

PREGNANCY & BIRTH STATISTICS SA, 2005

Compiled by Lareen Newman and Clodia Porteous from data in "Pregnancy Outcome in SA 2005",
Pregnancy Outcome Unit, Epidemiology Branch, SA Dept of Health, Feb/March 2007:
www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/pregnancyoutcome.htm

Key points for South Australia for 2005

1. Slight increase in SA caesarean rate of 1%, to 32.4% (rose by 2% in the Level 3 public hospitals and 1% in the private hospitals; national average in 2004 was 29%).
Proportion of elective caesareans is slowly rising.
2. VBAC rate falling gradually to one in six of those who have one previous c/s. VBAC for this group is up to one in 4 at major public hospitals, and as low as one in 16 in one private hospital.
3. Caesarean rate for *first-time mums* ranged from 28% at the Women's & Children's, up to 49% and 54% in two of the private hospitals (national average in 2004 was 25%).
Note * under tables highlighting approx 10% increase in c/s for first-time mums at major public hospitals since 2003.
4. Just over one in three mothers laboured without medical pain relief.
5. Homebirth was planned by 83 SA mothers.
6. One in ten planned to birth at a birth unit or with a Midwifery Group Practice.

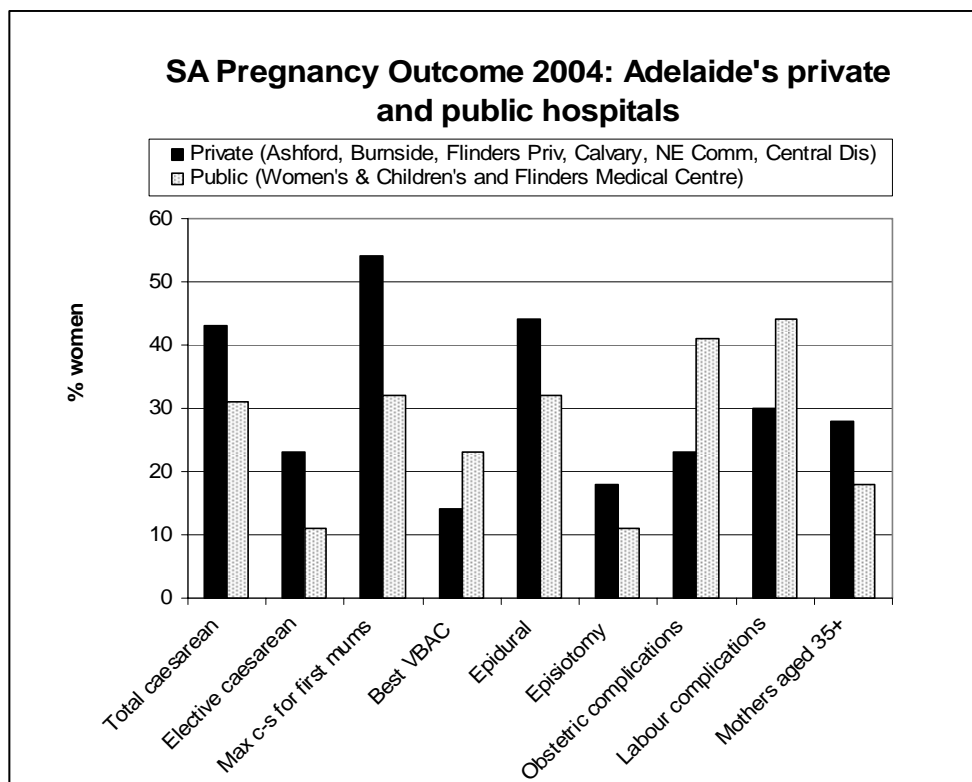
SA statistics - all births

	1981	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Normal vaginal delivery	66%	60%	59%	58%	56%	56%
Assisted birth (C-s/forceps/ventouse)	33%	40%	41%	42%	44%	44%
Caesarean section total	17%	28%	29%	30%	31.5%	32.4%
Emergency caesarean	9%	16%	17%	17%	18%	18%
Elective caesarean	8%	12%	13%	13%	14%	15%
Forceps birth	15%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Ventouse	1%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Induction	22%	28%	29%	29%	28%	28%
Epidural	n.a.	32%	32%	32%	32%	31%
No analgesia for labour	n.a.	33%	33%	33%	35%	36%
VBAC (Vaginal birth after previous caesarean section)	n.a.	n.a.	21%	20%	17%	16%

SA hospitals 2005 - babies 400g+ birthweight and born at 20+ weeks

	Public Level 3 teaching hospitals (Womens & Childrens, Flinders Medical Centre)	Metro Private hospitals (Ashford, Burnside Flinders Private Calvary, North Eastern, Central Districts)	Country hospitals (Mt Barker, Gawler, Whyalla, Mt Gambier, Other)	Other public teaching hospitals (Lyell McEwin Modbury)
Total number births	6,877	4,818	3,925	2,513
Mothers age 35 or over	18%	28%	13%	13%
Premature births	15%	5%	7%	8%
Total caesarean	31%	43%	24%	27%
Emergency c-s	20%	20%	11%	16%
Elective c-s	11%	23%	14%	12%
C-s: first-time mums	28 & 32%* ¹	Up to 54%	n.a.	32 & 29%* ²
Obstetric complications	41%	23%	25%	35%
Labour complications	44%	30%	21%	40%
VBAC	22 & 23%	6-14%	n.a.	17-23%
Induction	29%	32%	23%	29%
Epidural	32%	44%	21%	27%
Episiotomy	11%	18%	9%	14%
% first-time mothers	45%	46%	36%	40%

NOTES: *¹ Was approx 21% & 23% in 2003. *² Was 18-27% in 2003 (Lyell Mc has risen from 18% to 30%). Average % c/s for first-time mums (hospitals 500+ births) rose from 22% in 2003 to 34% in 2005. Main reasons for elective c/s: previous c/s (58%); malpresentation (13%). Main reasons for emergency c/s: failure to progress or CPD (40%) and fetal distress (26%).



SA Birthing Unit/Birth Centre/MGP statistics 2005

In 2005 there were 2,026 women who planned to birth in a birth unit or with an MGP (11% of SA women), 230 more than 2004. Half actually gave birth in labour wards – some transferred for medical or obstetric complications, but the MGP expansion at the Women's & Children's meant that the former birth centre rooms were often unavailable. Outcomes for women planning birth unit/MGP births were similar to 2004: 76% had a spontaneous vaginal delivery, 14% an emergency caesarean, 2% an elective caesarean, 6% ventouse, and 3% forceps.

Method of delivery in planned birthing unit confinements, South Australia, 2005

Method of delivery	Delivered in birthing unit		Delivered in labour ward		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Normal spontaneous vaginal	1008	98.5	524	52.2	1,532	75.6
Forceps	3	0.3	48	4.8	51	2.5
Ventouse	9	0.9	118	11.8	127	6.3
Breech spontaneous	3	0.3	2	0.2	5	0.2
Assisted breech	0	0	1	0.1	1	0.1
LSCS elective	0	0	37	3.7	37	1.8
LSCS emergency	0	0	273	27.2	273	13.5
Total	1,023	100.0	1,003	100.0	2,026	100.0

Perinatal outcome in planned birthing unit births, South Australia, 2005

Perinatal outcome	Delivered in birthing unit		Delivered in labour ward		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Stillbirth	0	0	5	0.5	5	0.2
Discharged within 28 days	1023	100	982	97.8	2,005	98.9
Prolonged hospitalisation (in hospital at 28 days)	0	0	16	1.6	16	0.8
Neonatal death	0	0	1	0.1	1	0.1
Total	1,023	100	1,004	100.0	2,027	100.0

SA Homebirths

	1981	1985	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Planned homebirths			48	68	88	87	83
- Actually born at home (A)	65	127	36	47	60	67	63
- Born in hospital			12	21	28	20	20
Births registered as home but not notified as homebirths (B)			10	10	11	9	10
Planned hospital births born before arrival at hospital (C)			50	56	66	47	73
Total births at home (A+B+C)			96	113	137	123	146

The number of planned homebirths has remained steady, despite the loss of indemnity insurance for private midwives in 2001. Of the 83 women planning homebirth in 2005, 87% had a spontaneous vaginal birth (compared with 92% in 2003), and 11% had a caesarean. Of women planning homebirth, 24% had their baby in hospital (this was 32% in 2003). Homebirth numbers are expected to increase once the SA Dept of Health's policy "*Planned Birth At Home*" comes into effect in early 2007 enabling public-hospital midwives to support women at homebirths.

Method of delivery in planned home confinements, South Australia, 2005

Method of delivery	Delivered at home		Delivered in hospital		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Normal spontaneous vaginal	63	100	9	45	72	86.8
LSCS elective	0	0	1	5	1	1.2
LSCS emergency	0	0	8	40	8	9.6
Ventouse	0	0	2	10	2	2.4
Total	63	100	20	100	83	100.0

Perinatal outcome in planned home births, South Australia, 2005

Perinatal outcome	Delivered at home		Delivered in hospital		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Live birth	63	100	20	100	83	100
Survived neonatal period	63	100	20	100	83	100
Total	63	100	20	100	83	100