

# **Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation: Third- and fourth-degree perineal tears for all vaginal births, 2012-2014**

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# Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation: Third- and fourth-degree perineal tears for all vaginal births, 2012-2014

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Short name:</b>	Third and fourth degree perineal tears for all vaginal births, 2012-2014
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	639086
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 07/06/2017</a>
<b>Description:</b>	Number of women who have a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth vaginally, age standardised. Data are disaggregated by the area in which the mother lives.
<b>Rationale:</b>	Third and fourth degree perineal lacerations cause significant ongoing maternal morbidity. This is an outcome indicator that measures their occurrence.
<b>Indicator set:</b>	<a href="#">Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2017</a> <a href="#">Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 07/06/2017</a>

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Population group age from:</b>	Females 15-44 years of age
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**Computation description:** Number of women who had a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth vaginally.

**Inclusion codes and descriptions:**  
**Birth Method**

Code	Description
1	Vaginal - non-instrumental
2	Vaginal - forceps
5	Vaginal - vacuum extraction

**Postpartum perineal status**

Code	Description
4	3rd degree laceration
7	4th degree laceration

Presented as a number per 1,000 women.

Rates are directly age standardised to the 2001 Australian female population aged 15–44, using the age groups: 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34 and 35-44.

For more information about age-standardisation in general see </content/index.phtml/itemId/327276>

Analysis by Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) is based on usual residence of the mother.

**Computation:**  $1,000 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$

**Numerator:** The number of women who had a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth vaginally.

**Numerator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

**Guide for use**

[Perinatal NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Perinatal NMDS 2013-14](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Birth event—birth method, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

**Guide for use**

[Perinatal NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Perinatal NMDS 2013-14](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Female \(mother\)—postpartum perineal status, code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

**Guide for use**

[Perinatal NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Perinatal NMDS 2013-14](#)

**Denominator:**

The number of women who gave birth vaginally 2012-2014.

**Denominator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Birth event—birth method, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

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[Perinatal NMDS 2013-14](#)

**Disaggregation:**

SA3 by:

- Remoteness (ASGC Remoteness structure) and Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD)

State and territory by:

- Indigenous status
- Patient elected accommodation status

Cells of less than 5 have been suppressed. This is the lowest level of suppression that all states and territories have agreed to for the release of data from the National Perinatal Data Collection.

Crude rates have been suppressed where the denominator is less than 100, for reliability purposes. The corresponding age standardised rate has also been suppressed in these cases.

In addition, age standardised rates have been suppressed where the denominator for any age-stratified groups have fewer than 10 individuals.

**Disaggregation data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)

**Data Source**

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18](#)

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[Perinatal NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Perinatal NMDS 2013-14](#)

**Comments:**

Data elements are from the Perinatal national minimum data set (NMDS) or have been provided as voluntary non-standardised items by the states and territories. Records with data that are missing, not stated or not interpretable have been excluded from the denominator.

A birth is defined as the event in which a baby comes out of the uterus after a pregnancy of at least 20 weeks gestation or weighing 400 grams or more.

Births included are vaginal births, including non-instrumental and instrumental births. A non-instrumental vaginal birth is one in which the baby is born through the vagina without the assistance of instruments. An instrumental birth is a procedure that uses instruments (forceps or vacuum extraction) to assist the baby to come out through the vagina.

Births excluded are caesarean sections.

Postpartum perineal status is defined as:

**1st degree laceration/vaginal graze (Code 2)**—Graze, laceration, rupture or tear of the perineal skin during delivery that may be considered to be slight or that involves one or more of the following structures:

- fourchette
- labia
- periurethral tissue (excluding involvement of urethra)
- vagina
- low vulva.

**2nd degree laceration (Code 3)**—Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 2 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- pelvic floor
- perineal muscles
- vaginal muscles.

Excludes laceration involving the anal sphincter.

**3rd degree laceration (Code 4)**—Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 3 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- anal sphincter (excluding involvement of anal or rectal mucosa)
- rectovaginal septum
- sphincter not otherwise specified (NOS).

Excludes laceration involving the anal or rectal mucosa.

**4th degree laceration (Code 7)**—Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 4 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- anal mucosa
- rectal mucosa

## Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Rate  
**Data type:** Integer  
**Unit of measure:** Person  
**Format:** N[NNNN]

## Data source attributes

**Data sources:**

### Data Source

[AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection \(NPDC\)](#)

### Frequency

Calendar years ending 31 December each year

### Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Accountability attributes

**Reporting requirements:** Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care  
**Organisation responsible for providing data:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
**Accountability:** Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care  
**Release date:** 07/06/2017

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care