

# Birth event—birth plurality, code N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Element

**Short name:** Birth plurality

**Synonymous names:** Multiple birth

**METEOR identifier:** 668881

**Registration status:**

- [Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018
- [Indigenous](#), Superseded 02/04/2019

**Definition:** The number of babies resulting from a single pregnancy, as represented by a code.

**Context:** Multiple pregnancy increases the risk of complications during pregnancy, labour and delivery and is associated with higher risk of perinatal morbidity and mortality.

**Data Element Concept:** [Birth event—birth plurality](#)

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Code

**Data type:** Number

**Format:** N

**Maximum character length:** 1

**Permissible values:**

Value	Meaning
1	Singleton
2	Twins
3	Triplets
4	Quadruplets
5	Quintuplets
6	Sextuplets
8	Other

**Supplementary values:**

Value	Meaning
9	Not stated

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** Plurality at birth is determined by the total number of [live births](#) and [stillbirths](#) that result from the pregnancy.

Stillbirths, including those where the fetus was likely to have died before 20 weeks gestation (including fetus papyraceous and fetus compressus), should be included in the count of plurality if recognisable as a fetus and expelled or extracted with other products of conception at 20 or more weeks gestation.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** National Perinatal Data Development Committee

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Birth event—birth plurality, code N](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 02/08/2017
- [Indigenous](#), Superseded 22/10/2018

Has been superseded by [Pregnancy—birth plurality, code N](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020
- [Indigenous](#), Superseded 14/07/2021

## Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Indigenous primary health care NBEDS 2018–19Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 02/04/2019

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

### **DSS specific information:**

This item is only collected for infants born during the preceding 12 months.

[Perinatal NMDS 2018-19ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 14/08/2018  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

### **DSS specific information:**

This item is collected for the mother only.

**Implementation in Indicators:**

**Used as Numerator**

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.6–Proportion of babies born with low birthweight, 2020Health](#), Standard 02/12/2020

[Indigenous primary health care: PI02a-Number of Indigenous babies born within the previous 12 months whose birthweight results were low, normal or high, 2018-2019Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 14/07/2021

[Indigenous primary health care: PI02b-Proportion of Indigenous babies born within the previous 12 months whose birthweight results were low, normal or high, 2018-2019Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 14/07/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2021Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2022Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021

**Used as Denominator**

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.6–Proportion of babies born with low birthweight, 2020Health](#), Standard 02/12/2020

[Indigenous primary health care: PI02b-Proportion of Indigenous babies born within the previous 12 months whose birthweight results were low, normal or high, 2018-2019Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020  
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 14/07/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2021Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2022Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021