

# National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13—Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2021

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# National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2021

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Common name:</b>	Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births
<b>Short name:</b>	PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2021
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	748051
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 09/09/2022
<b>Description:</b>	The proportion of all females who have a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth vaginally for (a) all first births and (b) all births.
<b>Rationale:</b>	Third and fourth degree perineal lacerations cause significant ongoing maternal morbidity. This is an outcome indicator that measures the occurrence of third and fourth degree perineal lacerations.
<b>Indicator set:</b>	<a href="#">National Core Maternity Indicators, 2021</a> <a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 09/09/2022

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Computation description:</b>	<p>(a) The number of females who had a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth for the first time and birth vaginally, divided by the number of females who gave birth for the first time and birth vaginally, and multiplied by 100.</p> <p>(b) The number of females who had a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth vaginally, divided by the number of females who gave birth vaginally, and multiplied by 100.</p> <p>A birth is defined as the complete expulsion or extraction from a female, of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 400 grams or more birthweight.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Births excluded are caesarean sections.</p> <p>Third degree laceration is defined as perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in second degree laceration occurring during delivery, also involving: anal sphincter, rectovaginal septum, and sphincter not otherwise specified. Excludes laceration involving the anal or rectal mucosa. Fourth degree laceration is defined as perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in third degree laceration occurring during delivery, also involving: anal mucosa and rectal mucosa.</p>
<b>Computation:</b>	$100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$
<b>Numerator:</b>	<p>(a) The number of females who had a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth for the first time and birth vaginally.</p> <p>(b) The number of females who had a third or fourth degree perineal laceration after giving birth vaginally.</p>

**Numerator data elements:****Data Element / Data Set****Data Element**

Labour complication: Third/fourth degree tear

**Data Source**

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

**Guide for use**

This data item for 2013 only analysis.

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Birth event—birth method, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

This data item from 2014 onwards analysis.

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Female—parity, total pregnancies N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Denominator:**

- (a) The number of females who gave birth for the first time and birth vaginally.
- (b) The number of females who gave birth vaginally.

**Denominator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Birth event—birth method, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Female—parity, total pregnancies N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Disaggregation:**

- Year of birth
- State or territory of birth
- Mother's age at birth
- Hospital annual number of births
- Hospital sector
- Remoteness category (from mother's area of usual residence)
- Indigenous status of mother
- With and without episiotomy
- Mother's country of birth
- Primary Health Network (from mother's area of usual residence)
- Statistical local area 3 (from mother's area of usual residence)

**Disaggregation data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Hospital annual number of births

**Data Source**

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

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Hospital sector

**Data Source**

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

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—country of birth, code \(SACC 2016\) NNNN](#)

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

## [Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

### Data Element / Data Set

[Birth event—state/territory of birth, code N](#)

Data Source

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Perinatal NMDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

### Comments:

Data elements are from the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) or have been provided as voluntary non-standardised items by states and territories. Records with a permissible value have been included in the denominator.

For the 2013 analysis, third and fourth degree tears was calculated using *Labour complication: third/fourth degree* data item. A revised collection of perineal status data items in the Perinatal NMDS was introduced in 2014, which meant that the perineal status was split between seven perineal status data items. As a result, for 2014 onwards analysis, third and fourth degree tears was calculated using two data items, *Perineal status: third degree laceration* (code 4) and *Perineal status: fourth degree laceration* (code 7).

Modified from Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Indicator 3.1-3.6: Major perineal tears and surgical repair of the perineum. This ACHS indicator is based on the definition by Women's Healthcare Australasia Core Maternity Indicators Project (WHA 2007).

## Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Person

Format: N[NN.N]

## Data source attributes

**Data sources:****Data Source**

[Perinatal National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\)](#)

**Frequency**

Annual

**Data custodian**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**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:** N/A

**Organisation responsible for providing data:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Accountability:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Reference documents:** ACHS (The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards) 2020. The Australasian Clinical Indicator Report: 2012-2019. 21st edn. Sydney: ACHS. Viewed 11 November 2021, <https://www.achs.org.au/our-services/pos/previous-acir-publications>.

WHA (Women's Healthcare Australasia) 2007. Supporting excellence in maternity care: the core maternity indicators project: findings from the core maternity indicators project. Canberra: WHA.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Supersedes [National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13—Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2020](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

Has been superseded by [National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13—Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2022](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 14/07/2023