

Fertility in Australia

2004 - 2014



PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Fertility in Australia 2004-2014

Published by Family Planning NSW

328–336 Liverpool Road, Ashfield NSW 2131 Australia

Ph. (02) 8752 4300 www.fpnsw.org.au

ABN: 75 000 026 335

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ISBN: 978-1-877026-44-7

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Suggested citation:

Family Planning NSW. Fertility in Australia 2004-2014. Ashfield, Sydney: FPNSW; 2017.

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Family Planning NSW would like to thank Dr Alex Wang, Associate Professor, University of Technology for generously providing his time and expertise to review this monograph.

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KEY INDICATORS

- Number of live births
- Total fertility rate
- Crude fertility rate
- Age-specific fertility rate
- Net reproduction rate
- Maternal age

PRIMARY DATA SOURCES

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Births, catalogue number 3301.0, 2014

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>

PURPOSE OF THIS MONOGRAPH

- to compare fertility rates between Australia and other countries
- to describe fertility trends in Australia
- to describe fertility rates and trends in population subgroups
- to identify areas of data development.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) terms and definitions¹ are used in this monograph:

Live birth: The delivery of a child, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, who, after being born, breathes or shows any evidence of life such as a heartbeat.

Total fertility rate (TFR): The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per 1,000 females of the estimated resident population of that age) divided by 1,000. It represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.

Crude fertility rate: The number of live births registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident persons at 30 June of that year.

Fertility rate: The number of live births per 1,000 women.

Age-specific fertility rate: The number of live births (registered) during the calendar year, according to the age of the mother, per 1,000 of the female estimated resident population of the same age at 30 June. For calculating these rates, births to mothers under 15 years are included in the 15-19 years age group, and births to mothers aged 50 years and over are included in the 45-49 years age group. Pro rata adjustment is made for births for which the age of the mother is not given.

Net reproduction rate: The average number of daughters that would be born to a group of females if they are subject to the fertility and mortality rates of a given year during their future life. It indicates the extent to which the population would reproduce itself. The net reproduction rate is obtained by multiplying the age-specific birth rates (for female births only) by the proportion of survivors at corresponding ages in a life table and adding the products.

Remoteness Area: Within the Australian Standard Geography Standard (ASGS, 2011), the remoteness classification comprises seven categories called Remoteness Areas (RAs). Each RA is created from the grouping of Mesh Blocks identifying a (non-contiguous) region in Australia having a particular degree of remoteness. The RA categories for Australia in this monograph are: Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote, and Very Remote.

Indigenous birth: Birth to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander mothers or fathers, unless stated otherwise.

Median age of mothers: The age that divides all mothers who give birth in the same year into two numerically equal groups; that is, half the mothers are younger than this age and half are older.

Teenage fertility rate: The number of births during the calendar year to women aged 15-19 years, per 1,000 females of the estimated resident population aged 15-19 years at 30 June of the same year. Births to women aged under 15 years are included.

DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics

The ABS collects data from state and territory registrations of births, deaths and marriages.¹ The ABS data includes all important fertility indicators including number of live births, total fertility rate, crude fertility rate, maternal age, age-specific fertility rate, and net reproduction rate. The data are available by state and territory of residence, remoteness status, Indigenous status and maternal country of birth. However, the ABS data have some limitations:

Delayed registration

Registration of births within 60 days of birth is compulsory in Australia. However, there can be delays in registration, especially in the months of November and December. To accommodate this, births that occur during the reference year but are registered by 31 March of the following year are counted in the reference year. A close examination showed 12% of births registered in 2006 actually occurred in previous years.²

From 1 July 2007, to improve registration of births, parents were required to register the birth of their child prior to receiving the Baby Bonus.² Since March 2014, although the Baby Bonus was replaced in the form of an additional loading on an eligible families' FTB-A payment, parents are still required to register the birth of their child prior to receiving the payment.³

The ABS reports the number of live births both by year of occurrence and by year of registration at national and state level. However, data by year of occurrence for the most recent years are likely to be underreported due to delays in registration. Data on all other indicators are reported by year of registration.

In June 2014, the New South Wales Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (NSW Registry) transitioned to a new data processing system which resulted in temporary processing delays. These delays caused a number of birth records received by the NSW Registry in 2014 to be processed in 2015. As a result, the total number of births registered in New South Wales in 2014 (91,074) was 9,388 (9.3%) less than the number registered in 2013 (100,462).¹

Intercensal errors

Population data are used as denominators to calculate fertility rates. The census provides the most accurate information on population data. The most recent census years were 2001, 2006 and 2011. During intercensal periods, population estimates are used in lieu of census data and errors are likely to occur.

Data from the ABS, by year of registration were used for this monograph because the data set contained all important fertility indicators and data were available by state and territory of residence. The ABS data are also the main data source for other research on fertility in Australia.^{2,4}

The United Nations

The United Nations (UN) compiles data for each country using the most recent available information.⁵ The UN uses the same definition of live births as the ABS.

Other data sources

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit produces the annual Australia's Mothers and Babies reports. Information on the number of live births and maternal age is reported but information on other fertility indicators, such as total fertility rate (TFR) or crude birth rate is not available.⁶ Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare were not used in this monograph.

SUMMARY

Between 2010 and 2015, Australia had a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.9 children per woman, higher than the average for developed countries of 1.7 children per woman but below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman.

Increased fertility

The number of live births increased from nearly 255,000 in 2004 to over 302,000 in 2008, remained at around the same level between 2009 and 2011, and then increased to approximately 310,000 in 2012. In 2014, total live births fell to less than 300,000 but this decline was largely due to delayed processing in New South Wales. Overall, there was still an increase of 18% from 2004 to 2014. The TFR increased from 1.8 children per woman in 2004 to 2.0 in 2008, and then fell to 1.8 in 2014.

Maternal age

The median age of mothers increased from 30.6 years in 2004 to 30.9 years in 2014. In 2014, women aged 30-34 years had the largest number of births (over 102,000, 34% of total births) and the highest fertility rate (120 live births per 1,000 women).

From 2004 to 2014, the largest increases in the number of births were among women of older age groups of 35-39 (28%), 40-44 (48%) and 45-49 (105%).

Fertility by state and territory

The Northern Territory and Tasmania had the highest TFRs of 2.1 and 2.0 children per woman respectively and the lowest median age of mothers (28.9 and 29.6 years respectively). Tasmania had the highest fertility rates among the age group of 25-29 years and 30-34 years, with 118.6 and 118.5 live births per 1,000 women respectively, while other states and territories followed the national pattern of having the highest fertility rates among the age group of 30-34 years.

Fertility by area of remoteness

More remote areas had higher fertility rates compared to less remote areas. In 2014, the TFR increased from 1.8 children per woman in major cities to 2.1 children per woman in inner regional areas, 2.2 children per woman in outer regional areas and 2.3 and 2.2 children per woman for remote and very remote areas respectively.

Indigenous births

In 2014, Indigenous births accounted for 6% of total births. Indigenous women had a higher TFR of 2.2 children per woman and a lower median age of mothers (25.1 years) compared to all women in Australia. Queensland had the highest number of Indigenous births (5,345) and the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous births (over 36%).

Fertility by maternal country of birth

In 2014, 34% of all live births were to mothers who were born overseas. Women from North Africa and the Middle East had the highest TFR of 2.8 children per woman.

Fertility among teenagers

In 2014, 3% of total births were to teenage mothers. The fertility rate was 13 live births per 1,000 teenagers.

The teenage fertility rate was higher in:

- the Northern Territory (43 live births per 1,000 teenagers)
- in very remote areas (81 live births per 1,000 teenagers)
- among Indigenous teenagers (57 live births per 1,000 teenagers) and
- among North African and Middle Eastern teenagers (23 live births per 1,000 teenagers).

The number of live births among teenagers decreased from approximately 10,900 in 2004 to just over 9,200 in 2014, a reduction of 15%.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

For a population to replace itself from one generation to the next, the TFR, or the number of children born to a woman over her lifetime, needs to reach the replacement rate. The current replacement rate for developed countries is 2.1 children per woman and for developing countries, due to their higher mortality rates, ranges between 2.5 and 3.3 children per woman.⁷

The TFR has been declining across the world over the last decades.⁵ In developed countries the fertility rate has reduced from 2.8 children per woman in the 1950s to 1.7 children per woman in the 2000s (much lower than the replacement rate). Contributing factors to the decline in the fertility rate include:

- increased availability and access to contraception
- delayed childbearing
- increased female participation in the formal workforce
- increased direct and indirect costs of having children
- reduced formation of partnerships
- increased partnership breakdowns
- increased social acceptance of having fewer or no children
- increased parental desire to spend more time and energy on fewer children.⁴

Global economics also play an important role. When there is an economic downturn the fertility rate correspondingly declines. The most obvious example of this is the decline in the fertility rate during the Great Depression (1929-1940).⁸ Conversely, when there is economic prosperity the fertility rate increases demonstrated by the Baby Boom after World War II ended in 1945.⁸⁻¹⁰

Most developed countries have policies to boost fertility rates.¹¹⁻¹³ These policies are mainly monetary incentives (e.g. a payment for each new child and/or paid parental leave) or policies which assist parents to combine work force participation and parenting (e.g. child care assistance and flexible working arrangements). This raises the overall perception of family support which is important in addressing low fertility rates.¹⁴

In Australia, the TFR increased from 3.2 children per woman between 1950-1955 to 3.4 between 1955-1960 (Baby Boom) and then reduced to below 2 children per woman in the 1980s.^{2,10} It reached its lowest level in 2001 with 1.7 children per woman but started to increase gradually after the introduction of the baby bonus in 2004 and continued to increase to 2.0 children per woman in 2008. Thereafter, the TFR has decreased to 1.8 children per woman in 2015.

1.2 FERTILITY: INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

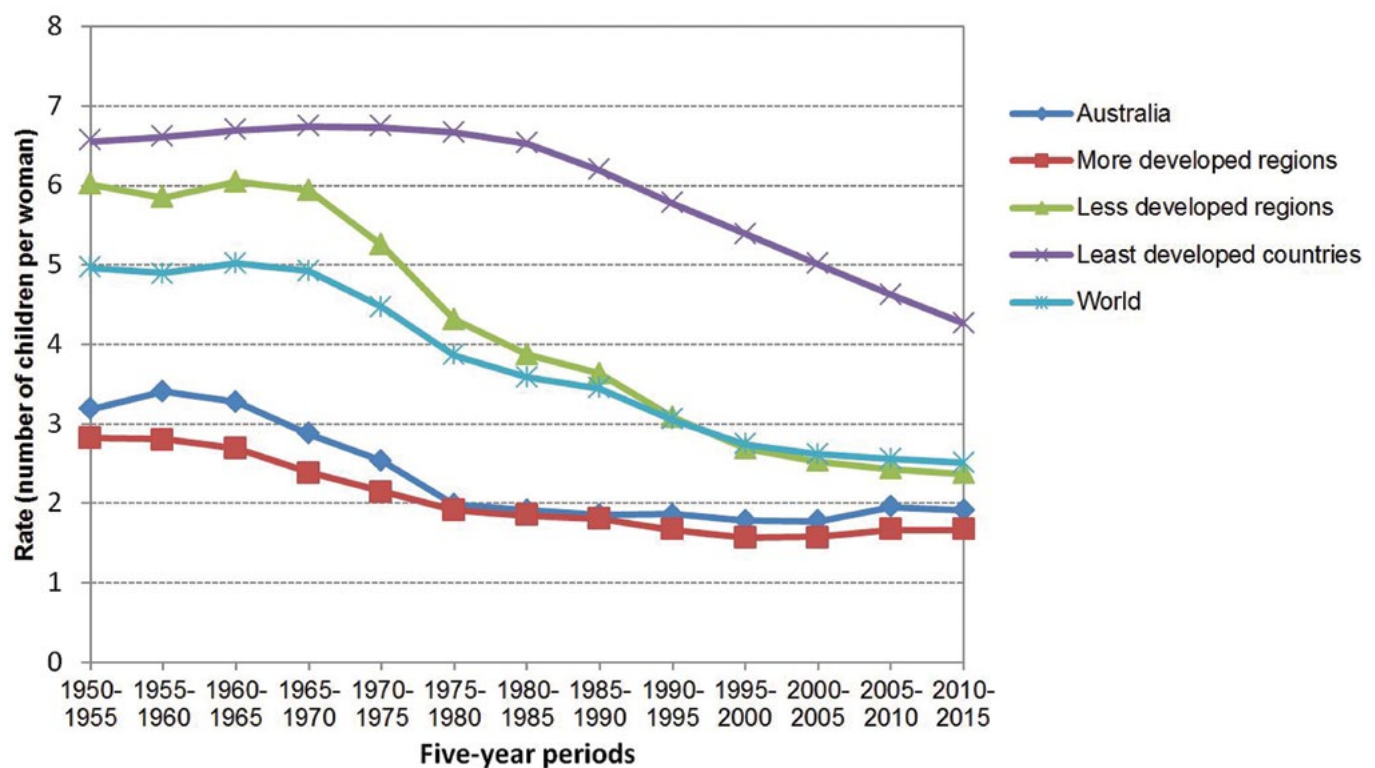
1.2.1 Live births

Between 2010 and 2015 there were around 699 million births worldwide.⁵ During the same period there were around 1.6 million births in Australia¹.

1.2.2 Total fertility rate

Between 1950 and 2015 the TFR decreased in all parts of the world (Figure 1.1). Australia consistently had a higher TFR than the average in developed countries, but much lower than the world average. For example, during the most recent years (2010-2015), the TFR in Australia was 1.9 children per woman, higher than the average for developed countries of 1.7 but lower than the replacement rate of 2.1 and much lower than the world average of 2.5. The TFR was highest in least developed countries (4.3 children per woman).

Figure 1.1: International comparison of total fertility rate in five-year periods, 1950 to 2015



Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

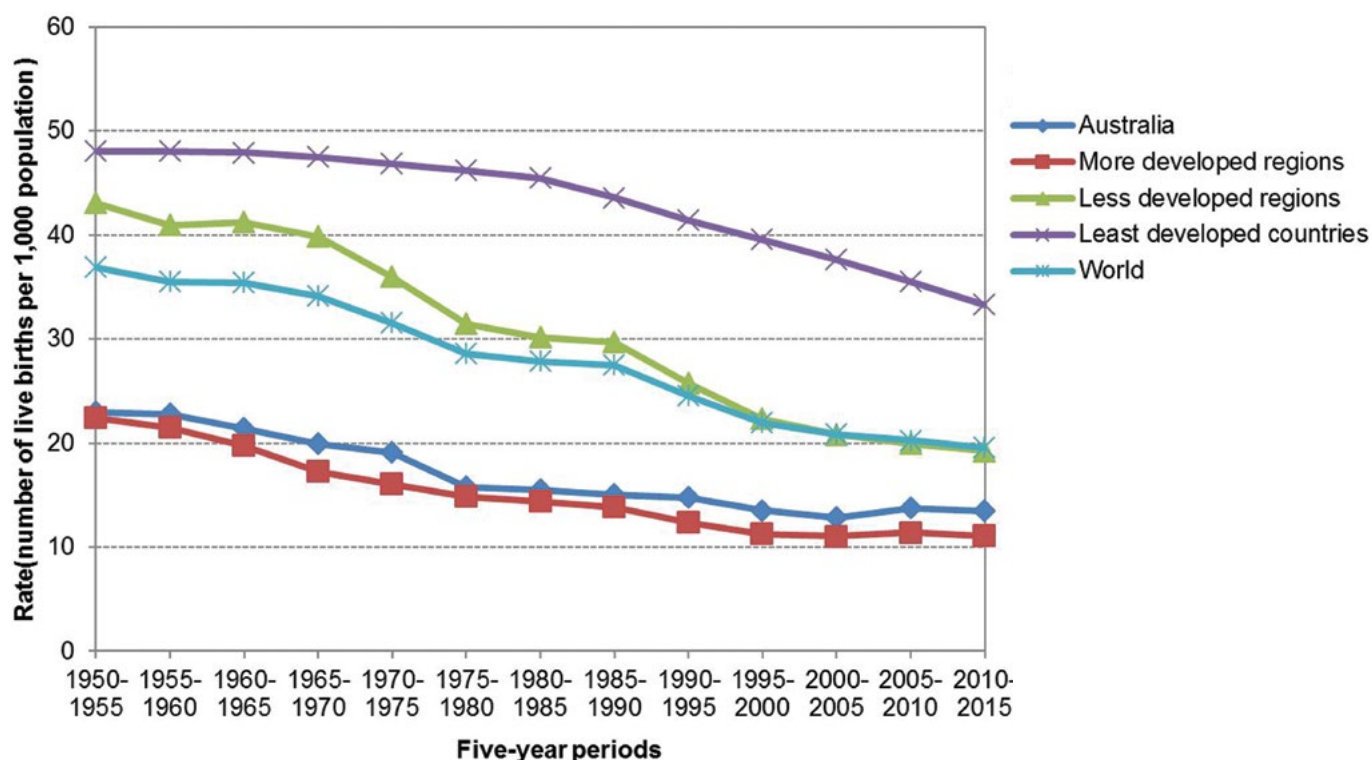
Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries. Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

1.2.3 Crude fertility rate

Between 1950 and 2015, the crude fertility rate decreased in all regions (Figure 1.2). Australia consistently had a higher crude fertility rate than the average in developed countries, but much lower than in less and least developed countries. In the five year period between 2010 and 2015, the crude birth rate in Australia was 14 live births per 1,000 population, compared to 11 for developed countries, 19 for less developed countries and 33 for least developed countries.

Figure 1.2: International comparison of crude fertility rate in five-year periods, 1950 to 2015



Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

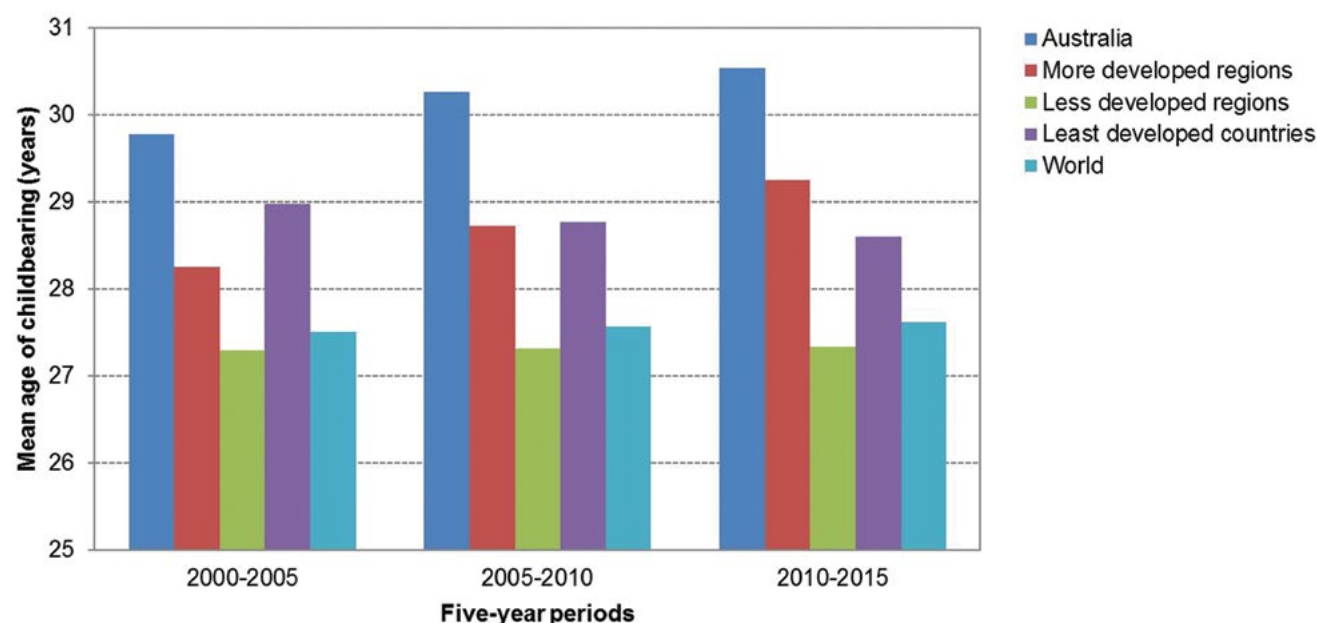
Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries. Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

1.2.4 Maternal age

Mean maternal age in Australia increased from 29.8 years in the five year period 2000-2005 to 30.5 years in 2010-2015 (Figure 1.3). Mean maternal age in Australia was higher than in more developed countries (29.3 in 2010-2015) and much higher than in less and least developed countries (27.3 and 28.6 respectively). While mean maternal age in the more developed countries increased, mean maternal age in less and least developed countries decreased.

Figure 1.3: International comparison of maternal mean age in five-year periods, 2000 to 2015



Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries. Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

1.2.5 Live births by maternal age group

In Australia, the proportion of women giving birth varied by maternal age with women aged 30-34 years having the highest proportion of live births (32.8%) (Table 1.1). In more developed countries, women aged 25-29 years had the highest proportion of live births (29.8%). In less and least developed countries, women aged 20-24 years had the highest proportion of live births (34.3% and 29.1% respectively).

Australia had a smaller proportion of teenage births (3.6%) than the average in developed countries (4.9%) and much lower than the averages in less and least developed countries (8.4% and 15.4% respectively).

Table 1.1: International comparison of births by maternal age group (%), 2010 to 2015

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Australia	3.6	13.6	27.7	32.8	18.3	3.9	0.2
More developed regions	4.9	18.6	29.8	28.8	14.7	3.1	0.2
Less developed regions	8.4	34.3	30.8	16.3	7.3	2.3	0.5
Least developed countries	15.4	29.1	25.4	16.7	9.0	3.4	0.9
World	9.6	31.7	29.5	17.6	8.4	2.6	0.6

Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries

Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean.

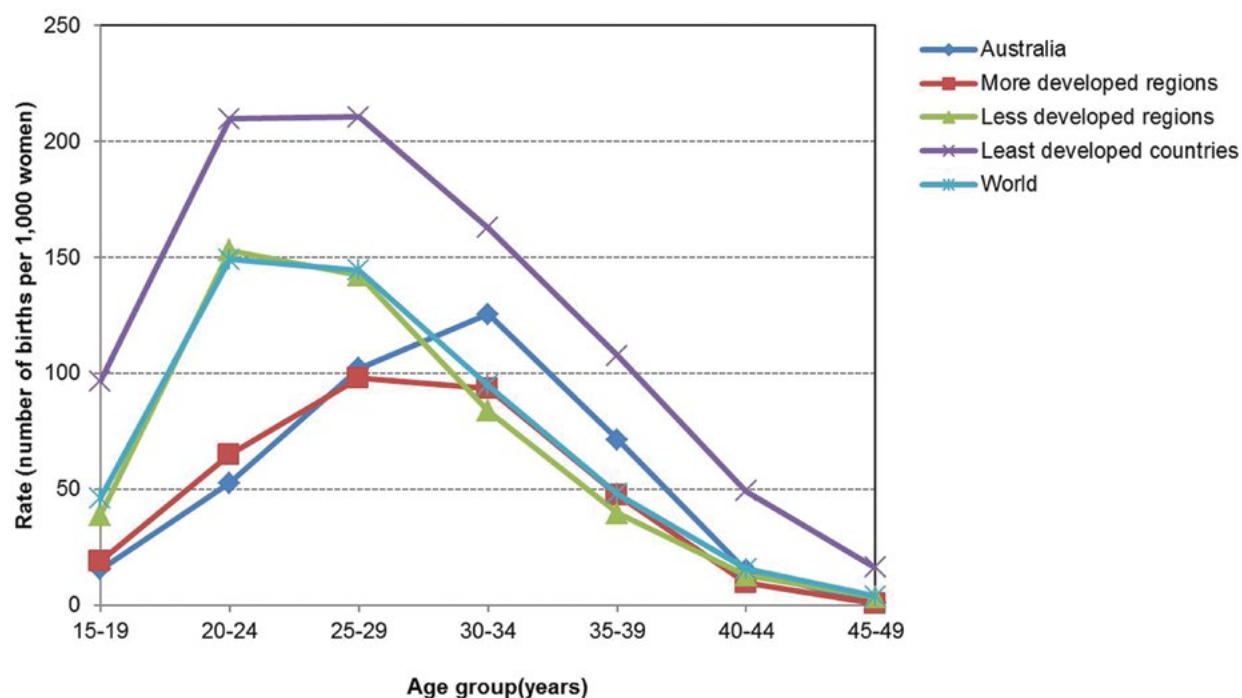
Data does not include births to women under 15 years and above 49 years.

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

1.2.6 Age-specific fertility rate

Women aged 30-34 years in Australia and women aged 25-29 years in more developed countries had the highest fertility rates. Women aged 20-24 years in less and least developed countries had the highest fertility rates (Figure 1.4). The teenage (15-19 years) fertility rate was lower in Australia (16 births per 1,000 women) than the average in developed countries (19 births per 1,000 women) and much lower than the averages in less and least developed countries (39 and 97 births per 1,000 women respectively).

Figure 1.4: International comparison of age-specific fertility rate, 2010 to 2015



Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan
 Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries
 Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean
 Data does not include births to women under 15 years and above 49 years

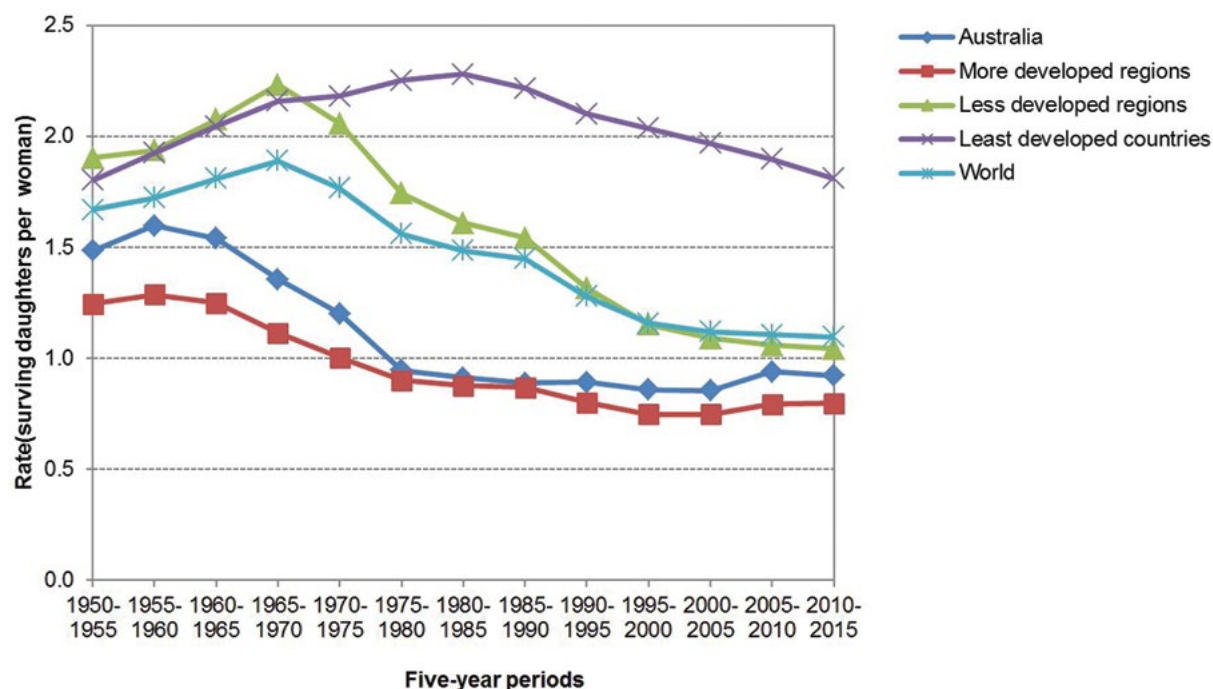
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

1.2.7 Net reproduction rate

From 1950 to 2015, the net reproduction rate reduced substantially in all parts of the world, except in least developed countries where the decrease was small (Figure 1.5).

Australia had a higher net reproduction rate than the average in developed countries (0.92 daughters per woman compared to 0.80 daughters per woman in 2010-2015), but lower than in less and least developed countries (1.04 and 1.81 daughters per woman in 2010-2015, respectively).

Figure 1.5: International comparison of net reproduction rate in five-year periods, 1950 to 2015



Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries

Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015. Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

1.3 FERTILITY IN AUSTRALIA

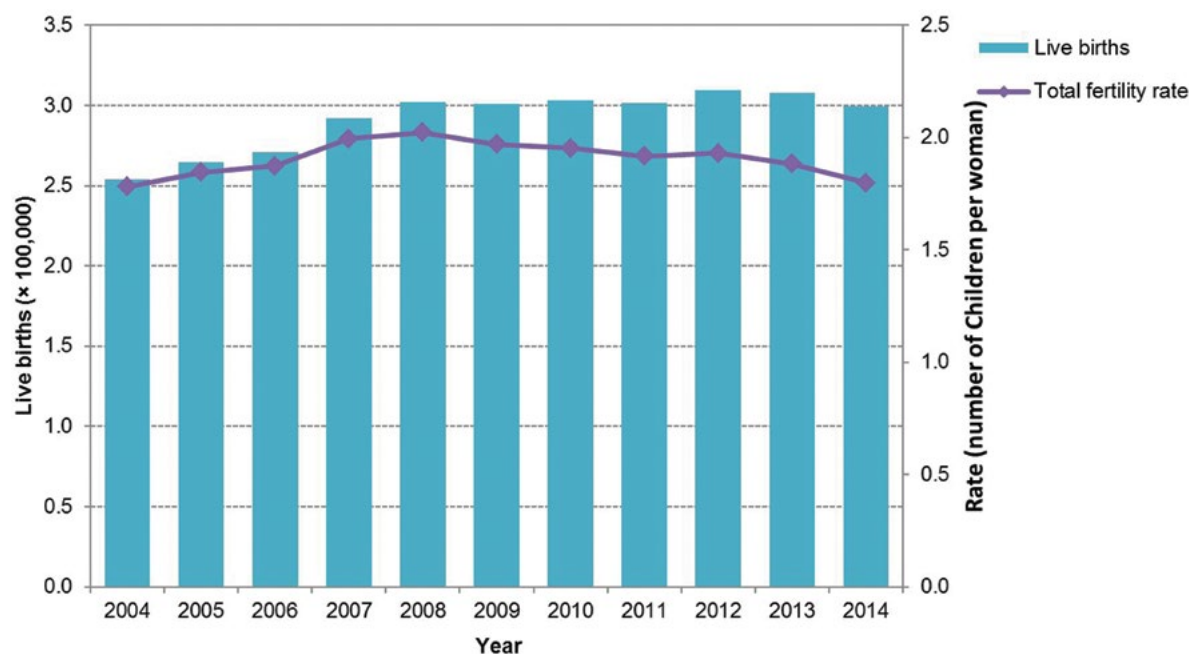
1.3.1 Live births

Between 2004 and 2008, the annual number of live births in Australia increased from 254,000 to over 302,000 and remained at around this level from 2009 to 2011. After 2011, the number of live births increased to over 309,000 and 308,000 in 2012 and 2013, respectively, and then decreased to just under 300,000 in 2014. The number of birth registered in 2014 was approximately 8,400 (2.7%) less than the number registered in 2013 (308,065). In New South Wales, approximately 9,400 less births were registered in 2014 than in 2013 (possibly explained by delays due to the transfer to the new registration system in New South Wales). This was the main reason for the decrease at the national level (Figure 1.6).¹ There was an increase of 18% between 2004 and 2014. Most of the increase (19%) occurred between 2004 and 2008, when the Baby Bonus was introduced and increased.

1.3.2 Total fertility rate

The TFR increased from 1.8 children per woman in 2004 to 2.0 in 2008, it then fell to 1.8 in 2014 (Figure 1.6).

Figure 1.6: Live births and total fertility rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014

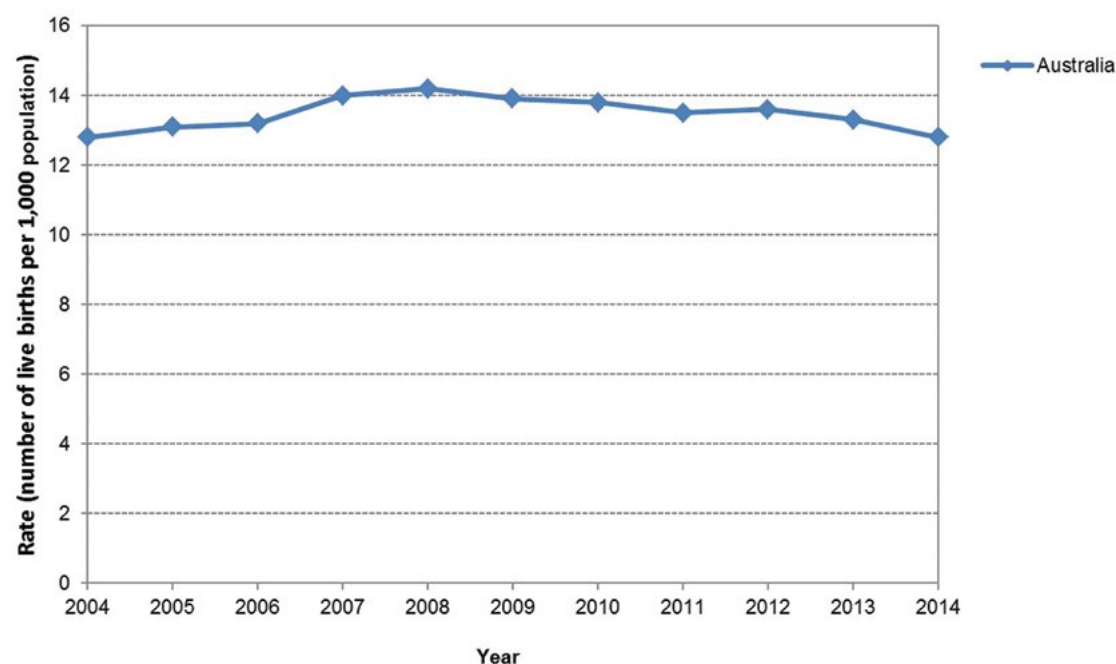


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.3.3 Crude fertility rate

From 2004 to 2008, the crude fertility rate increased from 12.8 to 14.2 live births per 1,000 population. It then decreased to 13.9 live births per 1,000 population in 2009 and declined to 12.8 in 2014 (Figure 1.7).

Figure 1.7: Crude fertility rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014

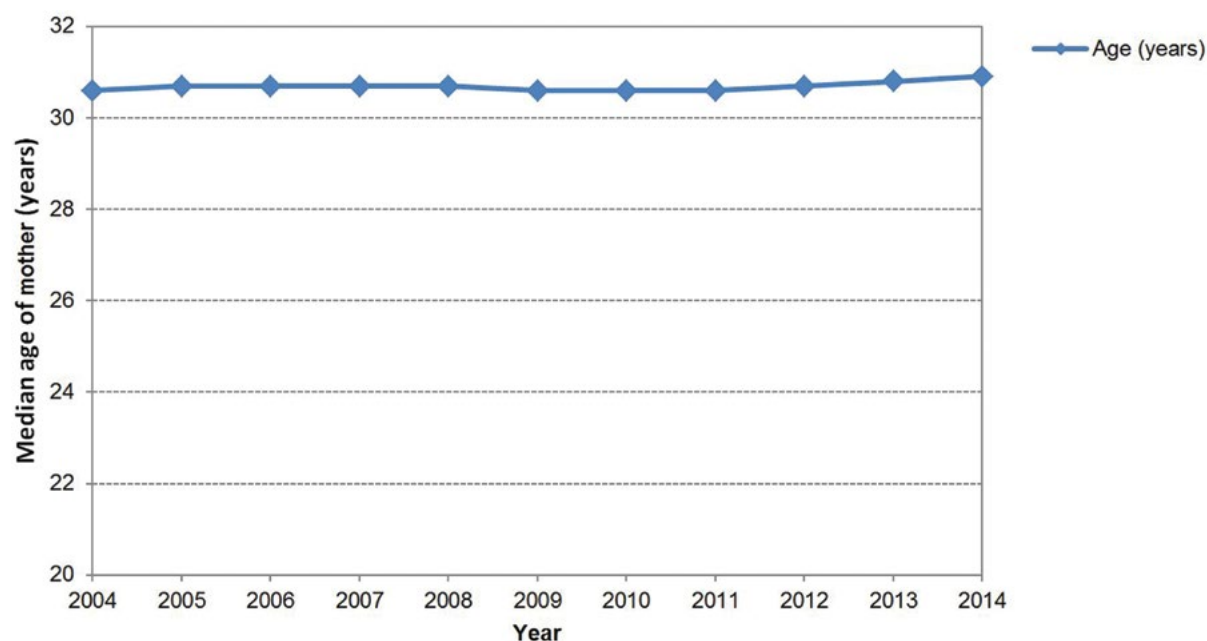


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.3.4 Maternal age

The median age of mothers in Australia increased slightly from 30.6 years in 2004 to 30.9 in 2014 (Figure 1.8).

Figure 1.8: Median age (years) of mothers in Australia, 2004 to 2014

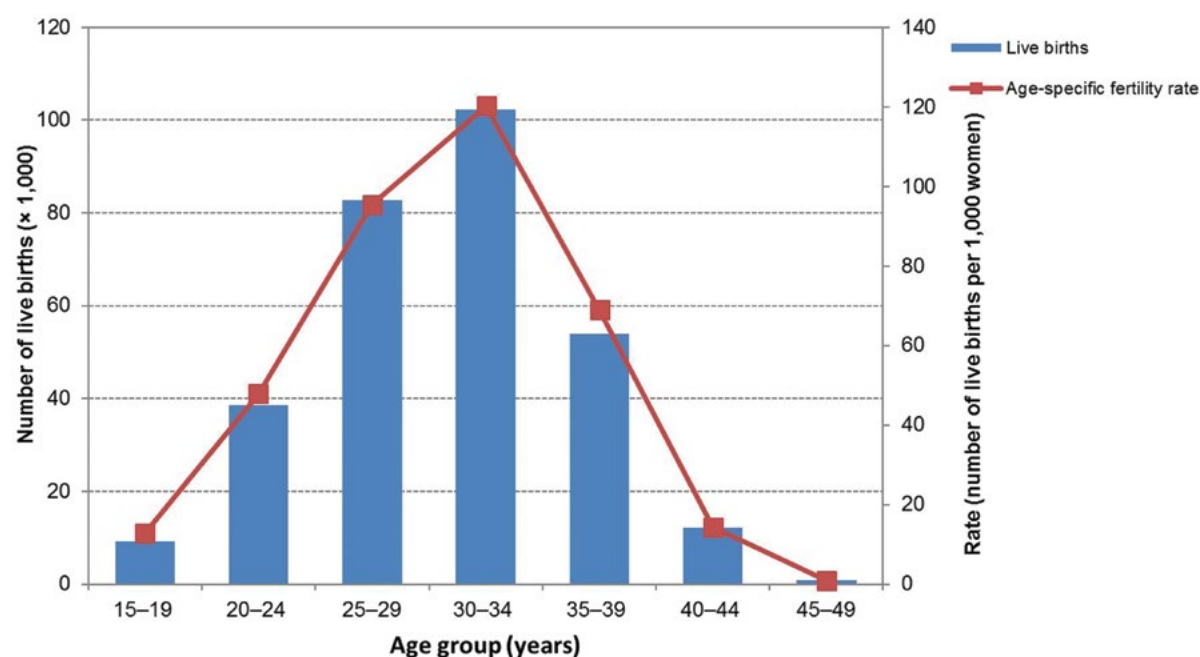


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.3.5 Live births by maternal age group

In 2014, the number of live births was highest among women aged 30-34 years (over 102,000, 34.2% of total births) and lowest among women aged 45-49 years (777, 0.3% of total births) (Figure 1.9).

Figure 1.9: Number of live births by maternal age group and age-specific fertility rate in Australia, 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

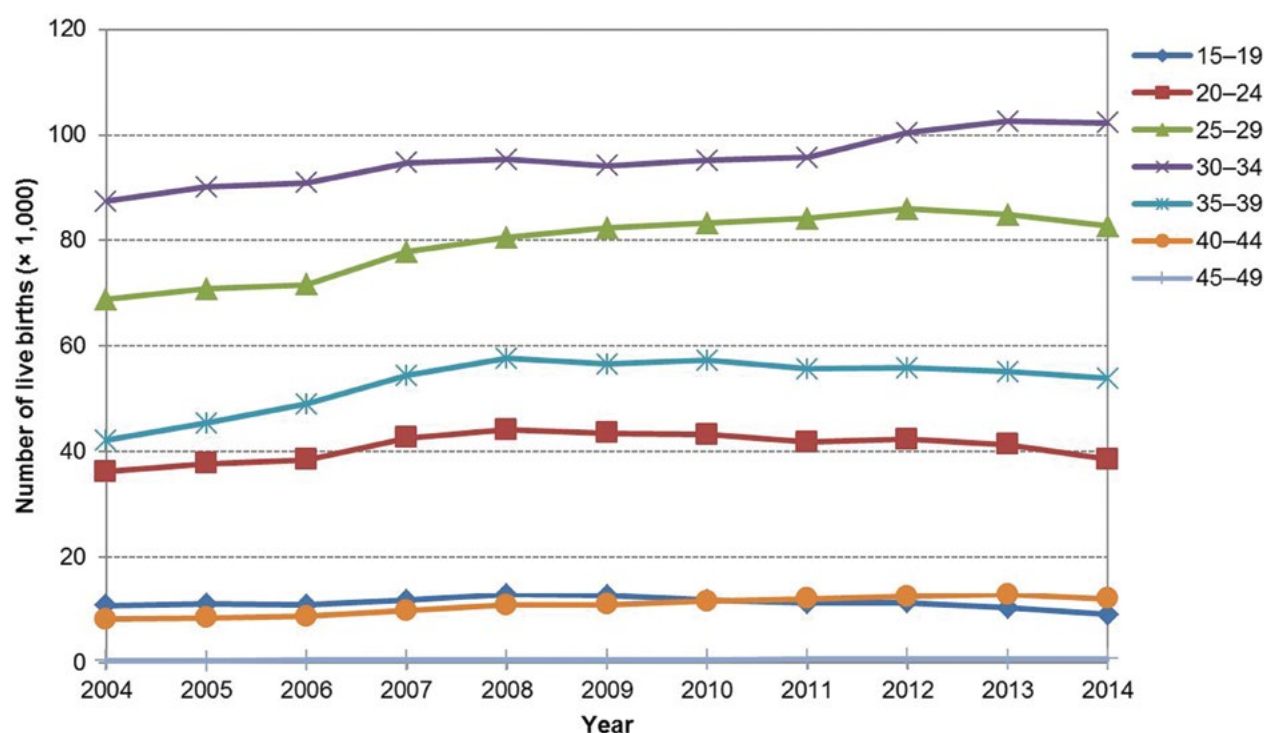
From 2004 to 2008, an increase in live births was observed in all age groups; with the largest increases among women aged 35 years or older (Figure 1.10).

Between 2008 and 2012, the number of live births decreased among women aged 24 years or younger (with a decrease of 12% among 15-19 years and 4% among 20-24 years, respectively), but increased among women aged 25 years or older.

After 2012, the number of live births decreased or remained the same in all age groups, except in women aged 30-34 years old (where the number of live births increased by 2%).

Overall, from 2004 to 2014, the number of live births increased in all age groups, except in teenage women (where the number of live births decreased by 15%). The largest increases were among the older age groups of 35-39 (28%), 40-44 (48%) and 45-49 (105%).

Figure 1.10: Number of live births by maternal age group in Australia, 2004 to 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

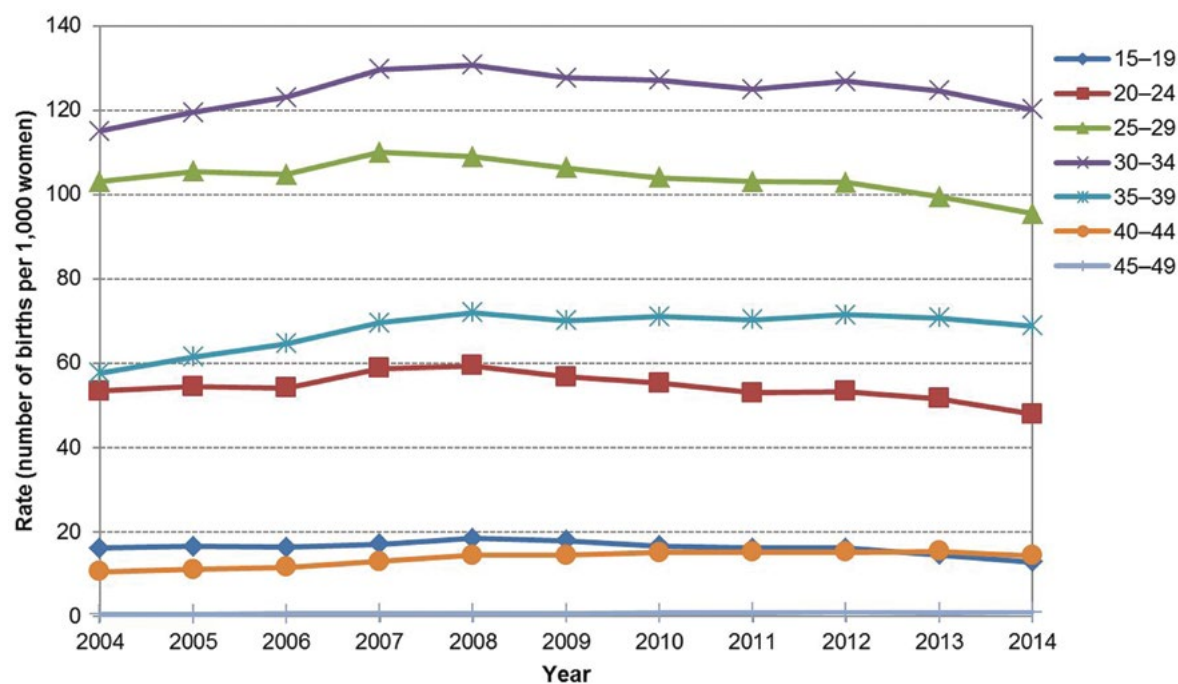
1.3.6 Age-specific fertility rate

The trends for age-specific fertility rates reflected the pattern of live births for each age group (Figure 1.11). In 2014, the age group 30-34 years had the highest fertility rate of 120 live births per 1,000 women, followed by the age group 25-29 years (96 live births per 1,000 women). The groups with the lowest fertility rate were women aged 40-44 (14 live births per 1,000 women) and teenagers (13 live births per 1,000 women). The fertility rate among women aged 45 or older was very low, with 1 live birth per 1,000 women.

Between 2004 and 2008, the fertility rate increased in all age groups, but the largest increases were among age groups 35-39 years and 40-44 years. From 2008 to 2012, the fertility rate decreased among women aged 39 years or younger but slightly increased among women aged 40 years or older. After 2012, the fertility rates reduced in all age groups.

Overall, from 2004 to 2014, fertility rates decreased among women aged 29 years or younger and increased among women aged 30 years or older. The largest increases were among the older age groups 35-39 years (19%) and 40-44 years (36%).

Figure 1.11: Age-specific fertility rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014

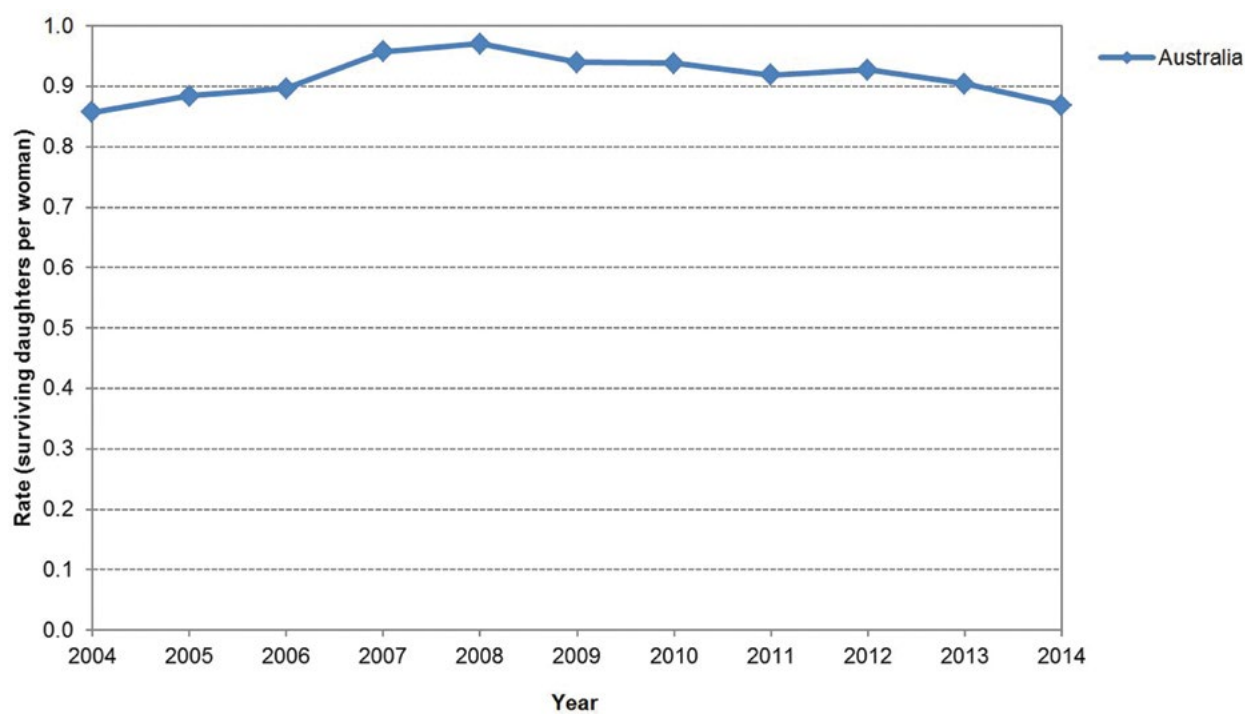


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.3.7 Net reproduction rate

The net reproduction rate increased from 0.86 daughters surviving to reproductive age per woman in 2004, to 0.97 in 2008; and fell to 0.87 in 2014 (Figure 1.12).

Figure 1.12: Net reproduction rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

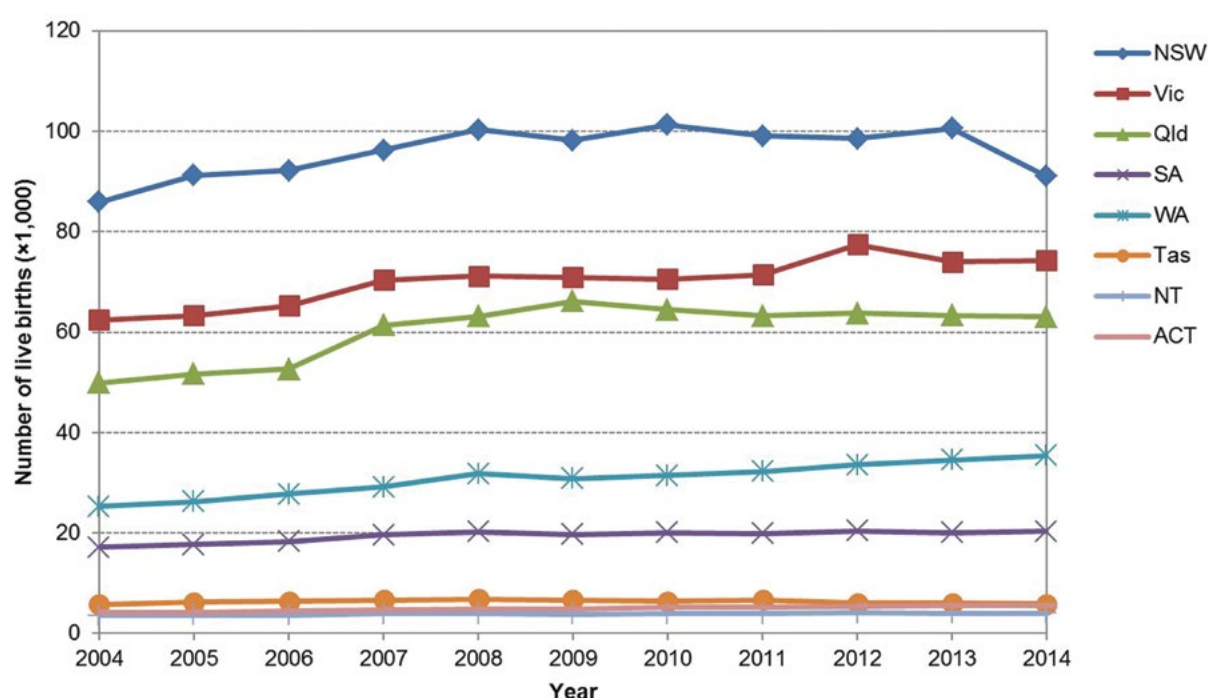
1.4 FERTILITY BY STATE AND TERRITORY

1.4.1 Live births

In June 2014, the New South Wales Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (NSW Registry) transitioned to a new data processing system that resulted in temporary processing delays. These delays caused a number of birth records received by the NSW Registry in 2014 to be processed in 2015. Although such delays meant that 9,388 fewer births were registered in New South Wales in 2014 compared to 2013, New South Wales still had the highest number of live births (more than 91,000 in 2014), followed by Victoria (over 74,000 live births) (Figure 1.13). The Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory had the lowest number of live births (approximately 5,500 and 4,000 live births respectively).

The number of live births in all states increased markedly between 2006 and 2008 with Queensland having the largest increase. Overall, from 2004 to 2014, an increase was observed in all states and territories, with the exception of a decrease in NSW in 2014 due to the processing delays of the NSW Registry. The largest increase was in Western Australia (40%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (33%) and Queensland (26%).

Figure 1.13: Live births by state and territory, 2004 to 2014



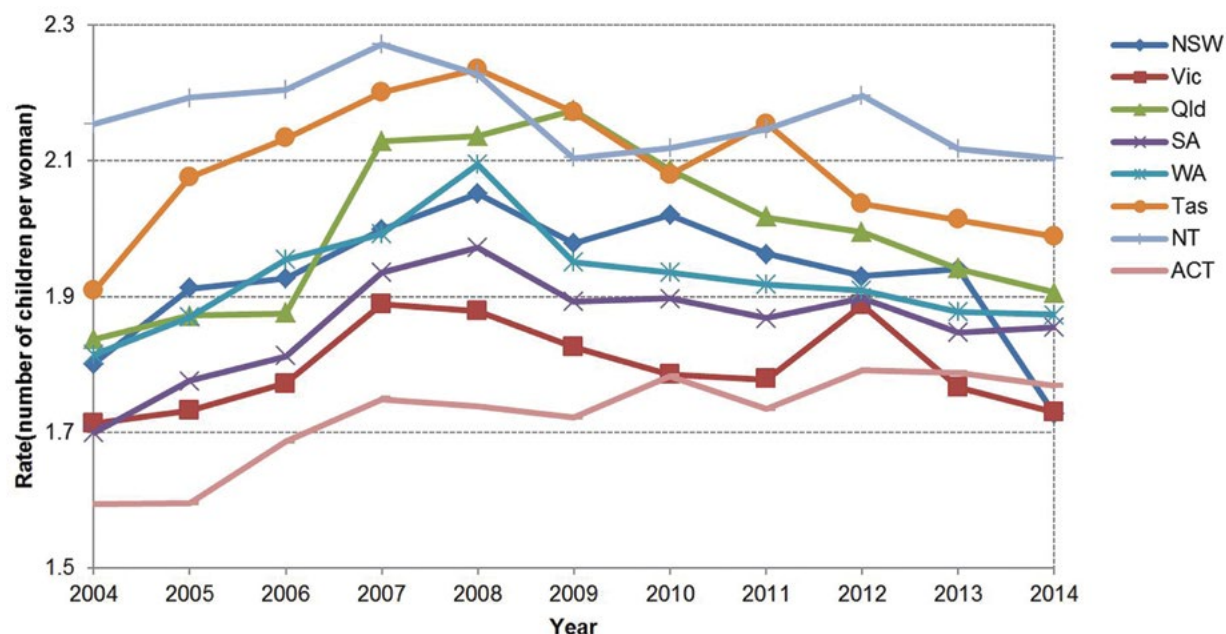
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.4.2 Total fertility rate

In 2014, the Northern Territory and Tasmania had the highest TFR of 2.10 and 1.99 children per woman. New South Wales was the state with the lowest TFR (1.73 children per woman) (Figure 1.14). The sharp decline of the fertility rate in New South Wales from 2013 to 2014 may be explained by the delays in registration of births due to the transition to the new registration system in June 2014.

Between 2004 and 2008, the TFR increased in all states and territories. From 2008 to 2012, the TFR fluctuated in all states and territories, except in Western Australia where the TFR decreased from 2.1 children per woman in 2008 to 1.9 in 2012. After 2012, the TFR declined in all states and territories. Overall, from 2004 to 2014, the TFR increased in all states and territories, except in New South Wales and the Northern Territory, where the TFR decreased from 1.8 and 2.2 children per woman in 2004, to 1.7 and 2.1 children per woman in 2014 respectively. The Australian Capital Territory and South Australia had the largest increase in the TFR (11% and 9% respectively). The decrease of the TFR in New South Wales may be explained by the registration problem in 2014 as previously mentioned.

Figure 1.14: Total fertility rate by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

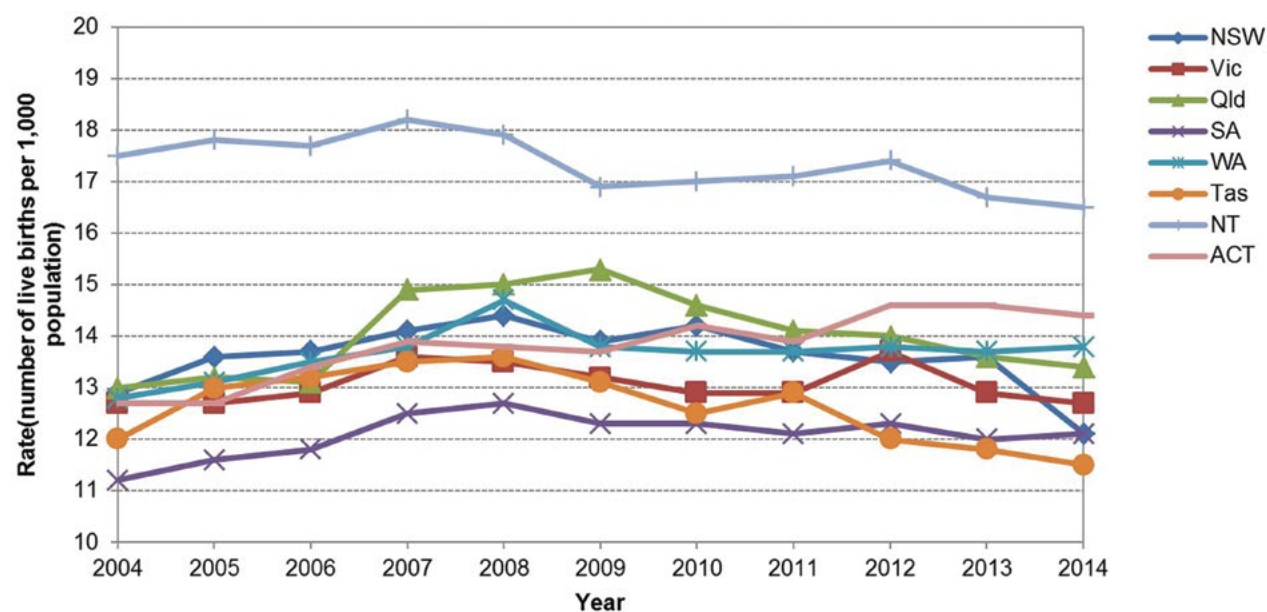


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.4.3 Crude fertility rate

The Northern Territory consistently had a higher crude fertility rate than in other states and territories (Figure 1.15). In 2014, the crude fertility rate in the Northern Territory was 16.5 live births per 1,000 population. Tasmania had the lowest crude fertility rate of 11.5 live births per 1,000 population. The crude fertility rate in New South Wales and the Northern Territory decreased from 12.9 and 17.5 live births per 1,000 population in 2004 to 12.1 and 16.5 live births per 1,000 population in 2014. In contrast, the crude fertility rates in other states increased slightly or remained the same between 2004 and 2014. The decrease of the crude fertility rate in New South Wales could be explained by the birth registration delays due to the transfer to a new registration system in 2014.

Figure 1.15: Crude fertility rate by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

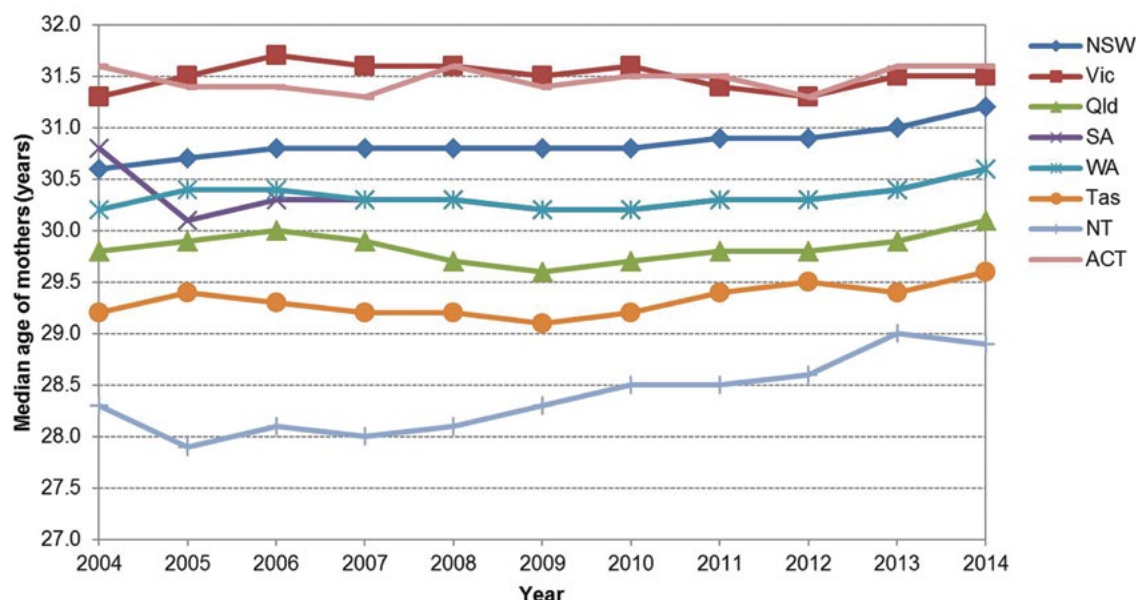


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.4.4 Maternal age

The Northern Territory consistently had the lowest median age of mothers, followed by Tasmania (Figure 1.16). Australian Capital Territory and Victoria had the highest median age of mothers. The median age increased in all states and territories except South Australia. For example, the median age in the Northern Territory increased from 28.3 years in 2004 to 28.9 years in 2014. The median age in Victoria increased from 31.3 years in 2004 to 31.5 years in 2014.

Figure 1.16: Median age (years) of mothers by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

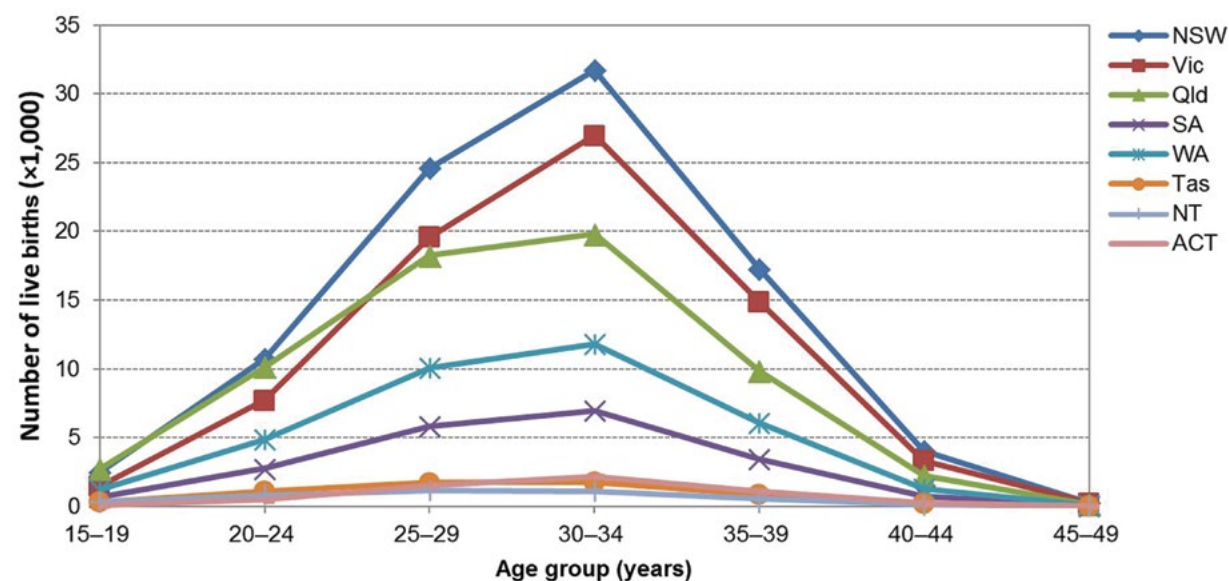


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.4.5 Live births by maternal age group

New South Wales had more live births than any other state, in all age groups except the age group 15-19 years for which Queensland had more live births (2,720 compared to 2,455 in New South Wales) (Figure 1.17).

Figure 1.17: Live births by maternal age group by state and territory, 2014

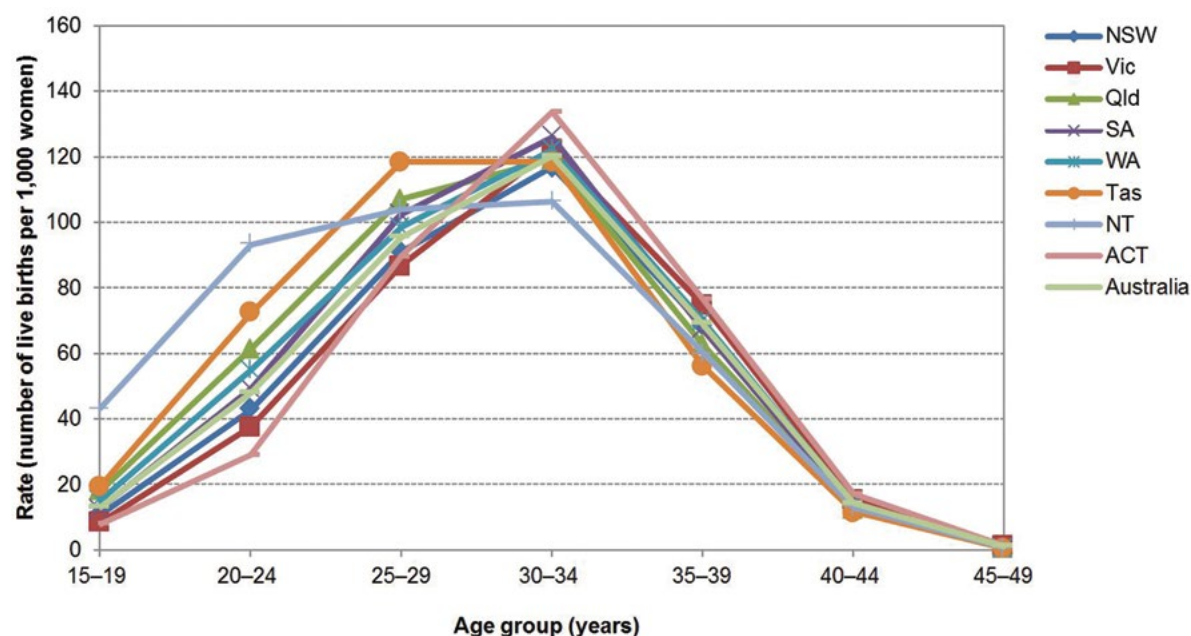


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.4.6 Age-specific fertility rate

All states, except Tasmania, followed the national pattern of having the highest fertility rates among the age group 30-34 years, followed by the age group 25-29 years (Figure 1.18). In Tasmania, the fertility rates for the age group 25-29 years (118.6 live births per 1,000 women) were slightly higher than the fertility rates for the age group 30-34 years (118.5 live births per 1,000 women). The fertility rates among teenagers and the 20-24 year age group in the Northern Territory were much higher than in other states and territories. For example the fertility rate among teenagers in the Northern Territory was 43 live births per 1,000 women - more than three times the national average of 13. The fertility rate amongst the age group 20-24 years in the Northern Territory was 93 live births per 1,000 women - near to double the national average rate of 48.

Figure 1.18: Age-specific fertility rate by state and territory, 2014



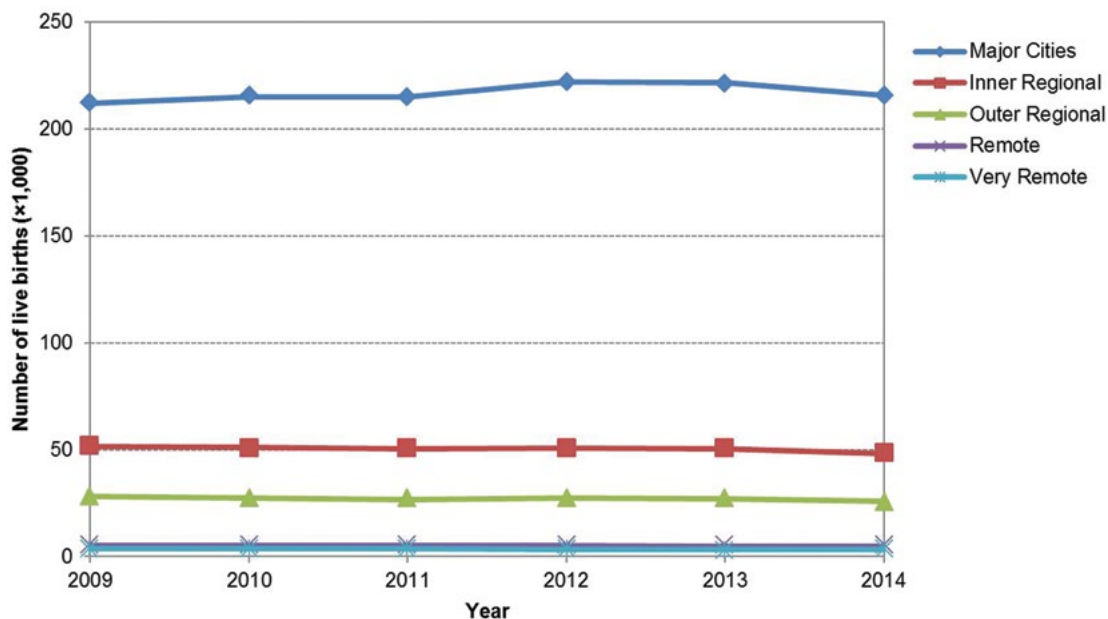
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.5 FERTILITY BY AREA OF REMOTENESS

1.5.1 Live births

In 2014, there were approximately 3300 live births in very remote areas (1.1% of total births), around 4,900 in remote areas (1.6%), about 26,000 in outer regional areas (9%) and close to 48,500 in inner regional areas (16%) (Figure 1.19). Between 2009 and 2014, the number of live births decreased in all groups except in major cities, where the live births increased from 211,900 in 2009 to 215,800 in 2014. For example, the number of live births in remote areas decreased from approximately 5,300 in 2009 to about 4,900 in 2014.

Figure 1.19: Number of live births by area of remoteness, 2009-2014

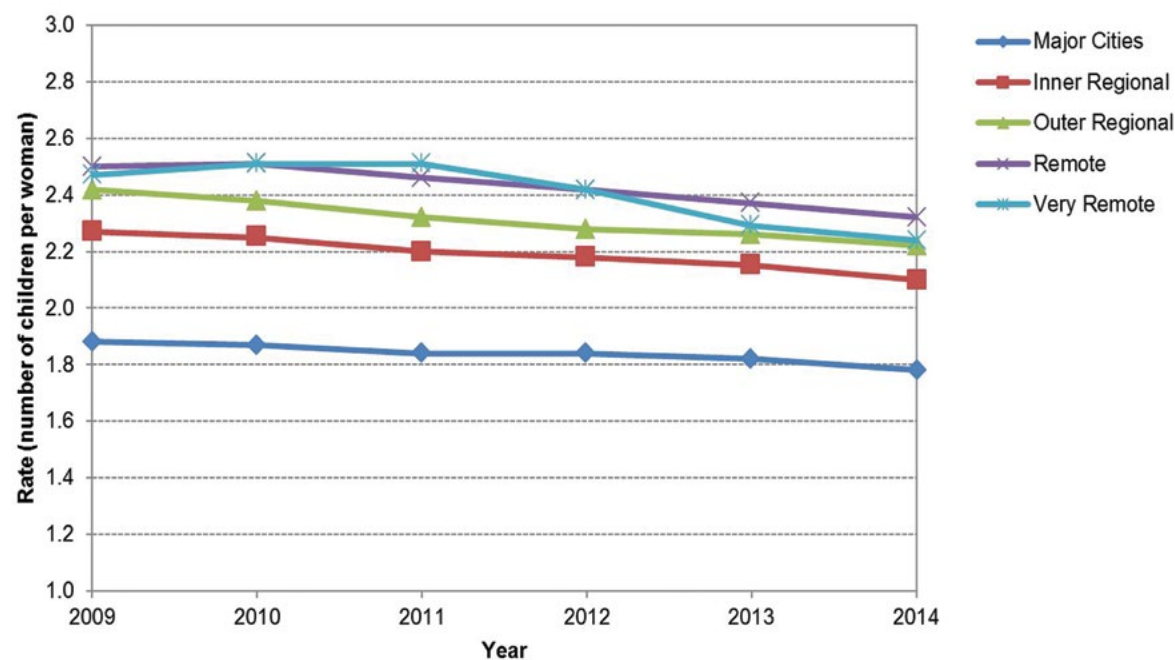


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.5.2 Total fertility rate

The TFRs for women living in remote or very remote areas were consistently higher than for women living in other areas (Figure 1.20). In 2014, the TFR for women living in remote and very remote areas was approximately 2.3 children per woman, compared to 1.8 for women living in major cities, 2.1 for inner regional areas and 2.2 for outer regional areas. The TFR in all groups decreased slightly between 2009 and 2014. For example, the TFR for women living in remote areas decreased from 2.5 children per woman in 2009 to 2.3 children per woman in 2014.

Figure 1.20: Total fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014

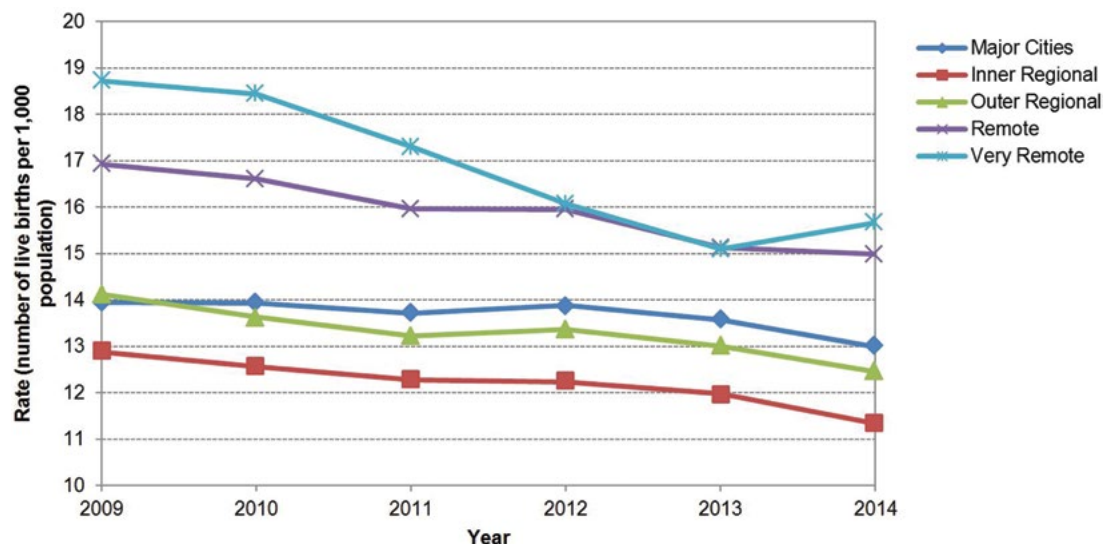


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.5.3 Crude fertility rate

The crude fertility rates in remote and very remote areas were consistently higher than in other areas (Figure 1.21). In 2014, the crude fertility rate in very remote areas was 15.7 births per 1,000 population and in remote areas was 15.0 births per 1,000 population. Inner regional areas had the lowest crude rate of 11.3 births per 1,000 population. From 2009 to 2014, the crude fertility rate decreased in all groups with very remote areas having the largest increase, from 18.7 live births per 1,000 population in 2009 to 15.7 in 2014.

Figure 1.21: Crude fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014

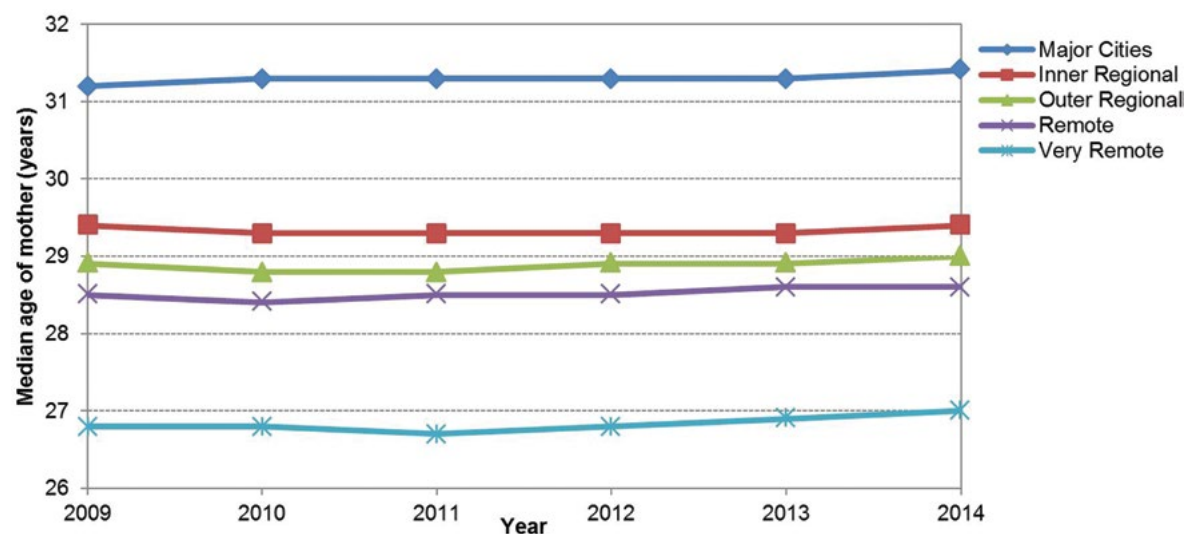


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.5.4 Maternal age

The median age of mothers was highest among women residing in the major cities (31.4 years in 2014) and lowest in those residing in very remote areas (27.0 years in 2014). Between 2009 and 2014, the median age of mothers marginally increased in all areas, except in inner regional areas, where the median age of mothers remained the same. The largest increase was in very remote areas where the median age of mothers increased by 0.2 years, from 26.8 years in 2009 to 27.0 years in 2014 (Figure 1.22).

Figure 1.22: Median age (years) of mothers by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014

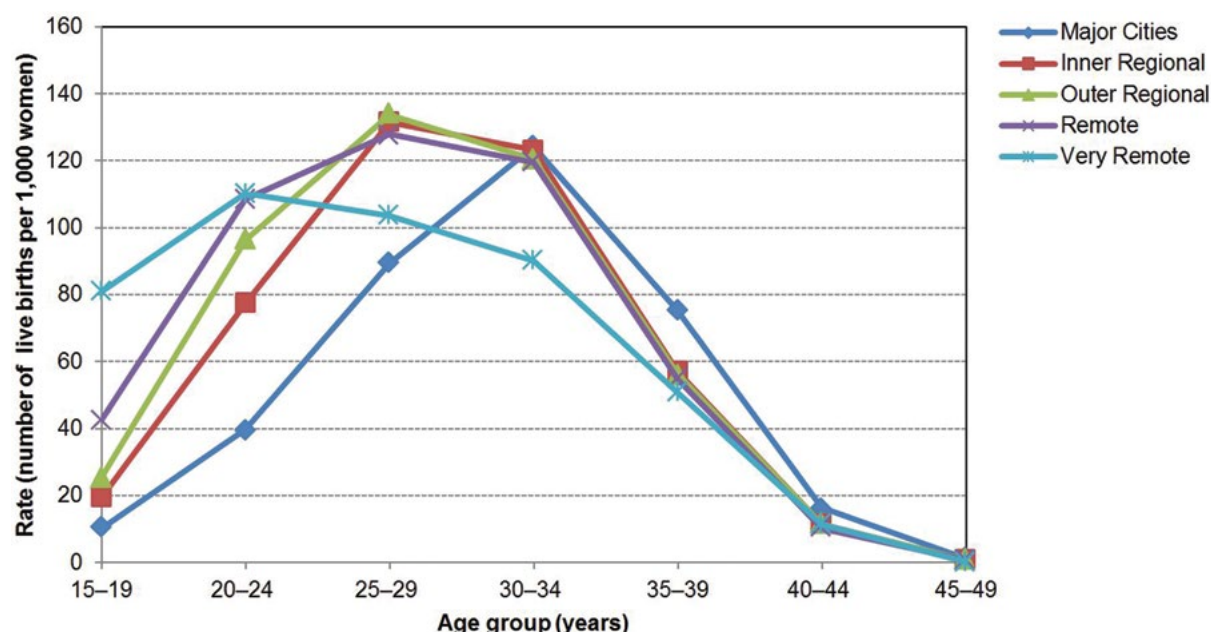


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.5.5 Age-specific fertility rate

Age-specific fertility rates were higher among older women in major cities and younger women in other areas (Figure 1.23). In 2014, in major cities, the fertility rate was highest among women aged 30-34 years (124 births per 1,000 women). In very remote areas, the fertility rate was highest among women aged 20-24 years (110 births per 1,000 women). In other areas, the fertility rate was highest among women aged 25-29 years. For example, in remote areas, the fertility rate was around 128 births per 1,000 women in this age group.

Figure 1.23: Age-specific fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.5.6 Fertility by area of remoteness, by state and territory

Live births

Most live births in remote and very remote areas were in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory (Table 1.2). In 2014, the total number of live births in very remote areas in these states was more than 2,800 or 89% of all live births in very remote areas. The total number of live births in remote areas in these three states and territories in 2014 was almost 3,800 or 77% of all live births in remote areas.

Table 1.2: Number of live births by area of remoteness, by state and territory, 2014

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
Major Cities	70,388	58,455	39,177	15,341	26,909	NA	NA	5,550
Inner Regional	14,743	12,962	11,647	1,855	2,986	4,134	NA	NA
Outer Regional	4,583	2,597	9,803	2,378	2,575	1,666	2,328	NA
Remote	369	45	1,195	616	1,791	78	757	NA
Very Remote	153	NA	1,112	189	814	28	938	NA

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

When the number of live births in each state was taken into account, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of births in outer regional areas (58%), remote areas (19%) and very remote areas (23%) (Table 1.3). In Tasmania, most births occurred in inner regional areas (almost 70%) and in outer regional areas (28%).

Table 1.3: Proportion of live births by area of remoteness, by state and territory, 2014 (%)

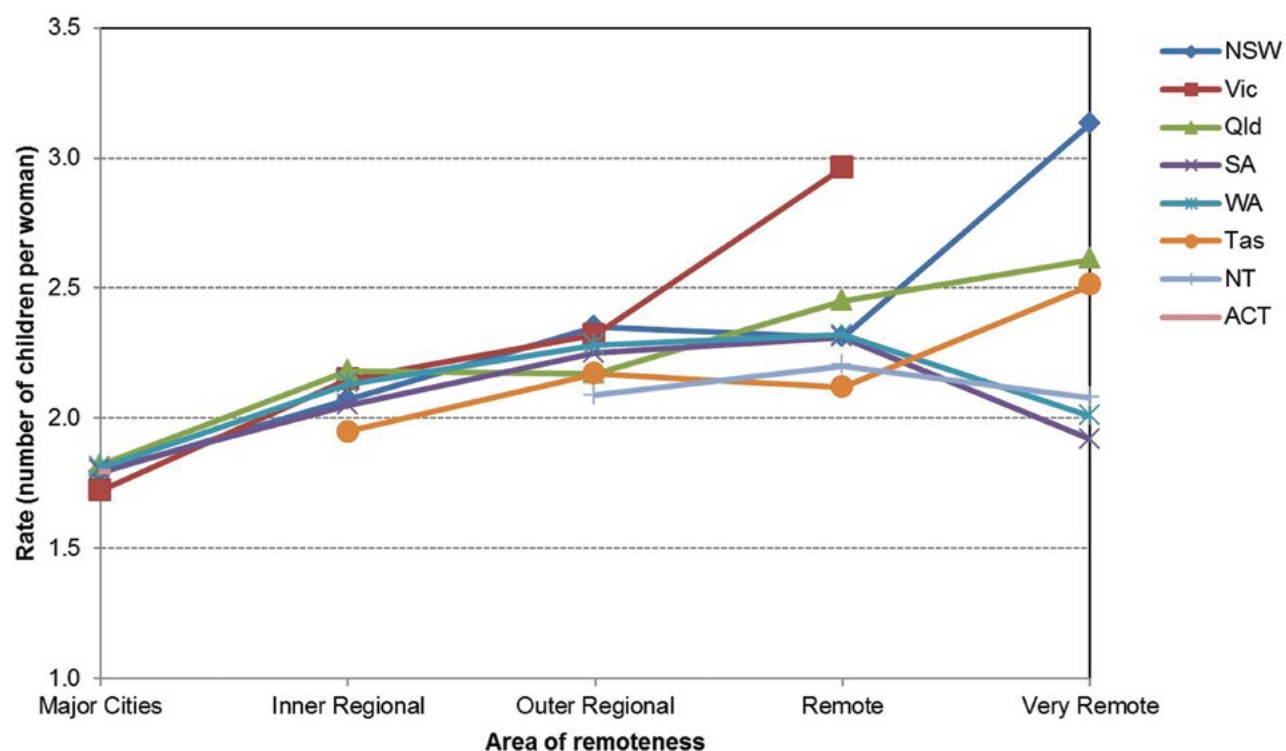
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	AUSTRALIA
Major Cities	77.3	78.8	62.1	75.3	76.0	NA	NA	100	72.0
Inner Regional	16.2	17.5	18.5	9.1	8.4	69.7	NA	NA	16.1
Outer Regional	5.0	3.5	15.5	11.7	7.3	28.1	57.8	NA	8.7
Remote	0.4	0.1	1.9	3.0	5.1	1.3	18.8	NA	1.6
Very Remote	0.2	NA	1.8	0.9	2.3	0.5	23.3	NA	1.1

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Total fertility rate

The TFRs in all states and territories, except New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania, were lowest in major cities and highest in remote areas (Figure 1.24). In New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania, the TFR was highest in very remote areas. The TFR in New South Wales and Queensland increased from 1.8 children per woman in major cities to 3.1 and 2.6 children per woman in very remote areas, respectively. Tasmania had a highest TFR of 2.5 children per woman in very remote areas compared to 2.0 in the inner regional areas. Of all the states and territories, Victoria had the highest TFR in remote areas (around 2.9 children per woman) and New South Wales had the highest TFR in very remote areas (3.1 children per woman). In contrast, Tasmania had the lowest TFR in remote areas (2.1 children per woman) and South Australia had the lowest TFR in very remote areas (1.9 children per woman).

Figure 1.24: Total fertility rate by area of remoteness, by state and territory, 2014



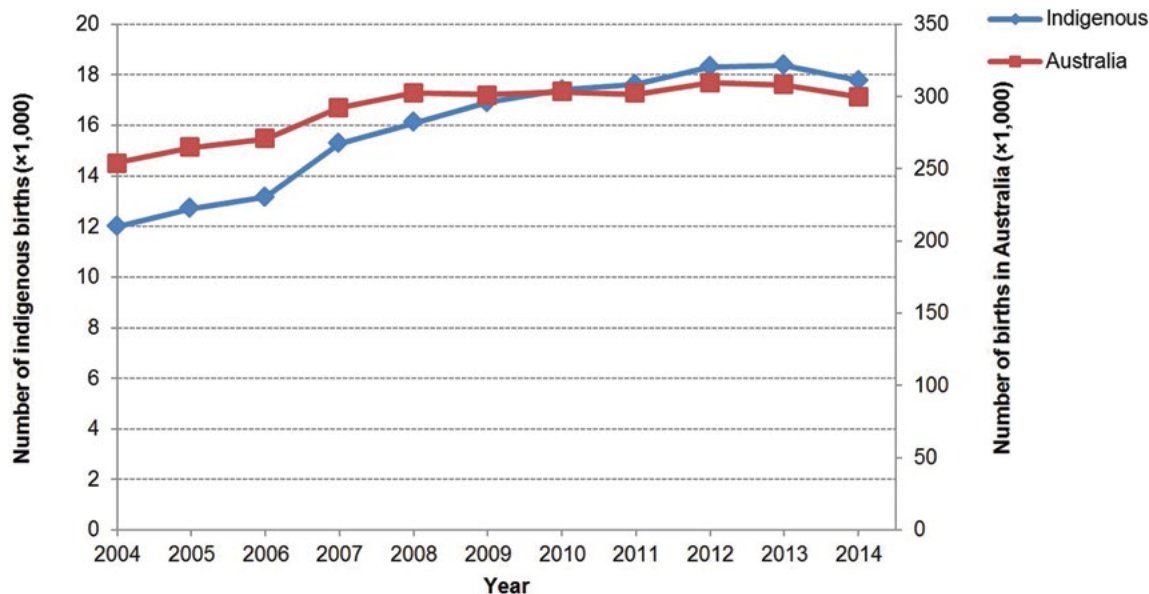
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.6 FERTILITY BY INDIGENOUS STATUS

1.6.1 Live births

In 2014, the number of Indigenous live births was approximately 17,800, accounting for 5.9% of the total births in Australia (Figure 1.25). In comparison, Indigenous people account for 3% of the total Australian population¹⁵. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of Indigenous live births increased in parallel to the national trend. However, from 2007 to 2012, the number of Indigenous live births increased at a faster rate.

Figure 1.25: Number of Indigenous births and total births, 2004 to 2014



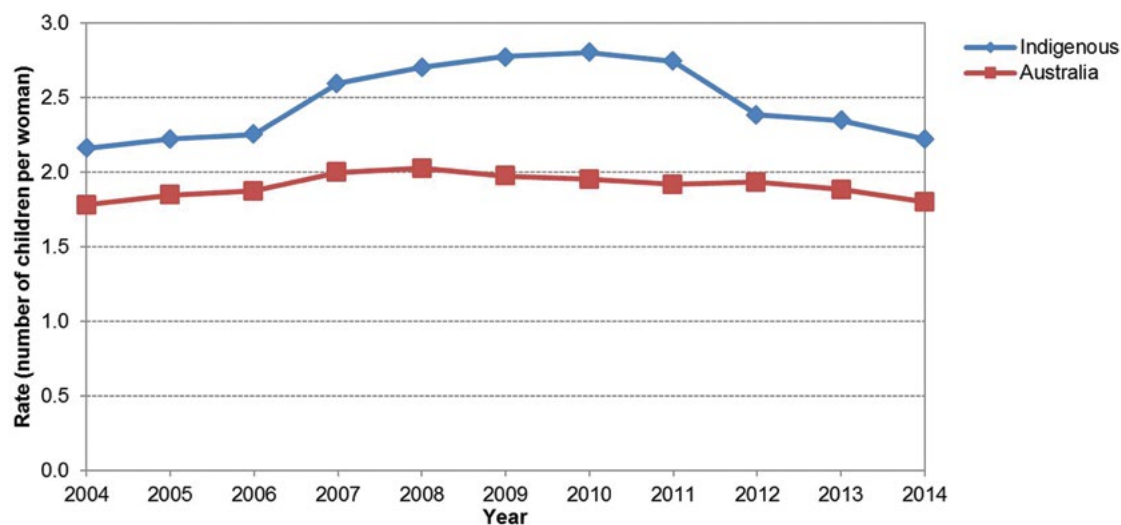
Note: Indigenous births are plotted on the left hand axis, total births in Australia are plotted on the right hand axis.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.6.2 Total fertility rate

The TFR among Indigenous women increased from 2.2 children per woman in 2004 to 2.8 in 2010 and decreased to 2.2 in 2014. Between 2004 and 2014, the TFR among Indigenous women was consistently higher than the national average (Figure 1.26).

Figure 1.26: Total fertility rate in Indigenous women, 2004 to 2014

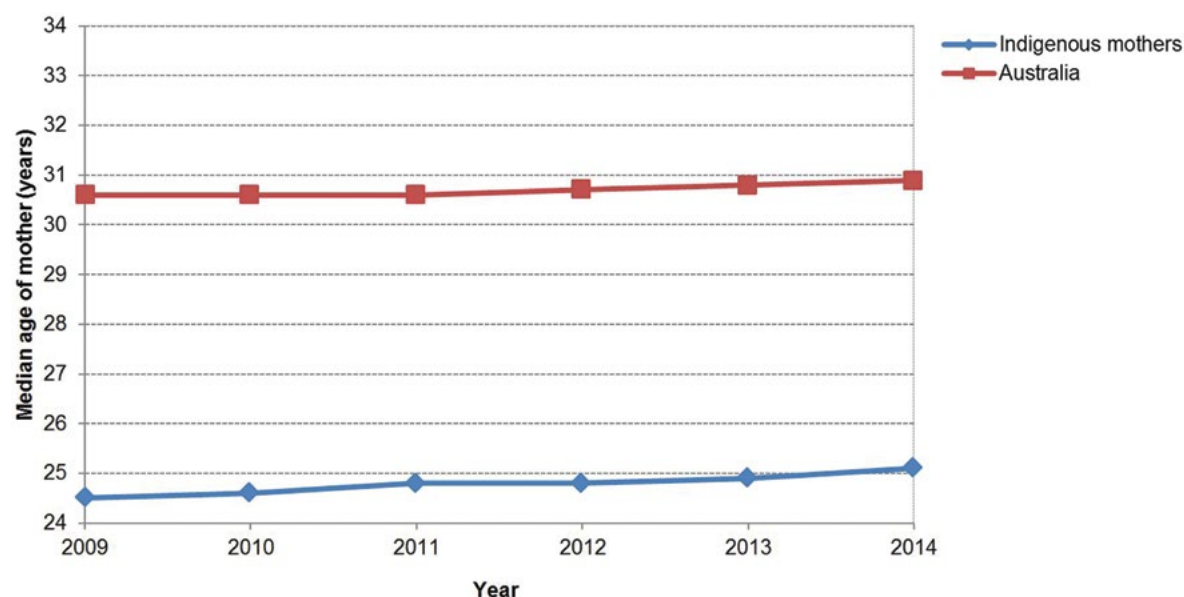


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.6.3 Maternal age

The median age of Indigenous mothers increased from 24.5 years in 2009 to 25.1 years in 2014, and was consistently less than the national median age of 30.9 years (Figure 1.27).

Figure 1.27: Median age (years) of Indigenous mothers and all mothers, 2009 to 2014

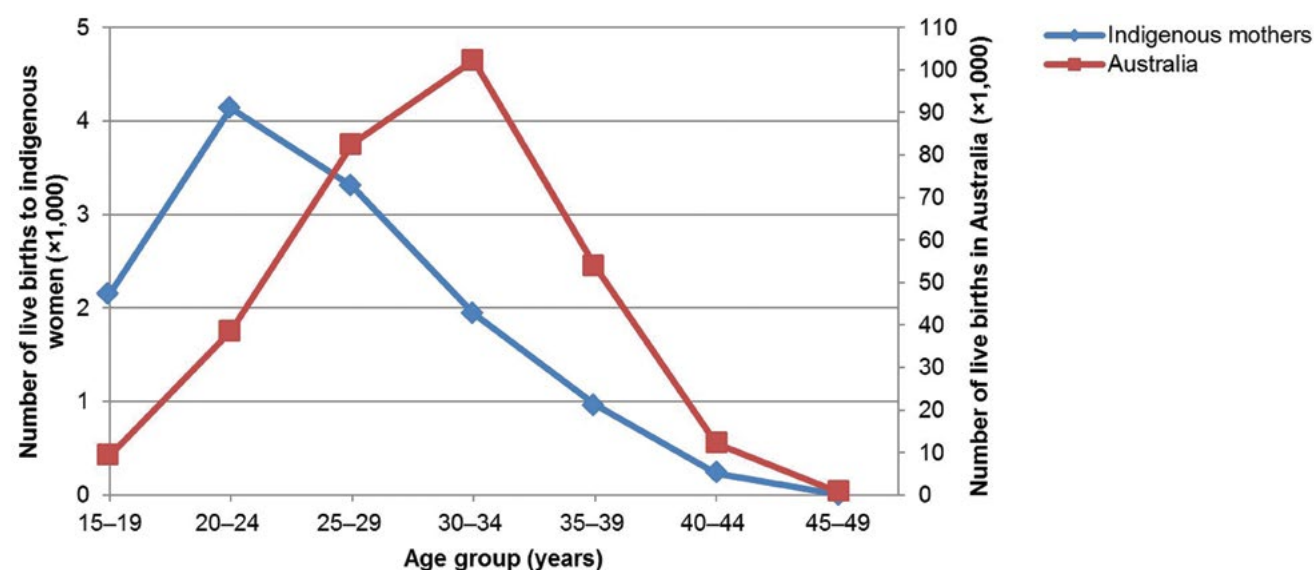


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.6.4 Live births by maternal age group

In 2014, the number of live births to Indigenous women was highest among the 20-24 years age group (nearly 4,200), followed by the 25-29 years age group (just under 3,300) and teenagers (around 2,200) (Figure 1.28). In comparison, the number of live births in Australia was highest among the 30-34 years age group (102,336), followed by those in the 25-29 years age group (82,741) and 35-39 years age group (53,839).

Figure 1.28: Number of live births to Indigenous mothers and to all mothers by maternal age group, 2014



Note: Indigenous births are plotted on the left hand axis, total births in Australia are plotted on the right hand axis.

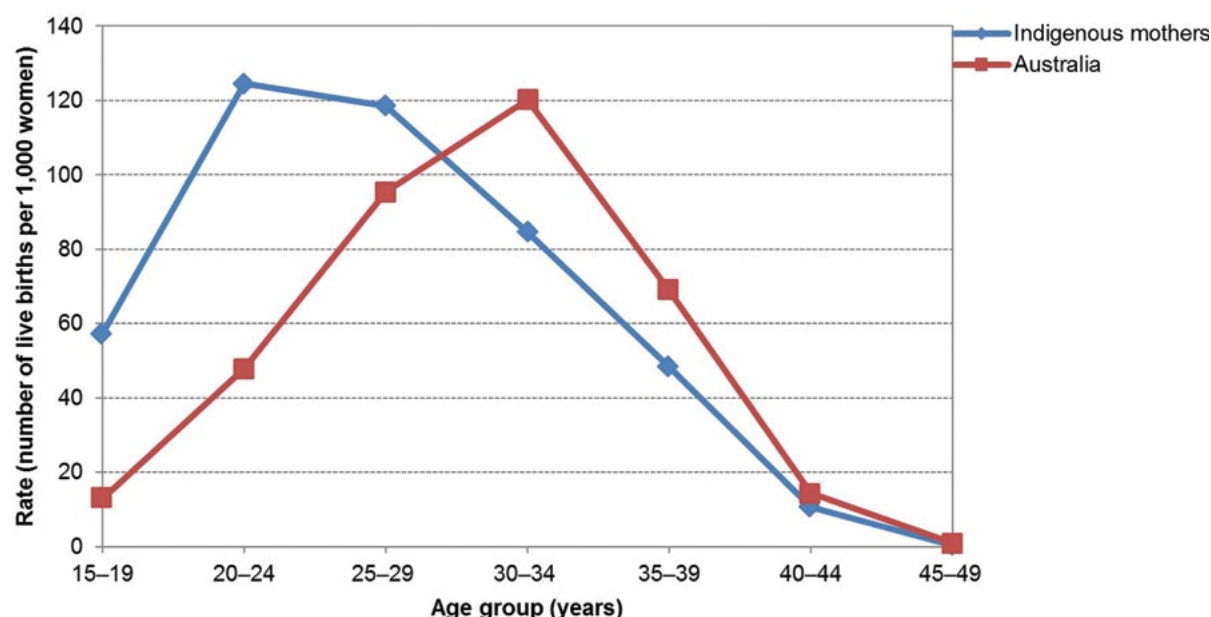
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.6.5 Age-specific fertility rate

In 2014, the fertility rate in Indigenous women was highest among the age group 20-24 years (125 live births per 1,000 women) (Figure 1.29). In comparison, the fertility rate in Australia was highest among the age group 30-34 years (120 live births per 1,000 women). The fertility rate among Indigenous teenagers was much higher than the national average (57 live births per 1,000 women compared to 13).

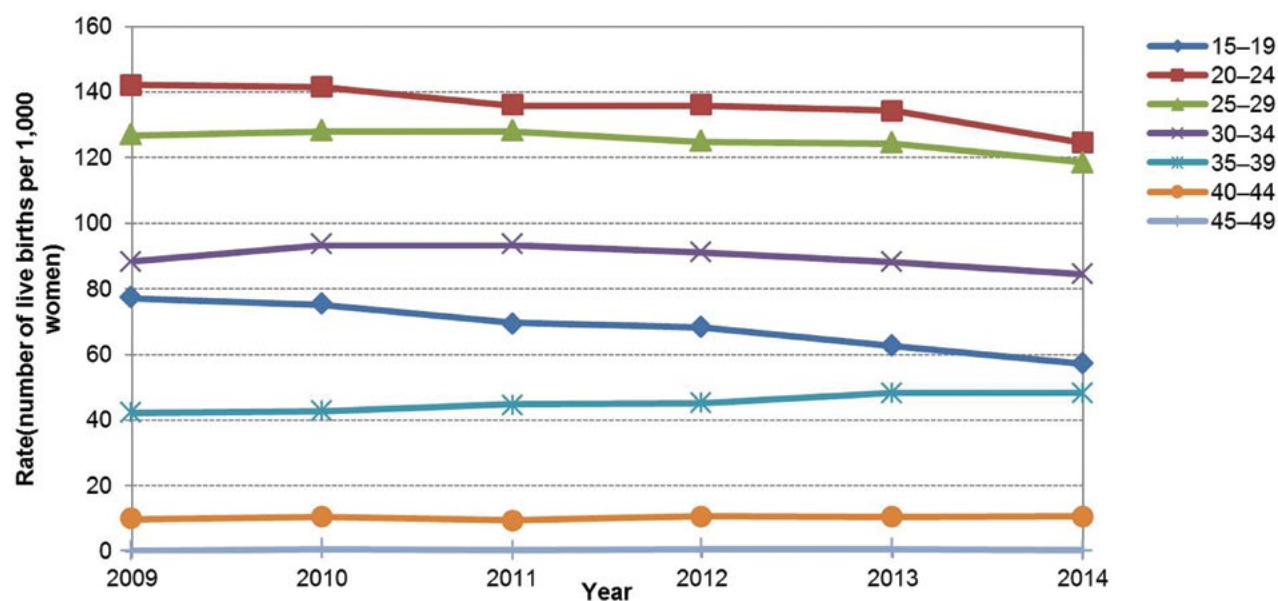
From 2009 to 2014, Indigenous fertility rates decreased among women aged 34 years or younger and increased among age groups 35 years or older (Figure 1.30). For example, the fertility rates decreased from 142 live births per 1,000 women in 2009 to 125 in 2014 for women aged 20-24 years, and increased from 42 live births per 1,000 women in 2009 to 48 in 2014 for women aged 35-39 years.

Figure 1.29: Age specific fertility rate in Indigenous women and all women, 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Figure 1.30: Age-specific fertility rate in Indigenous women and all women, 2009 to 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

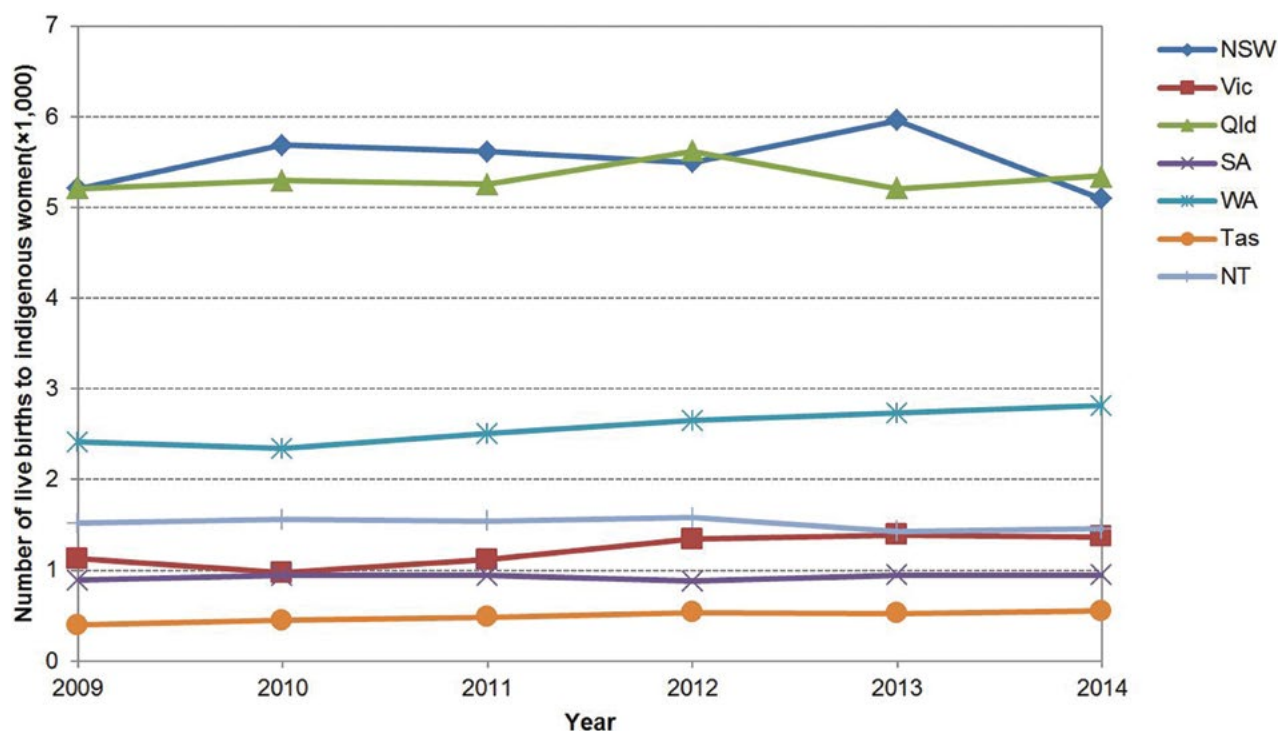
1.6.6 Fertility in Indigenous people by state and territory

Live births

Data on Indigenous births in the Australian Capital Territory is not presented separately due to the small numbers, but is included in the total number of births for Australia.¹ In 2014, the number of Indigenous births in Queensland was highest, followed by New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. From 2009 to 2014, the number of Indigenous births increased in all states and territories except New South Wales and the Northern Territory (Figure 1.31). The largest increase was in Western Australia, from nearly 2,416 in 2009 to about 2,815 in 2014, an increase of 17%. Measures to improve ascertainment of Indigenous status nationally may account for the increase.

The proportion of Indigenous births per total number of births was highest in the Northern Territory (over 36%). In other states and territories, Indigenous births accounted for between 2% of total births in Victoria and 9% in Tasmania.

Figure 1.31: Indigenous births by state and territory, 2009 to 2014

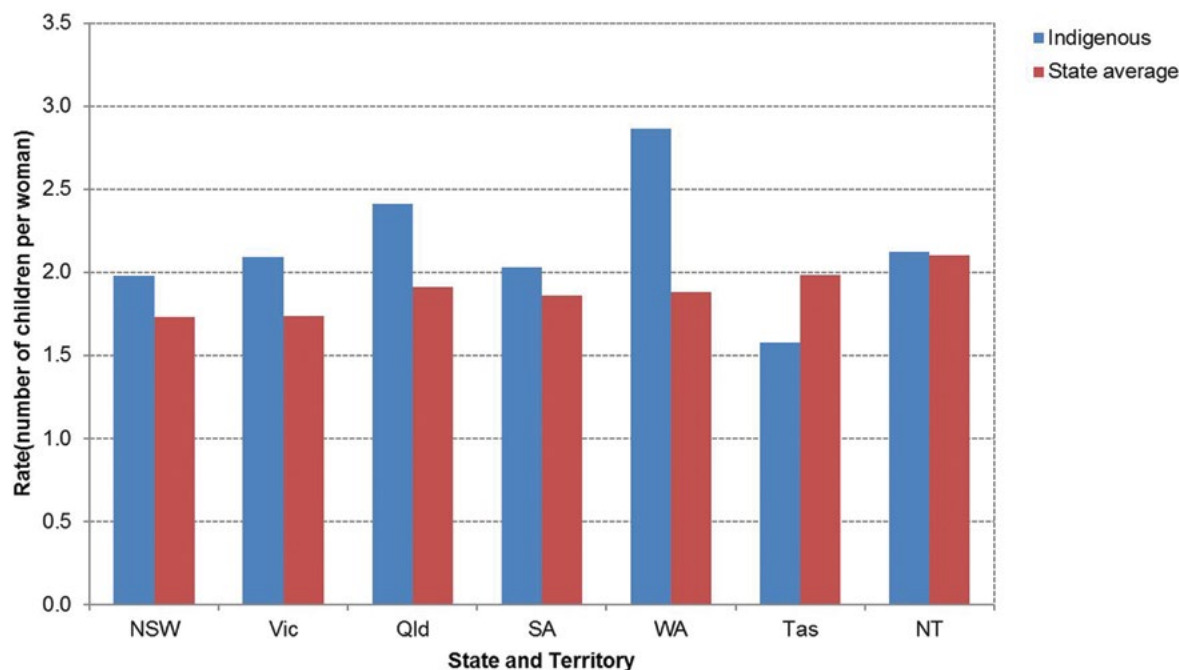


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.6.7 Total fertility rate

In 2014, the TFR among Indigenous women was highest in Western Australia (2.8 children per woman) and lowest in Tasmania (1.6 children per woman) (Figure 1.32). In all states and territories, except Tasmania, the TFR among Indigenous women was higher than the state average.

Figure 1.32: Total fertility rate in Indigenous women by state and territory, 2014



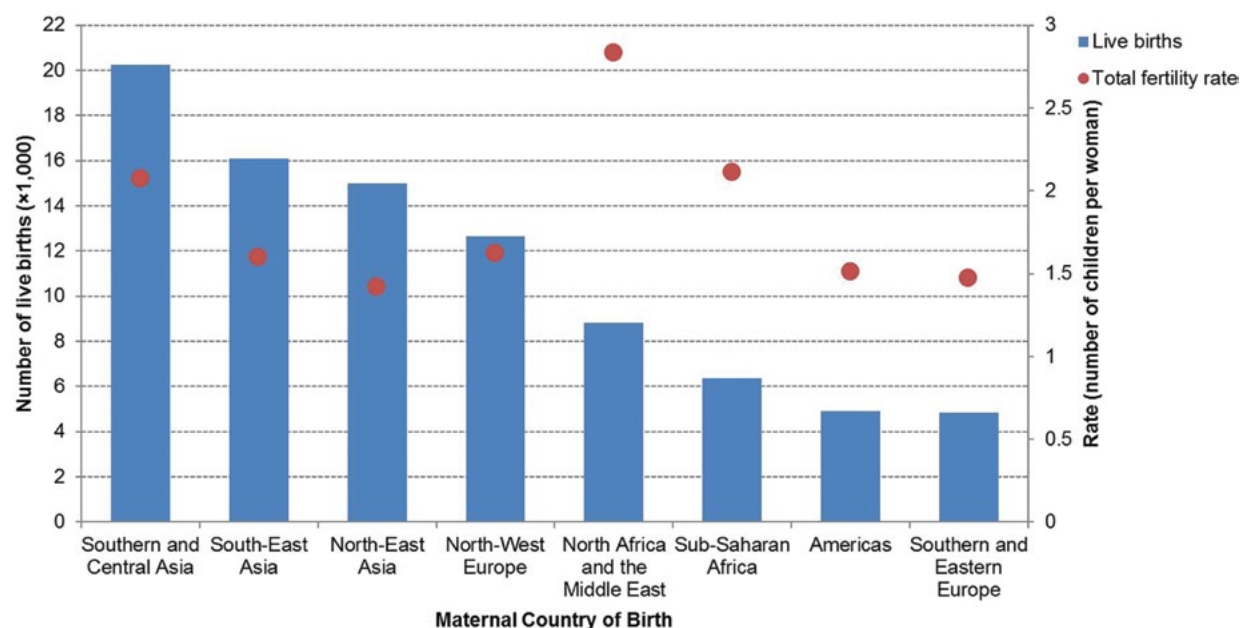
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.7 FERTILITY BY MATERNAL COUNTRY OF BIRTH

1.7.1 Live births

In 2014, there were nearly 102,000 live births in Australia to mothers born overseas (34% of all live births in Australia) (Figure 1.33). The number of live births born to mothers from Southern and Central Asia was highest (over 20,000), followed by live births to mothers from South-East Asia (more than 16,000) and North-East Asia (just over 15,000).

Figure 1.33: Number of live births and total fertility rate by maternal country of birth, 2014



Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for country classification

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

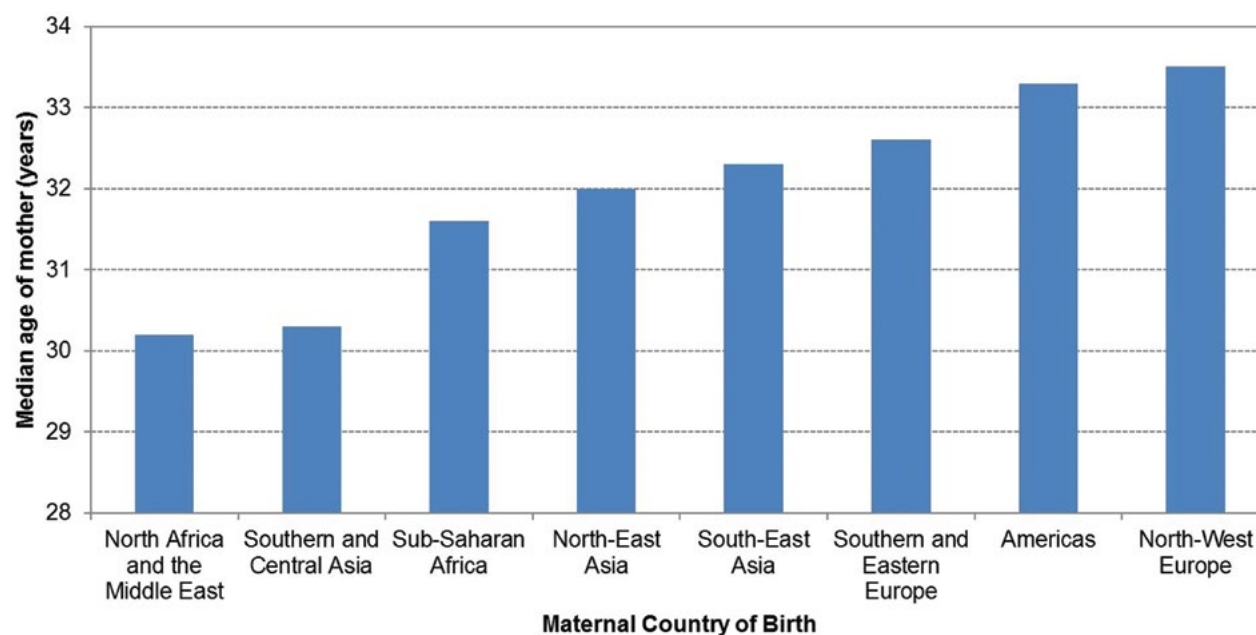
1.7.2 Total fertility rate

The TFR was highest among women from North Africa and the Middle East (2.8 children per woman compared to the national average of 1.8) and lowest among women from North-East Asia (1.4 children per woman) (Figure 1.33).

1.7.3 Maternal age by country of birth

In 2014, the median age of mothers was highest among women from North-West Europe (33.5 years) and was lowest among women from North Africa and the Middle East (30.2 years) (Figure 1.34).

Figure 1.34: Median age (years) of mothers by country of birth, 2014



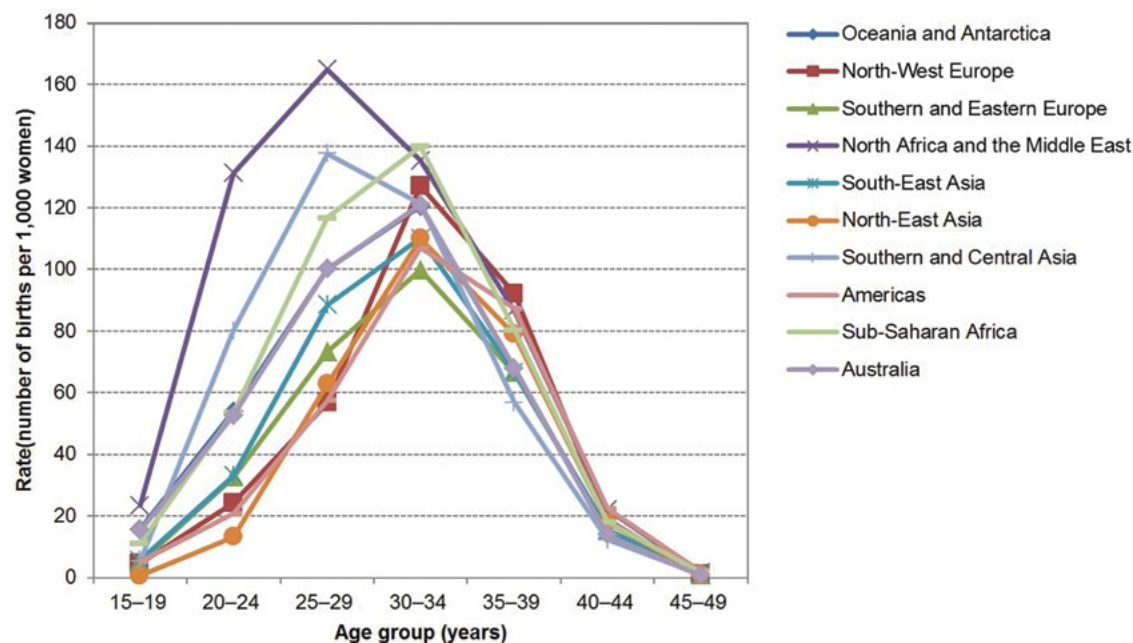
Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for country classification

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.7.4 Age-specific fertility rate by maternal country of birth

Women from North Africa and the Middle East and from Southern and Central Asia had higher fertility rates among the younger age groups than women from other countries (Figure 1.35). The fertility rate among women from North Africa and the Middle East and from Southern and Central Asia was highest among the age group 25-29 years (165 and 138 live births per 1,000 women, respectively, compared to 100 live births per 1,000 women in Australia for the same age group). For women from other countries, the fertility rate was highest among the age group 30-34 years.

Figure 1.35: Age-specific fertility rate by maternal country of birth, 2014



Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for country classification. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

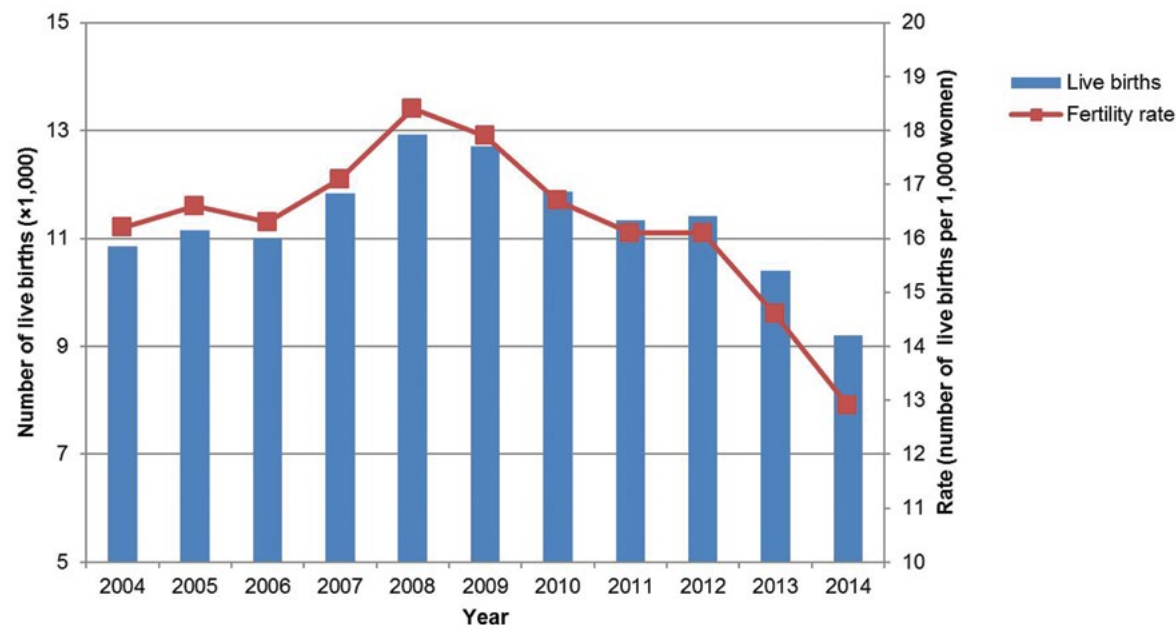
1.8 FERTILITY AMONG TEENAGERS

1.8.1 Teenage fertility in Australia

In 2014, there were about 9,200 births to teenage mothers in Australia or 3.1% of total births. The number of teenage births increased from approximately 10,900 in 2004 to nearly 13,000 in 2008, then decreased to approximately 9,200 in 2014 (Figure 1.36).

The fertility rate also followed the pattern of live births. The fertility rate increased from 16 live births per 1,000 women in 2004 to 18 in 2008, and then decreased to 13 in 2014.

Figure 1.36: Number of live births and fertility rate among teenagers in Australia, 2004 to 2014



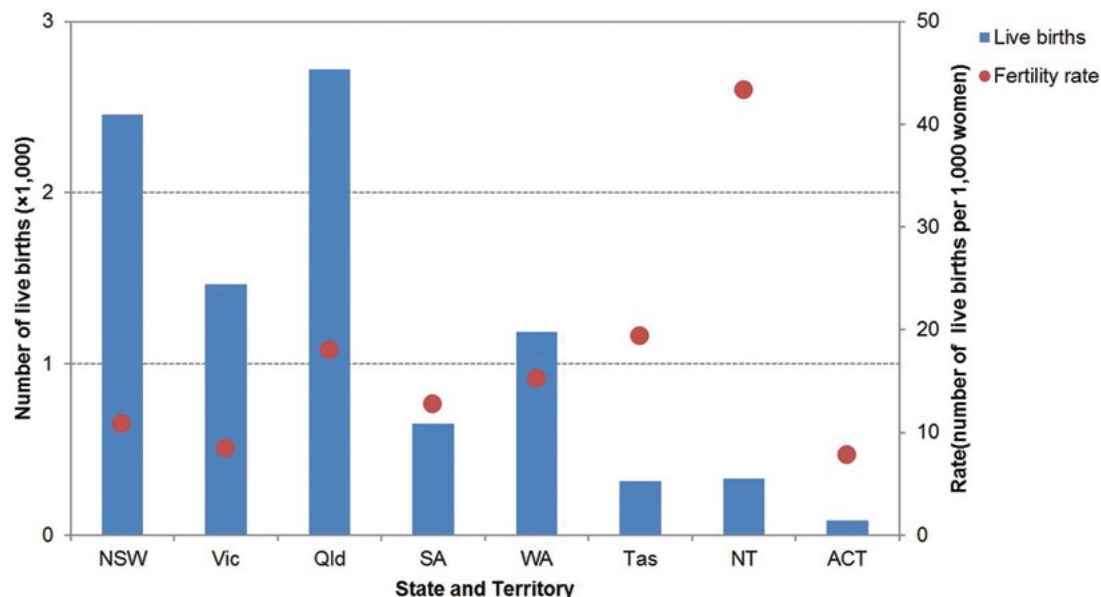
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.8.2 Teenage fertility by state and territory

In 2014, the number of live births by teenage mothers was highest in Queensland (over 2,700) and lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (87) (Figure 1.37). The proportion of teenage births per total births ranged from 1.6% in the Australian Capital Territory to 8.1% in the Northern Territory.

The number of teenage births in the Northern Territory was small (327, 3.6% of total teenage births), however the teenage fertility rate was much higher than in other states and territories (43 live births per 1,000 women).

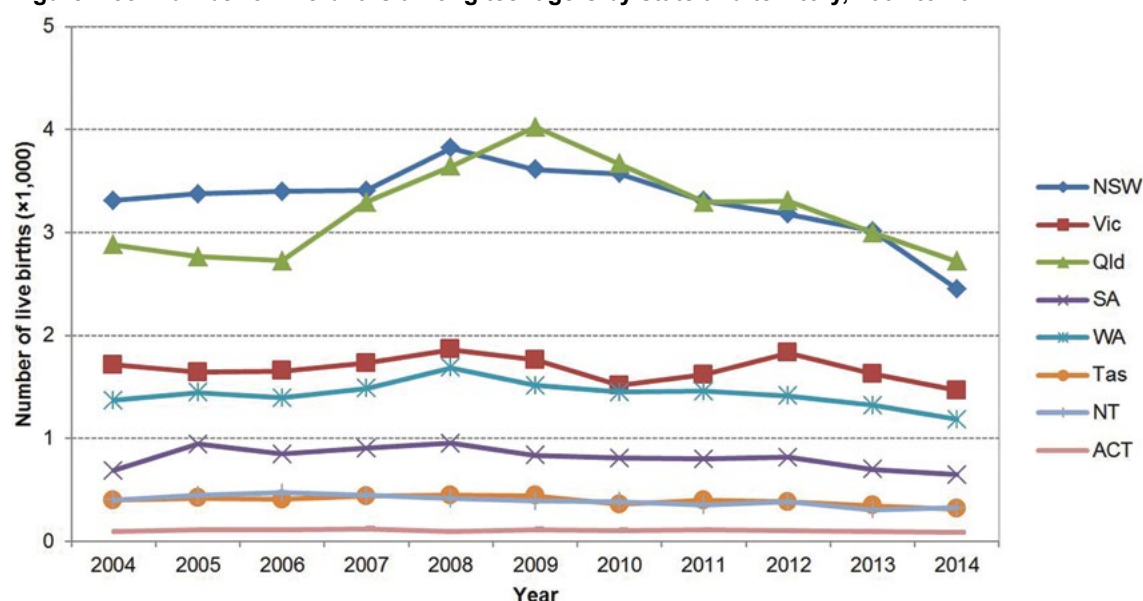
Figure 1.37: Number of live births and fertility rate among teenagers by state and territory, 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

The number of teenage births in Queensland increased sharply from more than 2,700 in 2006 to its peak in 2009 of approximately 4,000, then decreased to just over 2,700 in 2014 (Figure 1.38). In other states, smaller increases were observed from 2004 to 2008 and a decrease thereafter. Of all states, the largest reduction was in New South Wales, from more than 3,300 in 2004 to approximately 2,500 in 2014.

Figure 1.38: Number of live births among teenagers by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

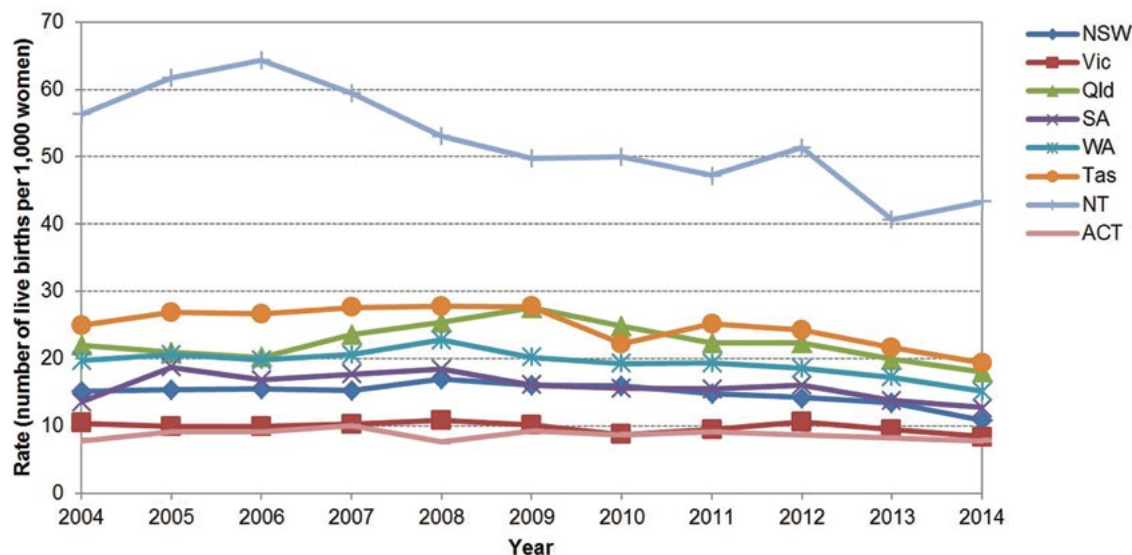


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

The teenage fertility rate in the Northern Territory was consistently higher than in other states and territories (Figure 1.39). However, teenage fertility in the Northern Territory fell from 56 live births per 1,000 women in 2004 to 43 in 2014.

The teenage fertility rate also fell in other states and territories. For example, the teenage fertility rate in Tasmania decreased from 25 live births per 1,000 women in 2004 to 19 in 2014.

Figure 1.39: Teenage fertility rate by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

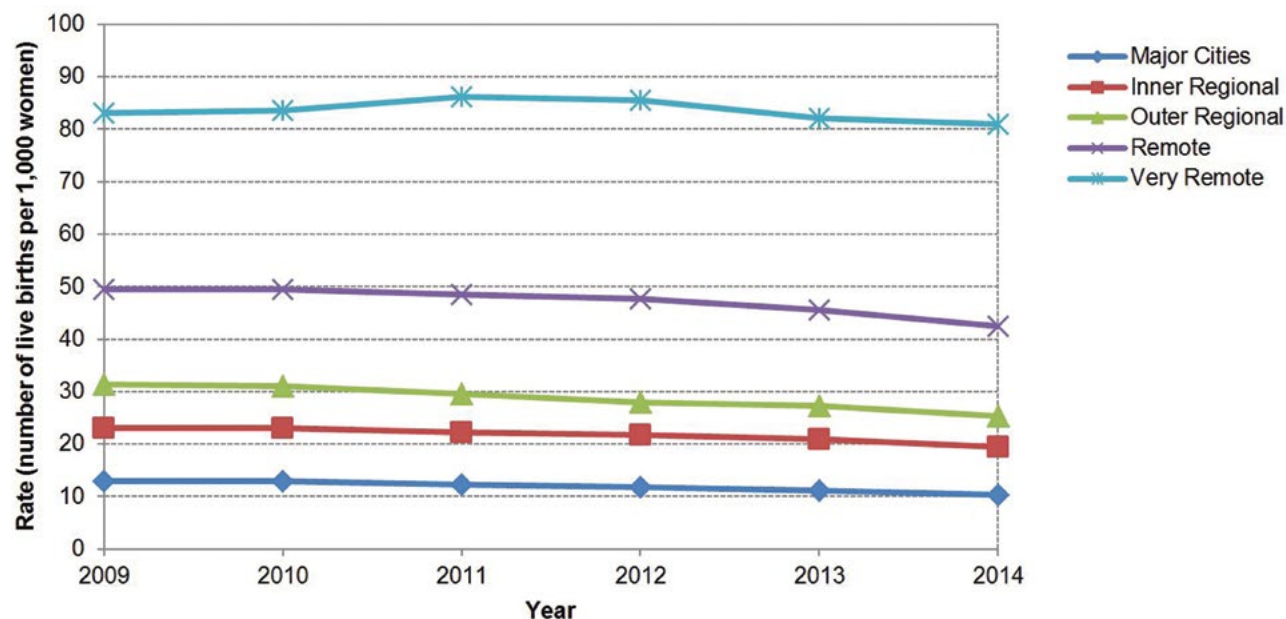


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.8.3 Teenage births by area of remoteness

In 2014, the teenage fertility rate increased from 10 live births per 1,000 women in major cities to 81 in very remote areas (Figure 1.40). Between 2009 and 2014, the teenage fertility rate decreased in all areas. The largest decrease was in remote areas (from 50 live births per 1,000 women in 2009 to 43 in 2014) and in outer regional areas (from 31 live births per 1,000 women in 2009 to 25 in 2014).

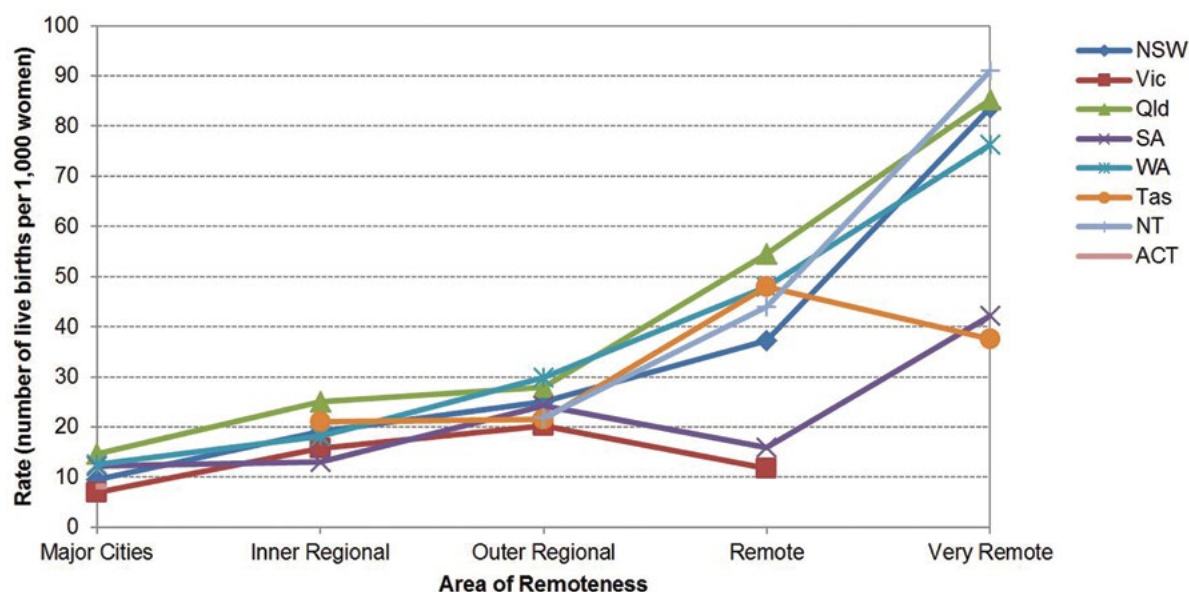
Figure 1.40: Teenage fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

In most states, except Victoria and South Australia, teenagers living in remote and very remote areas had a higher fertility rate than those living in other areas (Figure 1.41). For example, in New South Wales the teenage fertility rate in very remote areas was eight-fold higher than in major cities (84 live births per 1,000 women compared to 10).

Figure 1.41: Teenage fertility rate by area of remoteness, by state and territory, 2014

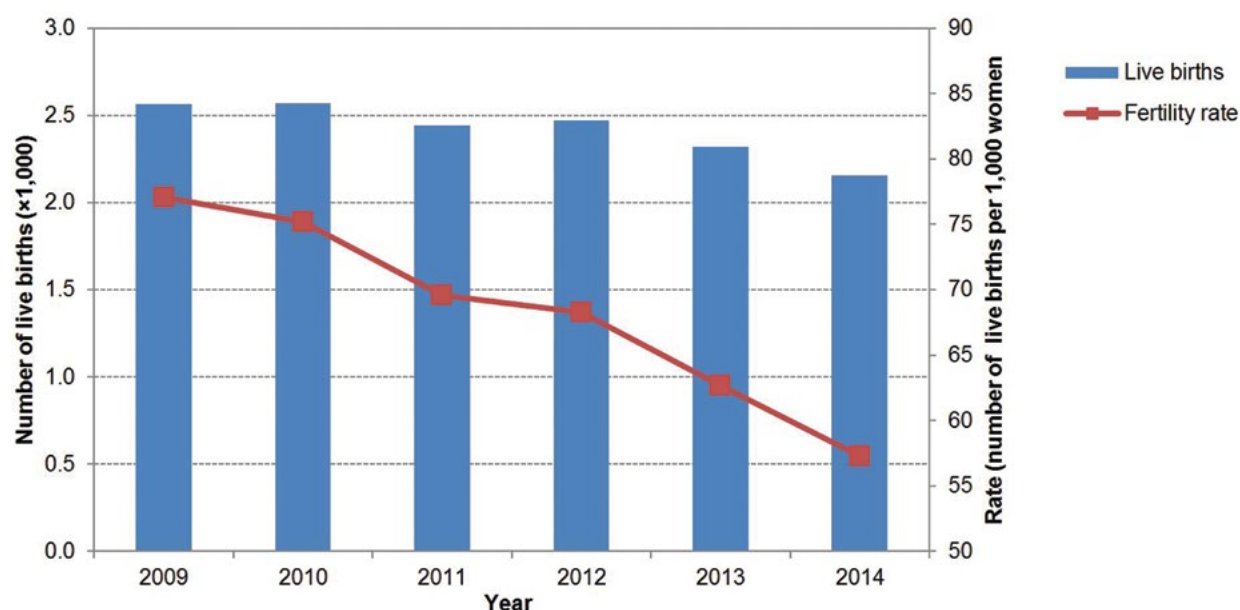


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.8.4 Teenage fertility in Indigenous women

The number of live births among Indigenous teenage mothers decreased from more than 2,500 in 2009 to nearly 2,200 in 2014 (Figure 1.42). The fertility rate among Indigenous teenage mothers decreased from 77 live births per 1,000 women in 2009 to 57 in 2014. The fertility rate among Indigenous teenage mothers was over four times the fertility rate of all teenage mothers in Australia (13 live births per 1,000 women in 2014).

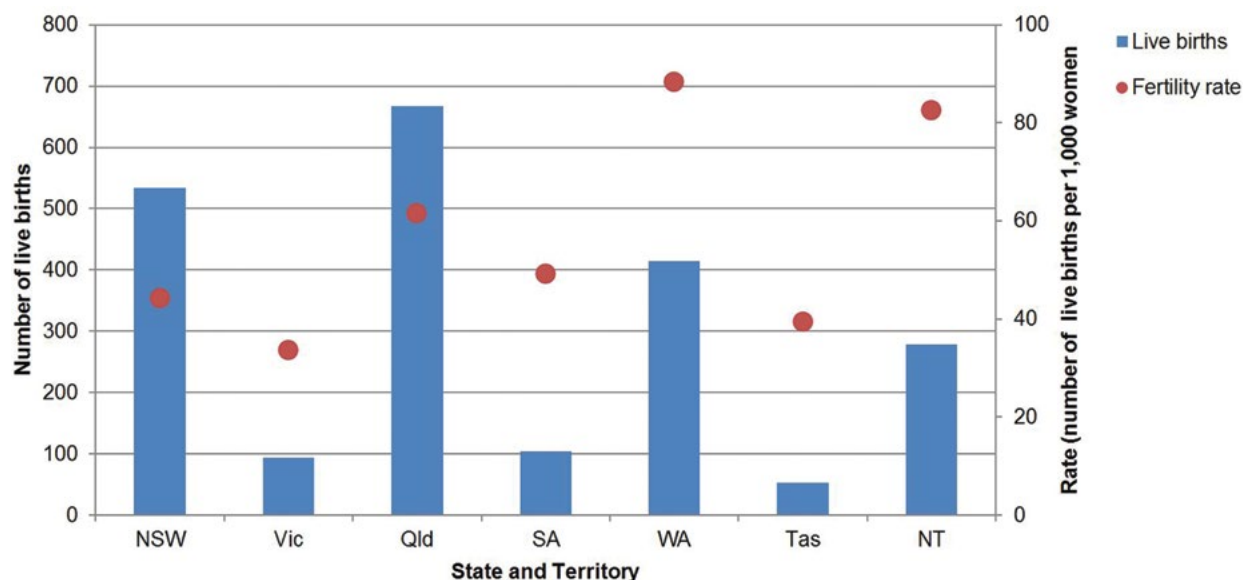
Figure 1.42: Number of live births and fertility rate in Indigenous teenagers, 2009 to 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

In 2014, the number of live births among Indigenous teenage mothers was highest in Queensland (667), followed by New South Wales (534) and Western Australia (414) (Figure 1.43). The fertility rate was highest in Western Australia (88 live births per 1,000 women). The Northern Territory had a relatively small number of Indigenous teenage births (279) but a high Indigenous teenage fertility rate (83 live births per 1,000 women).

Figure 1.43: Number of live births and fertility rate in Indigenous teenagers by state and territory, 2014

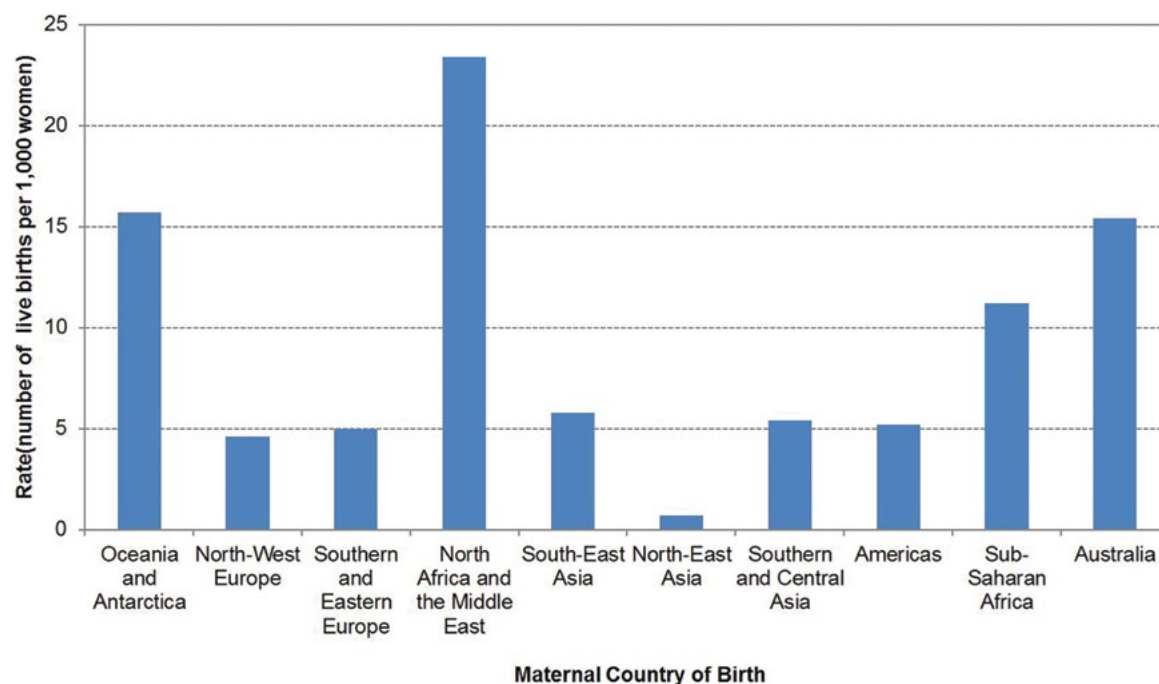


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.8.5 Teenage fertility by maternal country of birth

The teenage fertility rate was highest among women from North Africa and the Middle East (23 live births per 1,000 women) and was lowest among women from North East Asia (0.7 live births per 1,000 women) (Figure 1.44).

Figure 1.44: Teenage fertility rate by maternal country of birth, 2014



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

1.9 DISCUSSION

The total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.9 children per woman in Australia between 2010 and 2015 is above the average of 1.7 for developed countries but below the replacement rate of 2.1. The median age of mothers in Australia has increased since 2000. This is similar to other developed countries but in contrast to less developed countries where no increase has been observed. A number of studies have examined the reasons for the differences in fertility rates between developed countries.¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Countries with policies that provide parents with the means to balance family life and career, and where the financial costs of having children are lower, tend to have higher fertility rates.^{14,16-17}

Australia has a number of policies that financially support families with children, such as Family Tax Benefits, Child Care Benefits, the Child Care Rebate, Immunisation Allowances and Paid Maternity Leave.⁴ After March 2014, the Government replaced the Baby Bonus with a smaller supplementary payment added to a families' Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) entitlement.¹⁸ In addition to Government support, many employers allow parents to take paid and unpaid leave for up to two years after the birth of a child. When the parent returns to work, they may also be allowed to work part time for a certain length of time and can use their sick leave to care for sick children. The national health insurance system, Medicare, and social welfare agency, Centrelink, provide a safety net for families with reduced levels of income. These policies may have contributed to a relatively higher fertility rate in Australia than in other developed countries. However, the TFR in Australia is still below that required for replacement.

The number of births in Australia had already started to increase prior to the introduction of the Baby Bonus. After the Baby Bonus was introduced in 2004 and especially after the Baby Bonus was increased in 2006, the number of births increased sharply to reach its peak in 2008. The effect of the Baby Bonus on the number of births has been confirmed in several studies.^{2,19-22} However, the second increase to the Baby Bonus in 2008, by a further \$1,000, did not produce the same effect; the number of births remained the same in 2009 and 2010. The payment, which was made in fortnightly instalments and which had a \$75,000 income limit after January 2009, may not have been as appealing as the previous lump sum payment.¹⁸

Alternately, the Baby Bonus, when first introduced, may have encouraged families to bring their baby plan forward, but may have had no more effect once the desired number of children had been achieved. Government policies in Europe also found that monetary incentives only have a short term effect on fertility rates.¹¹ From January 2011 a new government funded Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme was established, which provides eligible working parents with up to 18 weeks of PPL at the rate of the National Minimum Wage following the birth or adoption of a child. The amount is estimated to be around \$10,000.²³ According to a PPL evaluation report, around 44% of new parents received PPL through the scheme²⁴, which may have contributed to the second birth peak in 2012. However, as the Baby Bonus was replaced after March 2014 with the Newborn Upfront Payment (a lump sum of \$532) and the Newborn Supplement (a maximum of \$1,595.23 for the first child or a maximum of \$532.35 for other children)²⁵, the impact of such a change on potential fertility behaviours merits further research and evaluation.

Between 2004 to 2014, the first peak in the number of births in all states and territories occurred in 2008, except for Queensland where the peak was observed in 2009. This may have been as a result of a project which aimed to improve birth registrations in Queensland in 2009.¹ The project also improved the ascertainment of Indigenous status in Queensland birth registrations which was reflected in the increase in the number of Indigenous births seen in 2009. A second peak in the number of births in Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory was observed in 2012. In New South Wales and Tasmania, the second peak occurred in 2010 and 2011, respectively. In Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, the number of births continued to increase while in Queensland, the number of births continued to decline after 2009. In June 2014, the New South Wales Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (NSW Registry) transitioned to a new data processing system which resulted in temporary processing delays. These delays caused a number of birth records received by the NSW Registry in 2014 to be processed in 2015. As a result, the total number of births registered in New South Wales in 2014 (91,074) was 9,388 (9.3%) less than the number registered in 2013 (100,462), which was the main reason for the decrease at the national level. The number of 2014 birth registrations was approximately 8,400 (2.7%) less than the number registered in 2013 (308,065).

The Northern Territory and Tasmania had the highest fertility rate of 2.1 and 2.0 live births per woman, respectively compared to the national average of 1.9. The higher fertility rate seen in the Northern Territory likely reflects the higher proportion of Indigenous people (30% compared to the national average of 3%)¹⁵ and the higher proportion of the population living in remote areas than in other states and territories. In Tasmania, the high proportion of women aged 25-34 years (18.5%)²⁶ who have the highest birth rates may account for the higher fertility rate.

There has been a decline in the fertility rate among all Australian teenagers since 2008, and since 2010 similar reductions have been observed among Indigenous teenagers. However, part of the observed decline in the rate among Indigenous teenagers may be explained by the improved ascertainment of Indigenous teenagers in the 2011 census.

Comparing TFR and maternal age across maternal countries of birth indicated that women from North Africa and the Middle East had the highest TFR and the youngest maternal age, which is consistent with previous observations²⁷ indicating that ethnic and racial background are associated with family size. However, there is some evidence that certain migrant groups have adapted to the fertility levels of the Australian population.²⁸⁻²⁹

1.9.1 Data development

The registration of births in Australia has been improved. However, more efforts are still needed to improve under and delayed registration and to improve the ascertainment of Indigenous status.

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1.11 APPENDICES

1.11.1 Appendix 1 – Country classification

ABS country classification 25 used in Figure 1.34.

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Australia, Norfolk Island, Australian External Territories, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, , Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Federated States of, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Niue, Samoa, Samoa, American, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Pitcairn Islands, Polynesia (excludes Hawaii), Adelie Land (France), Argentinian Antarctic Territory, Australian Antarctic Territory, British Antarctic Territory, Chilean Antarctic Territory, Queen Maud Land (Norway), Ross Dependency (New Zealand).

NORTH-WEST EUROPE

England, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Guernsey, Jersey, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Aland Islands.

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

Andorra, Gibraltar, Holy See, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Greece, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, , Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine.

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Western Sahara, Spanish North Africa, South Sudan, Bahrain, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Burma (Republic of the Union of Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste.

NORTH-EAST ASIA

China (excludes SARs and Taiwan), Hong Kong (SAR of China), Macau (SAR of China), Mongolia, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of (North), Republic of Korea South.

SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL ASIA

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

AMERICAS

Bermuda, Canada, St Pierre and Miquelon, United States of America, , Argentina, Bolivia, Plurinational State of, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of, South America, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, United States, St Barthelemy, St Martin (French part), Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Curacao, Sint Maarten (Dutch part).

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Republic of, Congo, Democratic Republic of, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, , Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Reunion, Rwanda, St Helena, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Southern and East Africa.

1.11.2 Appendix 2 – Data for figures presented in this monograph

Table A 1.1: International comparison of total fertility rates in five-year periods, 1950 to 2015

	1950- 1955	1955- 1960	1960- 1965	1965- 1970	1970- 1975	1975- 1980	1980- 1985	1985- 1990	1990- 1995	1995- 2000	2000- 2005	2005- 2010	2010- 2015
Australia	3.2	3.4	3.3	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9
More developed regions	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Less developed regions	6.0	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.3	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4
Least developed countries	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.3
World	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5

TFR: Number of children per woman.

Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries

Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>

Table A 1.2: International comparison of crude fertility rates in five-year periods, 1950 to 2015

	1950- 1955	1955- 1960	1960- 1965	1965- 1970	1970- 1975	1975- 1980	1980- 1985	1985- 1990	1990- 1995	1995- 2000	2000- 2005	2005- 2010	2010- 2015
Australia	23.0	22.7	21.4	19.9	19.1	15.8	15.5	15.1	14.7	13.5	12.8	13.8	13.5
More developed regions	22.4	21.5	19.7	17.3	16.0	14.8	14.4	13.9	12.4	11.2	11.0	11.4	11.1
Less developed regions	43.1	40.9	41.3	39.8	35.9	31.4	30.2	29.7	25.7	22.3	20.8	19.9	19.2
Least developed countries	48.1	48.1	47.9	47.5	46.8	46.2	45.4	43.6	41.4	39.6	37.6	35.5	33.3
World	36.9	35.5	35.4	34.1	31.6	28.6	27.8	27.5	24.5	21.9	20.8	20.2	19.6

Crude fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 population

Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries

Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

Table A 1.3: International comparison of mean maternal age (years) in five-year periods, 1950 to 2015

	1950- 1955	1955- 1960	1960- 1965	1965- 1970	1970- 1975	1975- 1980	1980- 1985	1985- 1990	1990- 1995	1995- 2000	2000- 2005	2005- 2010	2010- 2015
Australia	27.9	27.6	27.5	27.3	26.8	26.9	27.4	28.1	28.6	29.2	29.8	30.3	30.5
More developed regions	28.3	27.8	27.4	27.2	26.8	26.5	26.6	26.9	27.1	27.7	28.3	28.7	29.3
Less developed regions	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.5	29.2	28.7	28.1	27.7	27.5	27.4	27.3	27.3	27.3
Least developed countries	29.4	29.4	29.4	29.4	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.4	29.2	29.0	28.8	28.6
World	29.1	29.1	29.0	29.0	28.8	28.4	27.9	27.7	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.6	27.6

Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan
Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries
Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

Table A 1.4: International comparison of age-specific fertility rate, 2010 to 2015

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Australia	15.5	52.9	102.1	125.6	71.5	15.0	0.9
More developed regions	19.2	65.1	98.1	93.4	47.5	9.8	0.6
Less developed regions	39.0	152.9	142.3	83.8	39.8	13.0	3.4
Least developed countries	96.9	209.8	210.7	162.7	107.6	49.3	16.2
World	46.2	149.3	144.5	94.7	48.1	15.7	3.8

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group.
Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group.
More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan
Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries
Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

Table A 1.5: International comparison of net reproduction rate in five-year periods, 1950 to 2015

	1950-1955	1955-1960	1960-1965	1965-1970	1970-1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015
Australia	1.49	1.60	1.54	1.36	1.20	0.95	0.91	0.89	0.89	0.86	0.85	0.94	0.92
More developed regions	1.25	1.29	1.25	1.11	1.00	0.90	0.88	0.87	0.80	0.75	0.75	0.79	0.80
Less developed regions	1.90	1.94	2.07	2.23	2.06	1.74	1.61	1.54	1.32	1.15	1.09	1.06	1.04
Least developed countries	1.80	1.93	2.05	2.16	2.18	2.25	2.28	2.22	2.10	2.04	1.97	1.90	1.81
World	1.67	1.72	1.81	1.89	1.77	1.56	1.49	1.45	1.28	1.16	1.12	1.11	1.10

Net reproduction rate: Number of daughters per women

Note: More developed regions comprise Europe, Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan

Less developed countries comprise all Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, excluding the least developed countries

Least developed countries include 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania plus one in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD>.

Table A 1.6: Live births and total fertility rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Births by year of registration	254,246	264,493	270,849	292,152	302,272	301,253	303,318	301,617	309,582	308,065	299,697
Births by year of occurrence	252,138	266,813	273,987	288,967	292,659	294,719	294,583	296,415	304,124	299,261	260,290
TFR	1.78	1.85	1.88	1.99	2.02	1.97	1.95	1.92	1.93	1.88	1.80

TFR: Number of children per women.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.7: Crude fertility rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Australia	12.8	13.1	13.2	14.0	14.2	13.9	13.8	13.5	13.6	13.3	12.8

Crude fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 population

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.8: Median age (years) of mothers in Australia, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Age	30.6	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.9: Number of live births by maternal age group and age-specific fertility rate in Australia, 2014

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Live births	9,204	38,558	82,741	102,336	53,839	12,106	777
Age-specific fertility rate	12.9	47.9	95.5	120.2	68.9	14.4	1.0

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.10: Number of live births by maternal age group in Australia, 2004 to 2014

Age (years)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
15-19	10,857	11,151	11,005	11,835	12,932	12,702	11,865	11,344	11,420	10,407	9,204
20-24	36,146	37,756	38,450	42,609	44,150	43,536	43,187	41,769	42,367	41,351	38,558
25-29	68,846	70,784	71,637	77,871	80,535	82,379	83,260	84,160	86,008	84,951	82,741
30-34	87,395	90,175	90,936	94,713	95,355	94,179	95,175	95,688	100,431	102,577	102,336
35-39	42,139	45,366	49,031	54,458	57,643	56,576	57,261	55,628	55,832	55,119	53,839
40-44	8,183	8,504	8,814	9,824	10,916	11,048	11,710	12,144	12,538	12,931	12,106
45-49	379	368	447	516	519	572	604	661	736	670	777

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.11: Age-specific fertility rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014

Age (years)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
15-19	16.2	16.6	16.3	17.1	18.4	17.9	16.7	16.1	16.1	14.6	12.9
20-24	53.4	54.4	54.1	58.8	59.4	56.8	55.3	53.0	53.3	51.6	47.9
25-29	103.1	105.5	104.7	110.0	108.9	106.3	104.0	103.1	102.8	99.5	95.5
30-34	115.1	119.5	123.1	129.7	130.7	127.7	127.2	124.9	126.8	124.6	120.2
35-39	57.7	61.5	64.7	69.6	72.0	70.1	71.1	70.3	71.5	70.8	68.9
40-44	10.6	11.1	11.6	13.0	14.5	14.5	15.1	15.2	15.2	15.4	14.4
45-49	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group.

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.12: Net reproduction rate in Australia, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Australia	0.86	0.88	0.90	0.96	0.97	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.87

Net reproduction rate: Number of daughters per women

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.13: Live births by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSW	85,894	91,224	92,188	96,351	100,276	98,231	101,266	99,054	98,508	100,462	91,074
Vic	62,417	63,297	65,245	70,325	71,184	70,928	70,572	71,444	77,405	73,969	74,224
Qld	49,940	51,707	52,695	61,306	63,168	66,149	64,523	63,253	63,837	63,354	63,066
SA	17,140	17,801	18,260	19,666	20,229	19,735	20,078	19,892	20,433	20,090	20,384
WA	25,295	26,253	27,777	29,165	31,851	30,879	31,424	32,259	33,627	34,516	35,403
Tas	5,809	6,310	6,475	6,663	6,775	6,627	6,385	6,608	6,168	6,049	5,935
NT	3,551	3,660	3,696	3,896	3,944	3,820	3,899	3,954	4,104	4,053	4,026
ACT	4,174	4,210	4,484	4,757	4,808	4,860	5,152	5,121	5,461	5,545	5,552

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.14: Total fertility rate by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSW	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7
Vic	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7
Qld	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
SA	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9
WA	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Tas	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.04	2.0	2.0
NT	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1
ACT	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8

TFR: Number of children per women.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.15: Crude fertility rate by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSW	12.9	13.6	13.7	14.1	14.4	13.9	14.2	13.7	13.5	13.6	12.1
Vic	12.7	12.7	12.9	13.6	13.5	13.2	12.9	12.9	13.7	12.9	12.7
Qld	13.0	13.2	13.1	14.9	15.0	15.3	14.6	14.1	14.0	13.6	13.4
SA	11.2	11.6	11.8	12.5	12.7	12.3	12.3	12.1	12.3	12.0	12.1
WA	12.8	13.1	13.5	13.8	14.7	13.8	13.7	13.7	13.8	13.7	13.8
Tas	12.0	13.0	13.2	13.5	13.6	13.1	12.5	12.9	12.0	11.8	11.5
NT	17.5	17.8	17.7	18.2	17.9	16.9	17.0	17.1	17.4	16.7	16.5
ACT	12.7	12.7	13.4	13.9	13.8	13.7	14.2	13.9	14.6	14.6	14.4
Australia	12.8	13.1	13.2	14.0	14.2	13.9	13.8	13.5	13.6	13.3	12.8

Crude fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 population

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.16: Median age (years) of mothers by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSW	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.9	30.9	31.0	31.2
Vic	31.3	31.5	31.7	31.6	31.6	31.5	31.6	31.4	31.3	31.5	31.5
Qld	29.8	29.9	30.0	29.9	29.7	29.6	29.7	29.8	29.8	29.9	30.1
SA	30.8	30.1	30.3	30.3	30.3	30.2	30.2	30.3	30.3	30.4	30.6
WA	30.2	30.4	30.4	30.3	30.3	30.2	30.2	30.3	30.3	30.4	30.6
Tas	29.2	29.4	29.3	29.2	29.2	29.1	29.2	29.4	29.5	29.4	29.6
NT	28.3	27.9	28.1	28.0	28.1	28.3	28.5	28.5	28.6	29.0	28.9
ACT	31.6	31.4	31.4	31.3	31.6	31.4	31.5	31.5	31.3	31.6	31.6
Australia	30.6	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.17: Live birth by maternal age group by state and territory, 2014

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
15–19	2,455	1,464	2,720	649	1,187	315	327	87
20–24	10,747	7,728	10,131	2,734	4,879	1,071	808	455
25–29	24,579	19,601	18,258	5,807	10,089	1,734	1,139	1,522
30–34	31,755	26,994	19,799	6,949	11,813	1,758	1,095	2,160
35–39	17,229	14,868	9,811	3,442	6,062	821	536	1,067
40–44	4,011	3,326	2,189	747	1,275	201	114	243
45–49	272	231	128	43	72	8	6	17

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.18: Age-specific fertility rate by state and territory, 2014

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
15–19	10.8	8.4	18.0	12.7	15.2	19.4	43.3	7.8	12.9
20–24	42.8	37.6	61.3	49.2	55.0	72.3	93.2	29.1	47.9
25–29	91.2	86.9	107.1	102.6	98.6	118.6	104.1	89.7	95.5
30–34	116.9	122.6	119.2	126.1	122.1	118.5	106.3	133.8	120.2
35–39	68.7	74.8	62.7	67.2	69.8	56.2	60.3	76.5	68.9
40–44	15.0	15.6	12.7	13.0	14.0	11.6	12.9	17.2	14.4
45–49	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.8	1.3	1.0

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group.

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.19: Number of live births by area of remoteness, 2009-2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Major Cities	211,898	215,167	215,080	222,018	221,521	215,820
Inner Regional	51,587	51,049	50,491	50,936	50,473	48,330
Outer Regional	28,212	27,449	26,806	27,386	26,901	25,930
Remote	5,254	5,194	5,023	5,083	4,882	4,851
Very Remote	3,668	3,687	3,517	3,322	3,160	3,264

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.20: Total fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Major Cities	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Inner Regional	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
Outer Regional	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
Remote	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
Very Remote	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2
Total Australia	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9

TFR: Number of children per women

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.21: Crude fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Major Cities	14.0	13.9	13.7	13.9	13.6	13.0
Inner Regional	12.9	12.6	12.3	12.2	12.0	11.3
Outer Regional	14.1	13.6	13.2	13.4	13.0	12.5
Remote	16.9	16.6	16.0	15.9	15.1	15.0
Very Remote	18.7	18.4	17.3	16.1	15.1	15.7
Total Australia	13.9	13.8	13.5	13.6	13.3	12.8

Crude fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 population

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.22: Median age (years) of mothers by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Major Cities	31.2	31.3	31.3	31.3	31.3	31.4
Inner Regional	29.4	29.3	29.3	29.3	29.3	29.4
Outer Regional	28.9	28.8	28.8	28.9	28.9	29.0
Remote	28.5	28.4	28.5	28.5	28.6	28.6
Very Remote	26.8	26.8	26.7	26.8	26.9	27.0
Total Australia	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.8	30.8

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.23: Age-specific fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2014

	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49
Major Cities	10.3	39.7	89.4	124.3	75.1	16.4	1.1
Inner Regional	19.5	77.4	131.5	123.2	56.9	11.4	0.6
Outer Regional	25.3	96.3	133.7	120.4	56.2	11.5	0.6
Remote	42.5	108.5	127.9	119.6	54.7	10.3	0.7
Very Remote	80.9	110.2	103.6	90.0	50.8	11.5	0.2

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group.

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.24: Total fertility rate by area of remoteness, by state and territory, 2014

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
Major Cities	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	NA	NA	1.8
Inner Regional	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	NA	NA
Outer Regional	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	NA
Remote	2.3	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.2	NA
Very Remote	3.1	NA	2.6	1.9	2.0	2.5	2.1	NA

TFR: Number of children per women.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.25: Number of Indigenous births, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Indigenous	12,006	12,717	13,181	15,269	16,090	16,912	17,414	17,621	18,295	18,368	17,779
Australia	254,246	264,493	270,849	292,152	302,272	301,253	303,318	301,617	309,582	308,065	299,697

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.26: Total fertility rate in Indigenous women, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Indigenous	2.158	2.219	2.252	2.594	2.703	2.773	2.801	2.740	2.383	2.344	2.222
Australia	1.782	1.846	1.875	1.994	2.023	1.970	1.954	1.917	1.930	1.883	1.799

TFR: Number of children per women

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.27: Median age (years) of Indigenous mothers, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Indigenous mothers	24.5	24.6	24.8	24.8	24.9	25.1
Australia	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.28: Number of live births to Indigenous mothers by maternal age group, 2014

	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49
Indigenous mothers	2,154	4,134	3,297	1,940	968	234	7
Australia	9,204	38,558	82,741	102,336	53,839	12,106	777

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.28: Number of live births to Indigenous mothers by maternal age group, 2014

	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49
Indigenous mothers	57.3	124.5	118.6	84.5	48.3	10.7	0.4
Australia	12.9	47.9	95.5	120.2	68.9	14.4	1.0

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.30: Age-specific fertility rate in Indigenous women, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
15–19	77.1	75.2	69.6	68.3	62.7	57.3
20–24	142.2	141.5	135.8	135.8	134.3	124.5
25–29	126.7	127.9	128.0	124.8	124.3	118.6
30–34	88.4	93.4	93.4	91.0	88.1	84.5
35–39	42.2	42.6	44.8	45.1	48.3	48.3
40–44	9.7	10.5	9.6	10.8	10.5	10.7
45–49	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.4

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.31: Number of Indigenous births by state and territory, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSW	5,209	5,686	5,614	5,496	5,961	5,091
Vic	1,129	974	1,120	1,345	1,388	1,370
Qld	5,210	5,301	5,256	5,618	5,206	5,345
SA	889	943	944	884	947	949
WA	2,416	2,341	2,506	2,658	2,735	2,815
Tas	397	454	486	537	525	551
NT	1,523	1,558	1,544	1,582	1,433	1,462

Note: Data for the ACT is not available due to the small number of Indigenous births but is included in totals for Australia.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.32: Total fertility rate in Indigenous women by state and territory, 2014

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT
Indigenous	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.9	1.6	2.1
State average	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1

TFR: Number of children per women

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.33: Number of live births and total fertility rate by maternal country of birth, 2014

	Live births	TFR
Oceania and Antarctica	210,467	1.9
Southern and Central Asia	20,253	2.1
South-East Asia	16,106	1.6
North-East Asia	15,001	1.4
North-West Europe	12,657	1.6
North Africa and the Middle East	8,822	2.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	6,389	2.1
Americas	4,906	1.5
Southern and Eastern Europe	4,854	1.5

TFR: Number of children per women,

Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for country classification.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.34: Median age (years) of mothers by country of birth, 2014

	Age (years)
North Africa and the Middle East	30.2
Southern and Central Asia	30.3
Oceania and Antarctica	30.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	31.6
North-East Asia	32.0
South-East Asia	32.3
Southern and Eastern Europe	32.6
Americas	33.3
North-West Europe	33.5

Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for country classification

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.35: Age-specific fertility rate by maternal country of birth, 2014

	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49
Oceania and Antarctica	15.7	53.9	100.1	120.4	68.1	14.0	0.8
North-West Europe	4.6	24.2	56.7	127.1	92.1	18.7	1.0
Southern and Eastern Europe	5.0	32.6	73.3	99.8	66.4	15.6	0.9
North Africa and the Middle East	23.4	131.1	164.8	135.4	86.7	22.1	1.6
South-East Asia	5.8	33.1	88.4	110.1	66.6	15.6	1.1
North-East Asia	0.7	13.2	62.8	110.0	79.0	17.9	1.2
Southern and Central Asia	5.4	80.1	137.5	121.4	56.8	12.3	0.9
Americas	5.2	20.9	57.4	106.9	87.3	22.4	2.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	11.2	53.5	116.7	140.0	80.5	18.2	1.7
Australia	15.4	52.7	100.1	121.0	68.1	13.8	0.8

Age-specific fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women in age group,

Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for country classification, Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group and births to mothers older than 49 years are included in the 45-49 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.36: Number of live births and fertility rate among teenagers in Australia, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Live births	10,857	11,151	11,005	11,835	12,932	12,702	11,865	11,344	11,420	10,407	9,204
Fertility rate	16.2	16.6	16.3	17.1	18.4	17.9	16.7	16.1	16.1	14.6	12.9

Fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.37: Number of live births and fertility rate among teenagers by state and territory, 2014

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
Live births	2,455	1,464	2,720	649	1,187	315	327	87
Fertility rate	10.8	8.4	18.0	12.7	15.2	19.4	43.3	7.8

Fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.38: Number of live births among teenagers by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSW	3,310	3,374	3,399	3,409	3,821	3,613	3,573	3,306	3,180	3,016	2,455
Vic	1,713	1,642	1,653	1,732	1,864	1,764	1,513	1,618	1,830	1,624	1,464
Qld	2,883	2,768	2,725	3,295	3,645	4,026	3,667	3,296	3,308	2,996	2,720
SA	686	943	848	904	953	836	807	800	818	700	649
WA	1,371	1,446	1,392	1,485	1,686	1,514	1,449	1,460	1,413	1,322	1,187
Tas	397	419	405	438	449	443	358	399	382	348	315
NT	402	448	471	449	413	391	388	353	387	307	327
ACT	94	109	108	123	95	115	107	110	101	93	87

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.39: Teenage fertility rate by state and territory, 2004 to 2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSW	15.1	15.4	15.5	15.3	17.0	16.0	15.9	14.8	14.2	13.4	10.8
Vic	10.4	9.9	9.9	10.2	10.8	10.1	8.7	9.4	10.6	9.4	8.4
Qld	22.0	20.9	20.2	23.6	25.4	27.5	24.8	22.3	22.3	19.9	18.0
SA	13.6	18.7	16.9	17.7	18.5	16.1	15.6	15.5	16.0	13.8	12.7
WA	19.7	20.6	19.8	20.6	22.8	20.2	19.3	19.4	18.6	17.2	15.2
Tas	24.9	26.9	26.7	27.6	27.8	27.7	22.2	25.2	24.3	21.6	19.4
NT	56.3	61.7	64.3	59.4	53.1	49.8	50.0	47.2	51.4	40.6	43.3
ACT	7.8	9.1	9.1	10.0	7.6	9.2	8.7	9.1	8.7	8.2	7.8

Teenage fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.40: Teenage fertility rate by area of remoteness, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Major cities	13.0	12.9	12.2	11.8	11.2	10.3
Inner regional	23.1	23.1	22.2	21.7	21.0	19.5
Outer regional	31.3	31.0	29.6	28.0	27.2	25.3
Remote	49.5	49.5	48.5	47.6	45.5	42.5
Very remote	83.1	83.5	86.1	85.5	82.1	80.9

Teenage fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.41: Teenage fertility rate by area of remoteness, by state and territory, 2014

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
Major cities	9.5	7.0	14.6	12.3	12.5	NA	NA	8.2
Inner regional	19.2	15.8	25.0	13.1	18.2	21.1	NA	NA
Outer regional	25.1	20.3	27.9	24.3	29.9	21.6	21.8	NA
Remote	37.3	11.8	54.5	16.0	48.0	48.0	44.0	NA
Very remote	83.7	NA	85.3	42.2	76.3	37.6	91.0	NA

Teenage fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.42: Number of live births and fertility rate in Indigenous teenagers, 2009 to 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Live births	2,567	2,571	2,442	2,472	2,320	2,154
Fertility rate	77.1	75.2	69.6	68.3	62.7	57.3

Teenage fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Note: Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.43: Number of live births and fertility rate in Indigenous teenagers by state and territory, 2014

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT
Live births	534	94	667	104	414	53	279
Fertility rate	44.2	33.7	61.6	49.2	88.3	39.4	82.5

Teenage fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Note: Data for the ACT were not available. Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

Table A 1.44: Teenage fertility rate by maternal country of birth, 2014

	Fertility rate
Oceania and Antarctica	15.7
North-West Europe	4.6
Southern and Eastern Europe	5.0
North Africa and the Middle East	23.4
South-East Asia	5.8
North-East Asia	0.7
Southern and Central Asia	5.4
Americas	5.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	11.2
Australia	15.4

Teenage fertility rate: Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Note: Refer to Appendix 1 for country classification, Births to mothers younger than 15 years are included in the 15-19 year group

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2014

