

Product of birth—birth order, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Element

Short name: Birth order

METEOR identifier: 695293

Registration status:

- [Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 24/06/2020

Definition: The sequential order of each baby of a multiple birth, as represented by a code.

Context: Perinatal.

Multiple births have higher risks of perinatal mortality and morbidity. Multiple birth pregnancies are often associated with obstetric, labour and delivery complications, higher rates of neonatal morbidity, low [birthweight](#), and a higher perinatal death rate.

Data Element Concept: [Product of birth—birth order](#)

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N

Maximum character length: 1

Permissible values:

Value	Meaning
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1	Singleton or first of a multiple birth
2	Second of a multiple birth
3	Third of a multiple birth
4	Fourth of a multiple birth
5	Fifth of a multiple birth
6	Sixth of a multiple birth
8	Other

Supplementary values:

Value	Meaning
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9	Not stated/inadequately described
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Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	CODE 2 Second of a multiple birth Stillborns are counted such that, if twins were born, the first stillborn and the second live born, the second twin would be recorded as Code 2 (Second of a multiple birth), and not Code 1 (Singleton or first of a multiple birth).
Collection methods:	This data element should be collected routinely for all babies aged 28 days or less.
Comments:	Required to analyse pregnancy outcome according to birth order and identify the individual baby resulting from a multiple birth pregnancy.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Perinatal Data Development Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:	Supersedes Birth—birth order, code N <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT Health (retired), Candidate 14/08/2018• Health, Superseded 12/12/2018• Tasmanian Health, Superseded 24/06/2020 Has been superseded by Product of birth—birth order, code N <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 03/12/2020
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Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20 Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

DSS specific information:

Birth order is only assigned to births that are in scope for the Perinatal NMDS (i.e. births of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 grams birthweight). In the case of multiple pregnancies, if one or more fetuses were removed from the mother's uterus before 20 weeks gestation, for example, by abortion (spontaneous, induced or fetal reduction), they are not considered in the assignment of birth order for any remaining fetuses that are born. For example, in a twin pregnancy, where one fetus is aborted before 20 weeks gestation, no birth order would be recorded for that twin. If the remaining twin is born and is in scope for the Perinatal NMDS, then their birth order would be recorded as Code 1 (Singleton or first of a multiple birth). If both twins are born and are in scope for the Perinatal NMDS, the first twin would be assigned a birth order of Code 1 (Singleton or first of a multiple birth) and the second twin would be assigned a birth order of Code 2 (Second of a multiple birth).

In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.

[Perinatal NMDS 2020–21 Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

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