

The Rest

Relationship Statistics

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FERTILITY 2005

- There were 259,800 births registered in Australia in 2005 which is 2.2 per cent more than the year before and it is the highest number of annual births since 1993.
- This represents a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.81 live births per woman compared to 1.77 in 2004. It is the highest TFR since 1995 with 1.82. (The lowest recorded was 1.73 in 2001)
- All states and territories recorded increases in their TFR in 2005. The ACT had the lowest TFR at 1.65, while the Northern Territory had the highest at 2.29. Tasmania recorded the greatest percentage increase in births (up 9 per cent from 2004 to 2005) and Tasmania's TFR of 2.1 was significant in reaching replacement level (the only state or territory other than NT to achieve this).
- The median age of all mothers who gave birth in 2005 was 30.7 - the highest on record - compared to 27.3 in 1985. The median age of fathers was 32.9 compared to 30.1 in 1985.
- The age group with the highest fertility was women aged 30-34 and their fertility rate of 117.5 babies per 1,000 women was actually the highest it has been since 1964.
- For the second consecutive year, the fertility rate for women aged 35-39 – at 60.6 babies per 1,000 women – was higher than the fertility of women aged 20-24. The fertility of women aged 35-39 is the highest since 1962.
- The fertility rate for women aged 20-24 (at 52.9) and for teenagers (16.0) declined from 2004 to 2005.
- There were 10,744 births to teenage mothers in 2005 and the fertility rate for teenagers varied from 9.5 births per 1,000 women in the ACT to 26.6 in Tasmania and 64.1 in the Northern Territory.
- 32 per cent of births in 2005 were to couples who were not married compared to 15 per cent in 1985. Ex-nuptial births were particularly high in the Northern Territory (63 per cent) and Tasmania (48 per cent).
- The percentage of births with no acknowledged paternity was 3 per cent in 2005 (but 21 per cent in the Northern Territory and 8 per cent in Tasmania) – compared to 5 per cent in 1985.
- There were 4,200 confinements in 2005 that resulted in multiple births and this is 58% more than in 1985.
- 5 per cent of all births in 2005 were recorded to couples where at least one parent was Indigenous and Indigenous women had a total fertility rate of 2.06 babies per woman.
- Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) is lower than the United States (2.0), New Zealand (2.0) and East Timor (7.8), but higher than many other developed countries such as the UK (1.7), Canada (1.5) and Japan (1.3). The UN estimates world TFR at 2.7 compared to around 5 until the late 1960s.

SOURCES:

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006). *Births, Australia. ABS Catalogue No.3301.0. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.*