	(89.2)	238	(90.8)	619	(89.6)
No	47	(10.6)	14	(12.5)	11	(10.0)	-		45	(10.8)	24	(9.2)	72	(10.4)
Missing	2		-		-		-		1		-		2	

Table 113. Name and contact details of a care provider to get in touch with at any time during pregnancy and after birth, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Name and contact details of care provider for 24/7 access during pregnancy				
Yes	286	(89.1)	314	(86.7)
No	35	(10.9)	48	(13.3)
Missing	2		2	
Name and contact details of care provider for 24/7 access at home after birth of baby				
Yes	290	(90.1)	324	(89.3)
No	32	(9.9)	39	(10.7)
Missing	1		1	

¹²⁰ Question A41. During your pregnancy did you have the name and contact details of a care provider you could get in touch with at any time if you were worried?

¹²¹ Question C20. When you were at home after the birth of your baby, did you have the name and contact details of a care provider you could get in touch with at any time if you were worried?

Table 114. Continuity of care provider for pregnancy care visits, by area of residence and type of facility

	Area of Residence (n=691)								Type of Facility (n=679)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Major City (n=447)		Inner Regional (n=112)		Outer Regional (n=110)		Remote (n=22)		Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Saw the same person for check-ups every time¹²²														
Yes, every time	222	(50.1)	44	(40.4)	52	(47.7)	8	(36.4)	109	(26.6)	211	(81.2)	327	(47.8)
Yes, some of the time	116	(26.2)	31	(28.4)	26	(23.9)	6	(27.3)	139	(33.9)	38	(14.6)	179	(26.2)
No	104	(23.5)	33	(30.3)	31	(28.4)	8	(36.4)	162	(39.5)	10	(3.8)	176	(25.7)
Only had one pregnancy check-up	1	(0.2)	1	(0.9)	-		-		-		1	(0.4)	2	(0.3)
Missing	4		3		1		-		7		2		9	
Wanted to see the same person every time for check-ups¹²³														
Strongly disagree/disagree	45	(10.2)	8	(7.5)	9	(8.4)	1	(4.8)	37	(9.1)	24	(9.4)	63	(9.3)
Neither disagree or agree	63	(14.3)	19	(17.8)	15	(14.0)	3	(14.3)	85	(20.9)	15	(5.9)	101	(14.9)
Strongly agree/agree	332	(75.5)	80	(74.8)	83	(77.6)	17	(81.0)	285	(70.0)	216	(84.7)	512	(75.7)
Missing	7		5		3		1		10		7		17	

Table 115. Continuity of care provider for pregnancy care visits, by parity

	Parity (n=687)			
	Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)	
	n	%	n	%
Saw the same person for check-ups every time				
Yes, every time	151	(47.3)	171	(47.6)
Yes, some of the time	89	(27.9)	90	(25.1)
No	79	(24.8)	96	(26.7)
Only had one pregnancy check-up	-		2	(0.6)
Missing	4		5	
Wanted to see the same person every time for check-ups				
Strongly disagree/disagree	28	(8.8)	35	(9.9)
Neither disagree or agree	52	(16.4)	48	(13.6)
Strongly agree/agree	237	(74.8)	270	(76.5)
Missing	6		11	

¹²² Question A20. Did you see the same person for your check-ups each time?

¹²³ Question A21. Thinking back to how you felt during your pregnancy, please indicate how much you disagree or agree with the following: I wanted to see the same person for my check-ups every time.

Table 116. Continuity of care provider during labour and birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=687)				Total Sample (n=693)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=323)		Multipara (n=364)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Met care providers before went into labour¹²⁴										
Yes, all of them	29	(7.0)	13	(5.0)	15	(4.7)	31	(8.6)	47	(6.9)
Yes, some of them	164	(39.5)	197	(76.1)	171	(53.6)	190	(52.6)	363	(52.9)
No	222	(53.5)	49	(18.9)	133	(41.7)	140	(38.8)	276	(40.2)
Missing	2		3		4		3		7	
Wanted to meet care providers before labour and birth¹²⁵										
Strongly disagree/disagree	74	(18.0)	51	(19.8)	52	(16.5)	73	(20.4)	126	(18.6)
Neither disagree or agree	170	(41.5)	99	(38.5)	134	(42.5)	135	(37.8)	271	(40.0)
Strongly agree/agree	166	(40.5)	107	(41.6)	129	(41.0)	149	(41.7)	281	(41.4)
Missing	7		5		8		7		15	
Constant care provider throughout birth experience¹²⁶										
Yes	195	(47.0)	173	(67.1)	163	(51.4)	211	(58.1)	377	(55.0)
No, but would have liked that	133	(32.0)	45	(17.4)	93	(29.3)	88	(24.2)	181	(26.4)
No, but it didn't matter	87	(21.0)	40	(15.5)	61	(19.2)	64	(17.6)	128	(18.7)
Missing	2		4		6		1		7	

¹²⁴ Question B66. Had you met these people before you went into labour?

¹²⁵ Question B68. How much do you disagree or agree with the following statement? I wanted to meet the people who cared for me during labour and birth before I went into labour.

¹²⁶ Question B69. Was there at least one maternity carer who cared for you right through your birthing experience (including labour)?

Table 117. Met the person who 'delivered' baby early in labour,¹²⁷ by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=558)				Parity (n=562)				All who had a labour (n=567)	
	Public (n=369)		Private (n=189)		Primipara (n=283)		Public (n=369)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes	235	(64.6)	155	(82.9)	196	(70.3)	197	(71.4)	396	(70.8)
No, but would have liked to	61	(16.8)	11	(5.9)	37	(13.3)	34	(12.3)	72	(12.9)
No, but it didn't matter	68	(18.7)	21	(11.2)	46	(16.5)	45	(16.3)	91	(16.3)
Missing	5		2		4		3		8	

Table 118. Continuity of care provider before birth to after birth, by type of facility and parity

	Type of Facility (n=679)				Parity (n=682)				All who gave birth in a hospital or birth centre (n=688)	
	Public (n=417)		Private (n=262)		Primipara (n=321)		Multipara (n=361)		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Met post-birth care providers before or during birth¹²⁸										
Yes, all of them	24	(5.8)	8	(3.1)	11	(3.5)	20	(5.5)	32	(4.7)
Yes, some of them	178	(42.9)	213	(81.6)	189	(59.4)	203	(56.2)	394	(57.5)
No	213	(51.3)	40	(15.3)	118	(37.1)	138	(38.2)	259	(37.8)
Missing	2		1		3		-		3	
Saw the person who delivered baby again during stay in the hospital or birth centre¹²⁹										
Yes	180	(43.5)	219	(83.6)	184	(57.5)	216	(60.2)	404	(59.0)
No, but would have liked to	145	(35.0)	23	(8.8)	86	(26.9)	84	(23.4)	170	(24.8)
No, but it didn't matter	89	(21.5)	20	(7.6)	50	(15.6)	59	(16.4)	111	(16.2)
Missing	3		-		1		2		3	

¹²⁷ Question B70. Did you meet the person who 'delivered' your baby early in your labour (even for a quick 'hello')?

¹²⁸ Question C12. Had you meet these people before or during your birth?

¹²⁹ Question C13. Did you see the person who 'delivered' your baby again during your stay in the hospital or birth centre (even for a quick 'hello')?

Conclusion

This report includes findings of interest from the Having a Baby in Queensland Pilot Survey conducted in 2009. They provide a broad perspective of recent maternity care consumers' experiences of the care they received and their perceptions of that care, and differences in the care experience for women who birthed in public and private facilities, who resided in different geographical areas of Queensland, and who were having their first or subsequent births. For some indicators, further findings are reported to understand the relationships between specific aspects of the maternity care experience (for example, how mode of birth might be associated with infant contact at birth, or how experiences in previous births might be associated with mode of birth in the most recent maternity care experience). The sample was largely representative of all women birthing in Queensland, with some over-representation of women who used assisted reproductive technology to become pregnant, and underrepresentation of younger and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, in the respondent sample.

Most women reported that they were looked after very well during pregnancy and labour and birth, and that there was nothing about their labour and birth facilities that needed improvement. Less than half of the sample reported being looked after very well after their birth, and more than 60% reported that aspects of the post-birth facilities needed improvement. Less than half were telephoned or visited at home by a midwife or nurse in the first 10 days at home after their birth.

The majority of women (76%) reported that they wanted to see the same person for all of their pregnancy care visits, but less than half (48%) had continuity of carer during their pregnancy care.

One fifth of women said they wanted to be more involved in their care decisions during pregnancy, 17% said they wanted to be more involved in decisions during labour and birth, and 15% wanted to be more involved in decisions after their birth. About 60% of women reported having a choice about blood and screening tests during pregnancy and half reported having a choice about having ultrasound scans during pregnancy. Less than half (47%) said they could choose how they birthed (vaginal or caesarean), 62% of women who experienced an induction of labour reported that they had a choice about whether their labour was induced, and 44% reported having a choice about fetal monitoring in labour and birth. Half of all women who had a labour reported a choice about vaginal examinations during labour (51%), 37% reported being able to choose water immersion during labour and 17% reported having a choice about water immersion during birth. Less than one fifth (18%) of women reported that they could choose the gender of their care provider(s) for labour and or birth.

Overall, there were notable differences between women who birthed in private and public facilities in the care experienced and perceived quality of care.

The findings from this report may be useful for informing the areas of highest priority in service improvement to ensure equitable and woman-centred maternity care provision in Queensland. Important areas of attention include improving the quality of postnatal care, and ensuring that women are involved in all decision-making about their care. The differences in maternity care experiences between women birthing in public and private facilities in Queensland suggest that one of the most important and early decisions women make about their care is the model of maternity care that they use. Information about the differences in maternity care experience of consumers accessing different models of care should be provided to women in a useful and accessible way to facilitate early decision-making that can ensure women's needs are met throughout their maternity care experience.