

Perinatal health indicators in Catalonia. 2021

Executive Report

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To the team of professionals of the neonatal early detection program for congenital metabolic diseases and to all healthcare professionals of the public and private health network of Catalonia.

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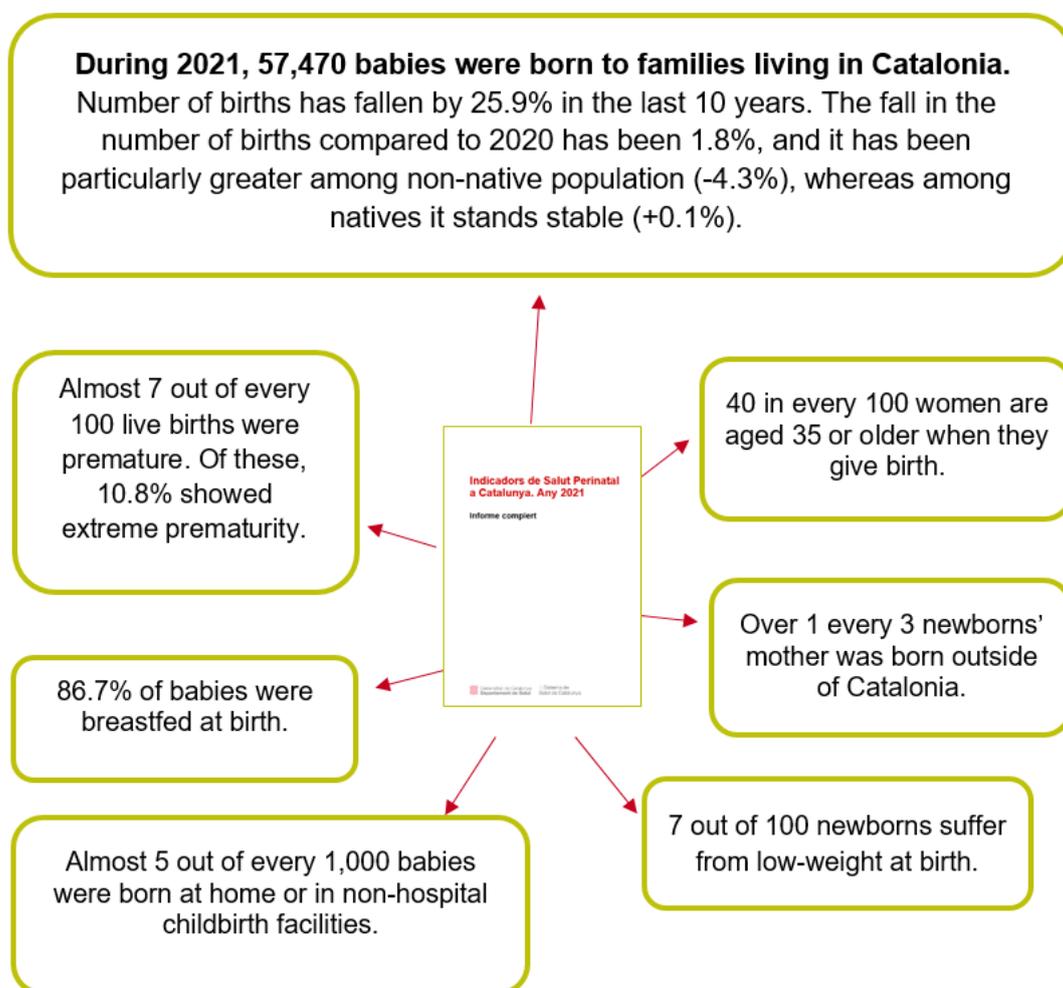
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Executive summary: highlights

Data in this document come from the Sub-directorate General for Epidemiological Surveillance and Public Health Emergency Response of the Catalan Secretariat for Public Health. This register has been kept since 1993 and is based on the bulletin of neonatal screening for congenital metabolic diseases.

The register of births covers 100% of the babies born both in maternity units in the Catalan public health system (SISCAT) and in private centres. Moreover, since 2011, the register has progressively included births at home and in non-hospital childbirth centres.



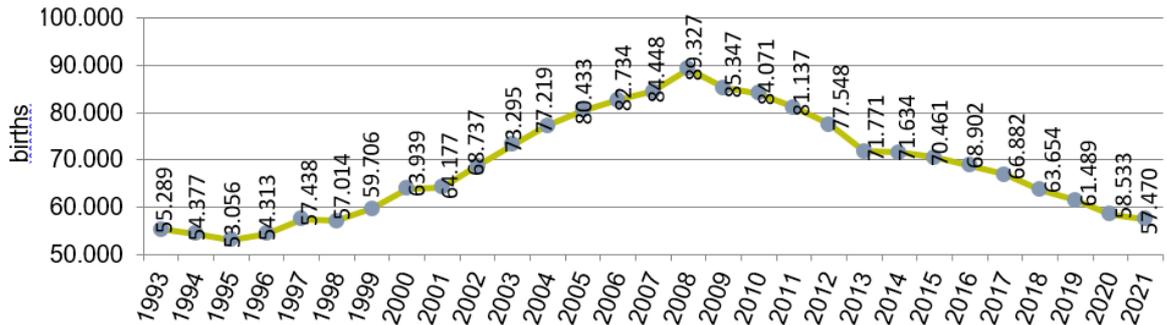
* You will find the unabridged document at:

<http://canalsalut.gencat.cat/ca/professionals/vigilancia-epidemiologica/vigilancia-perinatal/>

1. Evolution in the number of births

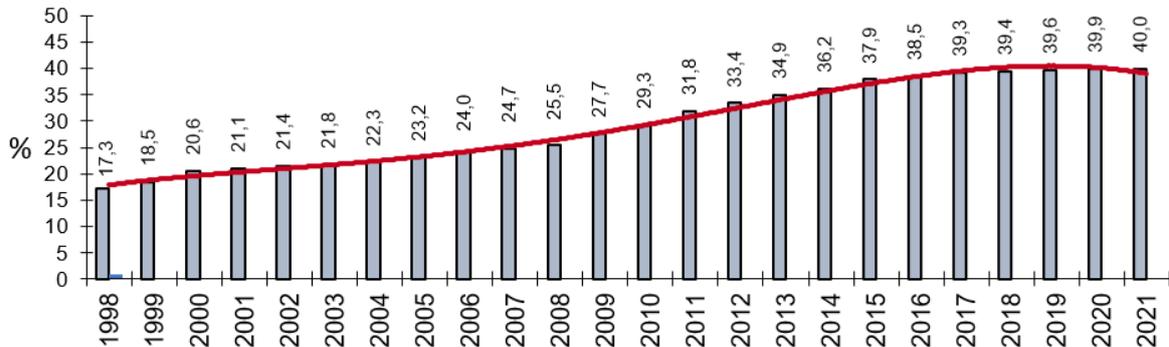


During 2021, 57,470 babies were born in Catalonia. This represents a fall by almost one fourth in the number of births compared with 10 years back.



2. Mother's age: evolution of births to women aged 35 and over

The **percentage of births to women aged 35 or over** is 40%. This has increased by almost 20% in the last decade.

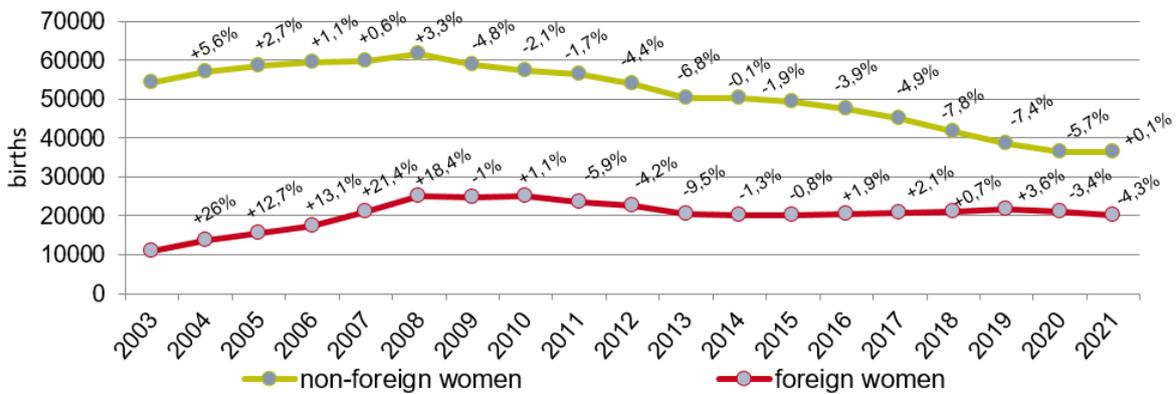


Considering the mother's country of origin, the peak for mothers aged 35 or over are for EU countries and native mothers (51.1% and 44.2%, respectively). On the other hand, the lowest percentages are for mothers from Asia and North Africa and the Nile Valley (at 21.4% and 30.8%, respectively).

3. Country of origin of both parents

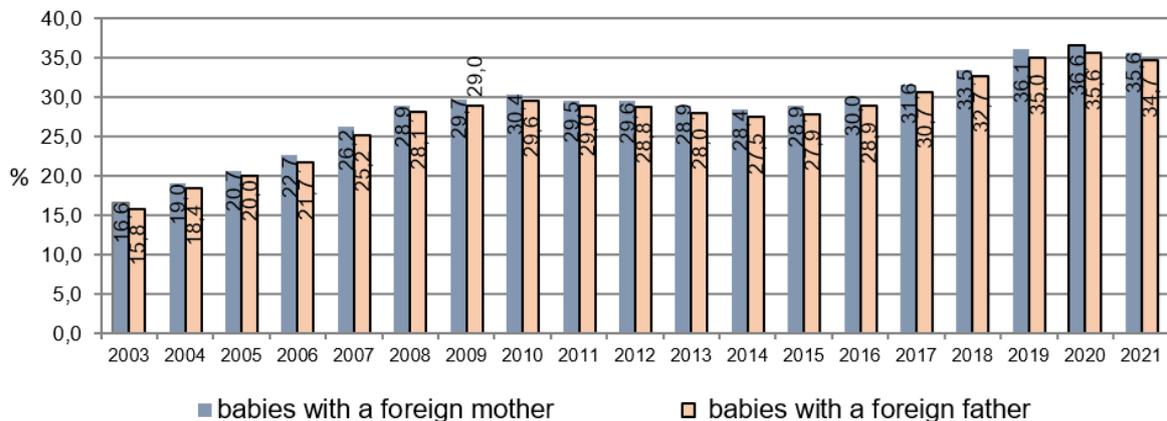
3.1 Evolution of live newborns by mothers' country of origin

The number of births in 2021, compared to the previous year, went down 4.3% in foreign women and increased 0.1% in non-foreign women.



3.2 Percentage of newborns of foreign parents

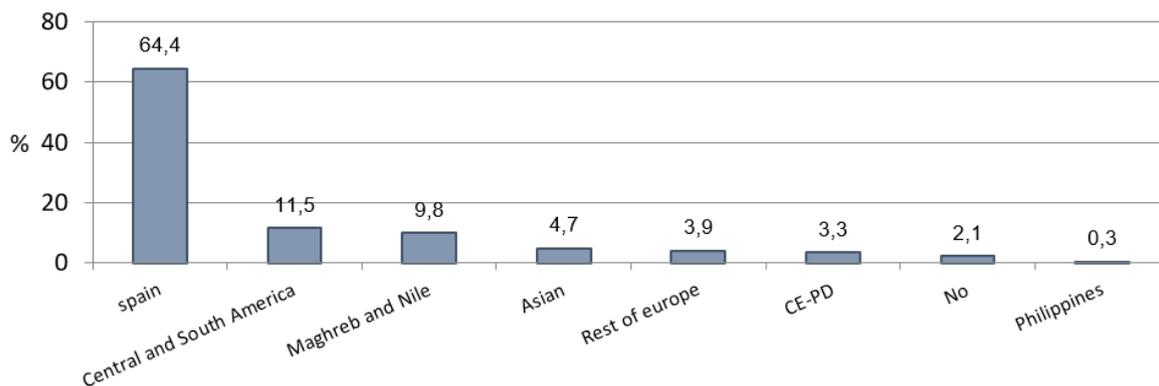
In 2021, more than 35 out of every 100 babies were born to mothers born outside of Catalonia; in almost 35 out of every 100 births, the father was born outside of Catalonia. In the last 10 years, the percentage of newborns having both parents of foreign nationality has increased by 20.2% and 20.5%, respectively.



3.3 Distribution of mothers' countries of origin



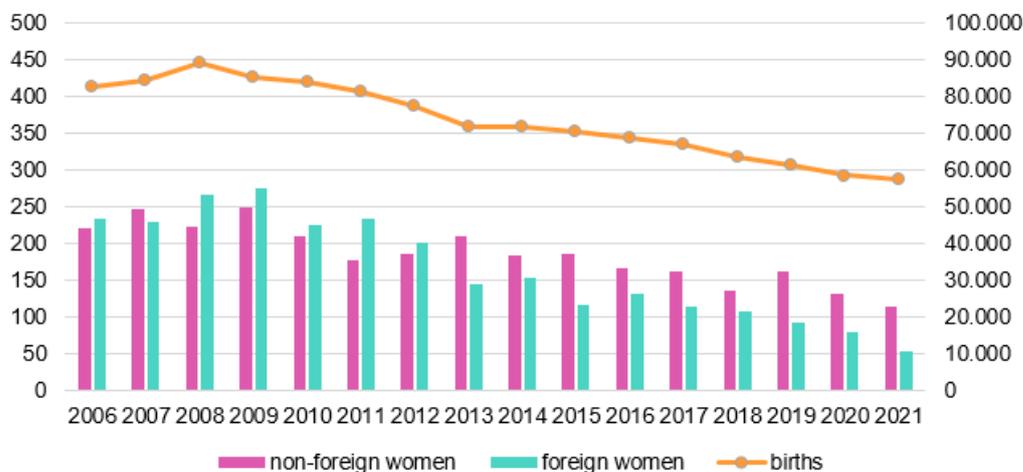
In 2021, the highest percentages of foreign mothers were from Central and South America and North Africa and the Nile Valley, at 11.5% and 9.8% rates, respectively.



3.4 Distribution of births among girls aged 14 - 17 by country of origin

In 2021, 169 newborns were born to mothers aged 14 to 17. Of these, 68% (n = 115) were born to non-foreign women and 32% (n = 54), to foreign women.

Since year 2009 there has been a progressive decrease in the number of births, both in non-foreign as in foreign girls.

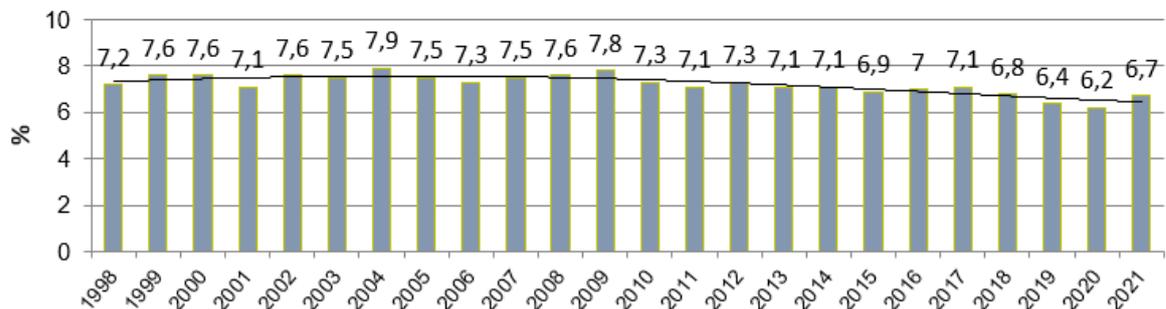


4. Evolution of prematurity

4.1 Overall prematurity (< 37 weeks of gestation) out of total number of newborns



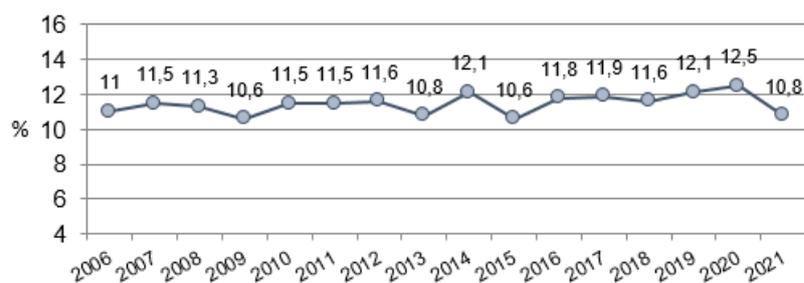
In 2021, prematurity rate was 6.7%, running below 7%. Slight down-sloping trend of last years is maintained.



Babies born to mothers from Central and South America and Asia show a slightly higher prematurity rate, at 7.8% and 7.6, respectively. Babies born to mothers from the Philippines, and North Africa and the Nile Valley show the lowest rates, at 5.6% and 5.7%, respectively.

4.2 Extreme prematurity (< 32 weeks of gestation) out of total number of premature newborns

In 2021, extreme prematurity rate was 10.8% out of total premature newborns. This rate was 0.7% out of total of newborns. Babies born to mothers from Asia, the rest of Africa, and North Africa and the Nile Valley show a higher rate, at 19.1%, 14.6% and 13.4%, respectively. Babies born to mothers from the rest of Europe and native mothers show the lowest percentage, at 8.7% and 10%, respectively.



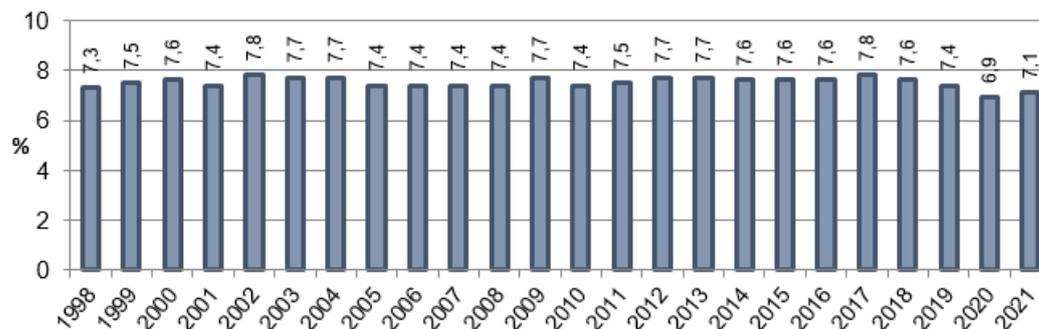
5. Evolution of low birth-weight

5. Evolution of low birth-weight

5.1 Overall evolution of low birth-weight (< 2,500 g) out of total number of births

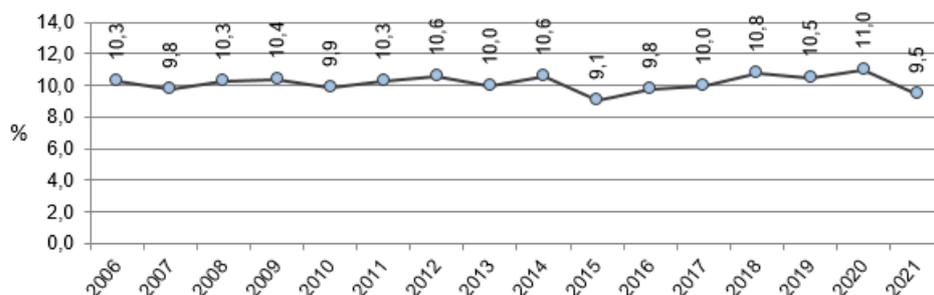


In 2021, low birth-weight rate was 7,1%. This is slightly higher than in 2020. Babies born to mothers from Asia, the Philippines and Africa show a higher low birth weight-rate, at 9.6%, 9.6% and 9.0%, respectively. Babies born to mothers from North Africa and the Nile Valley have a lower rate, at 4.9%.



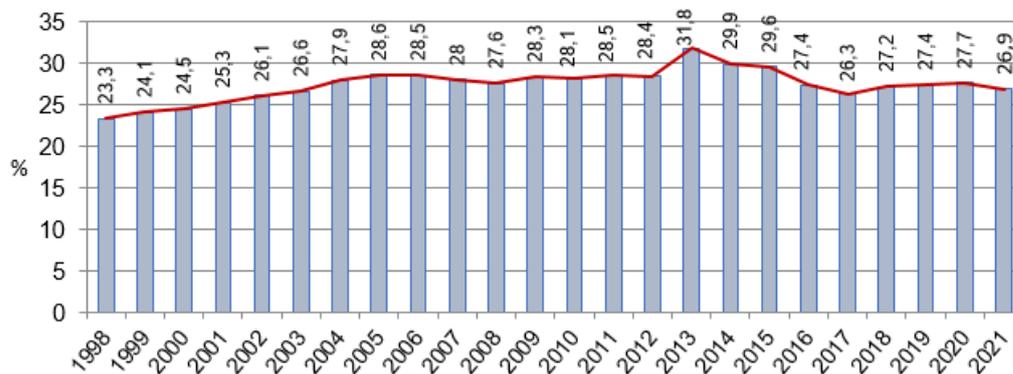
5.2 Evolution of extreme low birth-weight (< 1,499 g) out of total number low birth-weight newborns

In 2021, percentage of babies with extreme low birth-weight was 0.7% out of total newborns and 9.5% out of total number low birth-weight newborns. This indicator has fallen by 13,6% compared to extreme low birth-weight rate of year prior.



6. Evolution of newborns from a caesarean delivery

In 2021, the percentage of newborns from a caesarean delivery was 26,9%. Women aged 35 and over have a higher rate of caesarean deliveries (32,4%). Women from the Philippines, Central and South America and native women have the highest percentage of caesarean deliveries, at 31,8%, 29,5% and 28%, respectively. Women from North Africa and the Nile Valley have the lowest percentage of a caesarean delivery, at 19,2%.

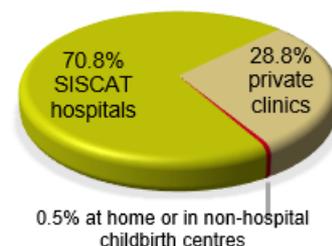


7. Distribution of newborns by ownership of maternity clinic

In 2021, 70,8% of births in Catalonia took place in hospitals operated by the Catalan public health system (SISCAT). This percentage has remained stable over the years.

Women from European Union member countries and developed countries, followed by native women, have the highest percentages of births in private clinics, at 45,3% and 36,8%, respectively.

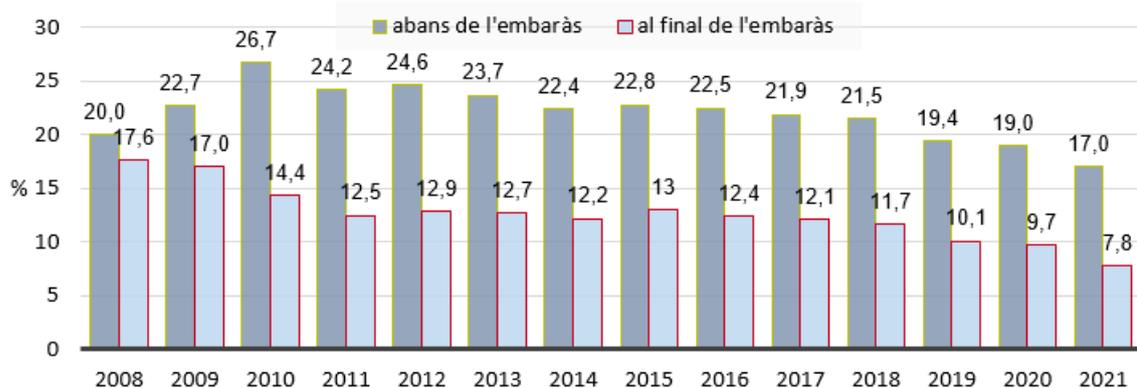
Five in every 1,000 babies have been born at home or in non-hospital childbirth centres.



8 Evolution of the mother's tobacco consumption before and at the end of pregnancy



In 2021, the prevalence of smoking women at the start of pregnancy was 17.0%, representing a fall by 10,5% compared to 2020 figures. 54.1% of women smokers stop smoking during pregnancy, though a diminishing trend is apparent in recent years.



* As the maternity centres have included this variable progressively and the register was not complete, annual values were not directly comparable for years 2008 and 2009.

9. Evolution of breastfeeding at birth by mother's nationality



In 2021, the prevalence of breastfeeding at birth was 86.7%. During 2021, the quality of information relevant to this variable was improved, which may have had its bearings on the fall in breastfeeding. The rate of foreign women breastfeeding is higher (92.6%) than that of non-foreign women (83.5%).

