

## HOME BIRTH STATISTICS - 1985

The 1985 home birth figures are below, with statistics for earlier years as published in previous National Newsletters. Since these earlier figures were published I have received additional forms for previous years but have not re-analysed the data since some extra forms are still outstanding. All years are calendar years except for 1982 when forms were received from March onwards.

Where information was missing for particular items, the statistics are of those births for which the information was known.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	
Number of births analysed	127	183	315	315	
Variable	percentages				
Parity (previous live births)	0	25.4	23.8	21.4	29.7
	1	33.3	29.8	37.5	33.0
	2	24.6	32.0	25.0	24.1
	3	10.3	8.8	10.3	6.3
	4	4.8	3.9	3.6	4.0
	5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.3
	6	0	0	0.4	1.0
	8	0	0	0	0.3
	9	0	0	0	0.3
Stable relationship	96.0	93.9	92.6	93.3	
Smoker	5.7	5.8	6.8	6.5	
Anti-D given	12.1	14.4	11.7	12.3	
Iron tablets taken	21.2	24.2	22.5	24.2	
Raspberry leaf taken	76.2	75.1	75.9	63.8	
Maternal transfer to hospital (intra- and post-partum)	12.2	6.6	15.3	12.9	
Pain relieving drugs used	5.6	5.1	2.9	4.7	
Acupuncture performed	18.5	28.2	12.4	15.9	
Ecbolics given	10.3	14.1	18.4	9.9	
Blood loss: less than 300 mls	85.8	74.7	76.6	75.0	
300 to 600 mls	12.5	19.5	19.8	21.9	
more than 600 mls	1.7	5.7	3.6	3.1	
Episiotomy	5.7	5.7	4.5	3.6	
Sutured laceration	22.9	29.9	28.9	30.7	
Membranes ruptured spontaneously	73.4	78.9	81.7	85.7	
Resuscitation needed (for baby)	3.3	0.6	5.1	5.3	
Sex of baby - boys	54.8	49.2	54.9	51.2	
- girls	45.2	50.8	45.1	48.8	
Breast feeding established	97.6	98.8	99.0	98.7	
Infant transfer	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.4	
Maternal conditions -					
hypertension during labour	1.6	4.3	6.3	4.1	
uterine disfunction	4.7	2.2	2.5	1.6	
cord prolapse	0	0	0	0	
malpresentation	2.4	0.5	0.6	2.9	
pop delivery	3.1	0.5	1.6	1.9	
shoulder dystocia	3.1	1.6	2.9	1.9	
retained placenta	2.4	0.5	1.0	1.0	
mastitis	7.9	4.9	8.3	3.5	
other maternal infection	3.1	2.7	3.2	1.9	
post natal depression	0.8	3.3	5.7	2.2	

STATISTICS (continued)

Variable	1982	1983	1984	1985
	percentages			
Foetal conditions -				
foetal distress	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.6
meconium staining	10.2	9.8	6.7	8.3
intra partum or neonatal death	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	0	0	0
dysmaturity	0	0	0.6	1.6
foetal abnormality	1.6	3.3	1.6	1.0
birth injury	0	1.1	1.0	1.0
infection	7.9	8.2	6.0	7.9
jaundice	34.6	30.1	32.7	30.8
pleasure responses	53.5	49.7	30.2	44.1
Apgar score, at 1 minute: 9 and 10	78.7	68.8	72.6	72.1
at 5 minutes: 9 and 10	97.5	98.3	97.8	95.3
Maternal transfer to hospital of mothers having first baby (parity 0)	20.0	6.7	38.2	30.6
Maternal transfer of mothers having subsequent babies	9.1	7.1	9.7	7.6
	numbers			
Average age of mothers (years)	28.7	28.6	28.7	29.5
Minimum age of mothers (years)	19	20	17	20
Maximum age of mothers (years)	39	41	40	42
Average length of -				
first stage of labour (hours)	6.9	6.8	7.1	7.7
2nd stage of labour (hours)	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
3rd stage of labour (minutes)	13.4	11.6	14.8	15.2
Average birth weight of babies (gms)	3589	3578	3608	3576
Average discharge weight (gms)	3865	3849	3935	3846

(1) See text below.

four intra partum deaths      1979 - 1986

(1 of these was the result of a tentorial tear after transfer to hospital and failed attempt at high forceps delivery)

two neonatal deaths

(1 gross congenital abnormality)

Thank you, Sian, this is valuable information. It also illustrates the fact that because deaths are so rare, a few occurring close together by chance can appear dramatic and of course be disheartening. Since 1982 was when I began collecting statistics it is understandable I may have missed these forms. Once I have the outstanding ones I can re-analyse this old data.

As mentioned above I have had extra forms come in since the figures for the earlier years were analysed. Below is a table showing the births each midwife or doctor has notified me of. There is no particular order to these people - I have simply listed them in the order I first received forms from them. Births prior to 1982 or after 1985 I have not shown.

STATISTICS (continued).

MIDWIFE/DOCTOR	1982	1983	1984	1985	TOTAL
Joan Donley, Auckland	32	58	43	31	164
Carolyn Young, Auckland	29	44	40	43	156
Thelma Fell, Hamilton	15	9			24
Jennie McGarry, Whitianga	3				3
Rae Abraham, Kaitaia	2	2			4
Lyn McLean, Wellington	31	6			37
Kiet Moonen, Auckland	1				1
Jenny Johnston, Hamilton, Wellington		7	51	57	115
Dr Peter Van Herel, Timaru	5	2	4	6	17
Rhonda Evans, Waiheke Is., Albany	12		3	2	17
Pam Skelton, Wellington	3				3
Fiona Barnett, Manawatu		9	9	2	20
Lynley McFarland, Palmerston North	6	3		1	10
Bronwen Pelvin, Up. Moutere(Nelson)	20	28	23	35	106
Irene Hogan, Auckland		2			2
Chris Voaden, Nelson	2	5			7
Brenda McHugo, Waikanae		1			1
Adele Burbeck, Dunedin		6	9	1	16
Gillian McNicol, Auckland	15	9			24
Ursula Helem, Christchurch	27	33	39	57	156
Pat Fuller, Christchurch	6	20	24		50
Anne Sharplin, Nelson			15	3	18
Gill Williams, Te Puke		5	2		7
Veronika Muller, Auckland			18	27	45
Ellen Salmons, Manawatu		2	4	8	14
Clare Hutchinson, Hamilton			20	12	32
Yvette Watson, Auckland		2		1	3
Jane Marshall, Whakatane		2			2
Sian Burgess, Auckland		7	18		25
N.J.W. Blenheim	3				3
Heather Waugh, Auckland			3	11	14
K. Burnside, Auckland			16	4	20
Adrienne Mulqueen, Dunedin			2	12	14
Dr Kerry Neilson, Pleasant Pt(Timaru)				1	1
Chrissie Sygrove, Kaitaia				1	1
			TOTAL		1132

These figures speak for themselves in showing a lot of people who have given a lot of support for home birth. Perhaps it is appropriate here to mention that I received a very nice letter from Dr Van Herel accompanying two stats forms for 1986. He is moving back to Holland and writes "Some of my colleagues have expressed their interest in assisting at home deliveries here in Timaru and the Home birth association is in the process of attracting a Domiciliary midwife, so hopefully an opportunity for home deliveries will persist here". Our thanks for your support.

For further information contact me (Stan Gillanders) at 104 Seddon Street, Naenae, Lower Hutt or phone Wellington 673 747.