

South Australian Perinatal Statistics Collection



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-REVIEWED ANNUALLY-



Government of South Australia
SA Health



Due for Review: September 2012

www.santdatalink.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PERINATAL DATABASE

Data Quality Statement

This Data Quality Statement is intended to assist Researchers with understanding the strengths, weaknesses and utility of this dataset for Statistical Linkage Projects. This dataset has been assessed against the seven dimensions of data quality, as set out in the Australian Bureau of Statistics [Data Quality Framework](#):

- [Institutional Environment](#)
- [Relevance](#)
- [Timeliness](#)
- [Accuracy](#)
- [Coherence](#)
- [Interpretability](#)
- [Accessibility](#)



All births in South Australia are notified by hospital staff and birth attendants. The information provided is as per the 'Supplementary Birth Record'. Information on congenital abnormalities detected at birth or in the neonatal period (within 28 days of birth) is provided by doctors using the 'Congenital Abnormality Form'. Both forms are accessible in the Appendices of the Pregnancy Outcome in South Australia reports (available on-line at [SA Health](#)).

The forms are checked manually for completeness and data discrepancies and then go through a series of automated validation procedures during data entry.

Perinatal data are required to be notified under the South Australian Health Care Regulations 2008, Part 5, Pregnancy outcome data and statistics.

Institutional Environment

Organisation

South Australian Department of Health (SA Health)

Authority for Collection

Health Care Regulations 2008, Part 5 Pregnancy outcome data and statistics

Relevance

Purpose of the Collection

The SA Perinatal Database enables monitoring of pregnancy characteristics and outcomes, obstetric problems and characteristics of perinatal care, to identify those population groups most at risk so that preventive interventions can be directed accordingly. It allows comparison of the South Australian pregnancy outcomes with the experience of other regions, both nationally and internationally.

Population Covered

The South Australian perinatal statistics collection includes all births occurring in South Australia, including those to women who normally reside interstate, mainly in New South Wales near the South Australian border and in the Northern Territory. Births to South Australian residents which occur in other states are not included.

Geographic Coverage

South Australia.

Reference Period

Data for linkage purposes are available from 01st January 1986. The South Australian Perinatal Database commenced operation in 1981. The perinatal data have been collected since 1981, but there have been changes in the data items collected over the years.

Timeliness

Frequency of Collection

Data are collected on an on-going basis.

Frequency of Release

Reports are published every calendar year reflecting the date of birth of the baby.

Timeliness of Release

There is a time lag of approximately one year between the close of a calendar year and publication of that year's report. The lag period is due to the time necessary to perform local and national quality assurance checks, data analysis, report writing and approval.

Accuracy

Quality Assurance

The quality of the data held by the SA Perinatal Database collection fundamentally reflects the quality of the data submitted by notifiers. A variety of data quality checks are performed on all data, including correlation with major public and private hospital monthly birth data. Validation reviews of data are conducted intermittently, with the most recent **validation study conducted in 1994**.

Coverage

As stated above, all births in South Australia are required by legislation to be notified by hospital staff and birth attendants by providing information as per the 'Supplementary Birth Record'. Births to South Australian residents which occur in other states are not included.

Coherence

Internal Consistency

Most of the principal risk factors of interest during pregnancy are individually listed as tick boxes, as indicated on the Supplementary Birth Record Form and the Congenital Abnormality Form for each year of data collection. Since 1986, where no individual code is listed, the SA Perinatal Database has used version 9 of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) codes to classify clinical data listed within the 'other' categories, and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health's (formerly the British Paediatric Association) International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9-BPA) codes to classify congenital anomalies data.

Comparability

Version 9 of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health's (formerly the British Paediatric Association) International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9-BPA) is recognized nationally and internationally.

Linkage Variables

Mother and Baby Variables:

- Unique Record identifier;

- Unique Person Identifier where available;
- Names – all names including nicknames, aliases and aka;
- Date of birth;
- Sex;
- Title;
- Aboriginality, Torres Strait Islander Indicator;
- Country of birth;
- Full address including geocodes if available.

Additional Variables:

- Baby's birth weight;
- Plurality – order and total;
- Mother's Occupation;
- Father's Occupation.

Interpretability

Metadata

The South Australian [Perinatal Database Guidelines \(data dictionary\)](#), is available online from SA NT DataLink. A selection of key indicators and risk factors collected within the dataset are contained within the Perinatal National Minimum Dataset, which is available through the AIHW's [MeTEOR](#). However, South Australian codes may differ slightly. In light of these differences, relevant excerpts of the Perinatal Database 'code sheets' will be made available to researchers conducting approved statistical Linkage Projects when required for analysis of data. Please note however, data is often recoded by the Pregnancy Outcomes Unit before it is released to the researcher in order to improve ease of analysis.

Researchers may also be interested in the Perinatal Database's [1994 validation report](#) and the [Annual Pregnancy outcome reports](#) published by the Pregnancy Outcomes Unit.



Accessibility

Data Custodian

Epidemiology Branch, SA Health

Research Inquiries

Contact [Client Services, SA NT DataLink](#)

Method of Access

To gain access to this dataset Researchers must follow [SA NT DataLink's Application Process](#) for Statistical Linkage Projects.

Data Availability

A formal application, which is in fact a deed between the custodians and researchers, must be signed by all custodians both prior to and after ethics approval. The SA Perinatal Database custodians can impose conditions, one of which may specify that the custodian is informed at an early point of the substance of any intended publication.

For further information please contact Metadata and Research Advisory Services, SA NT DataLink.

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