

Indicators of perinatal health in Catalonia 2019

Executive report

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Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Salut

S/Sistema de
Salut de Catalunya

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Gratitudes:

To the team of professionals in the Neonatal Early Detection of Inborn Errors of Metabolism Programme and to all the healthcare professionals working on the public and private healthcare network.

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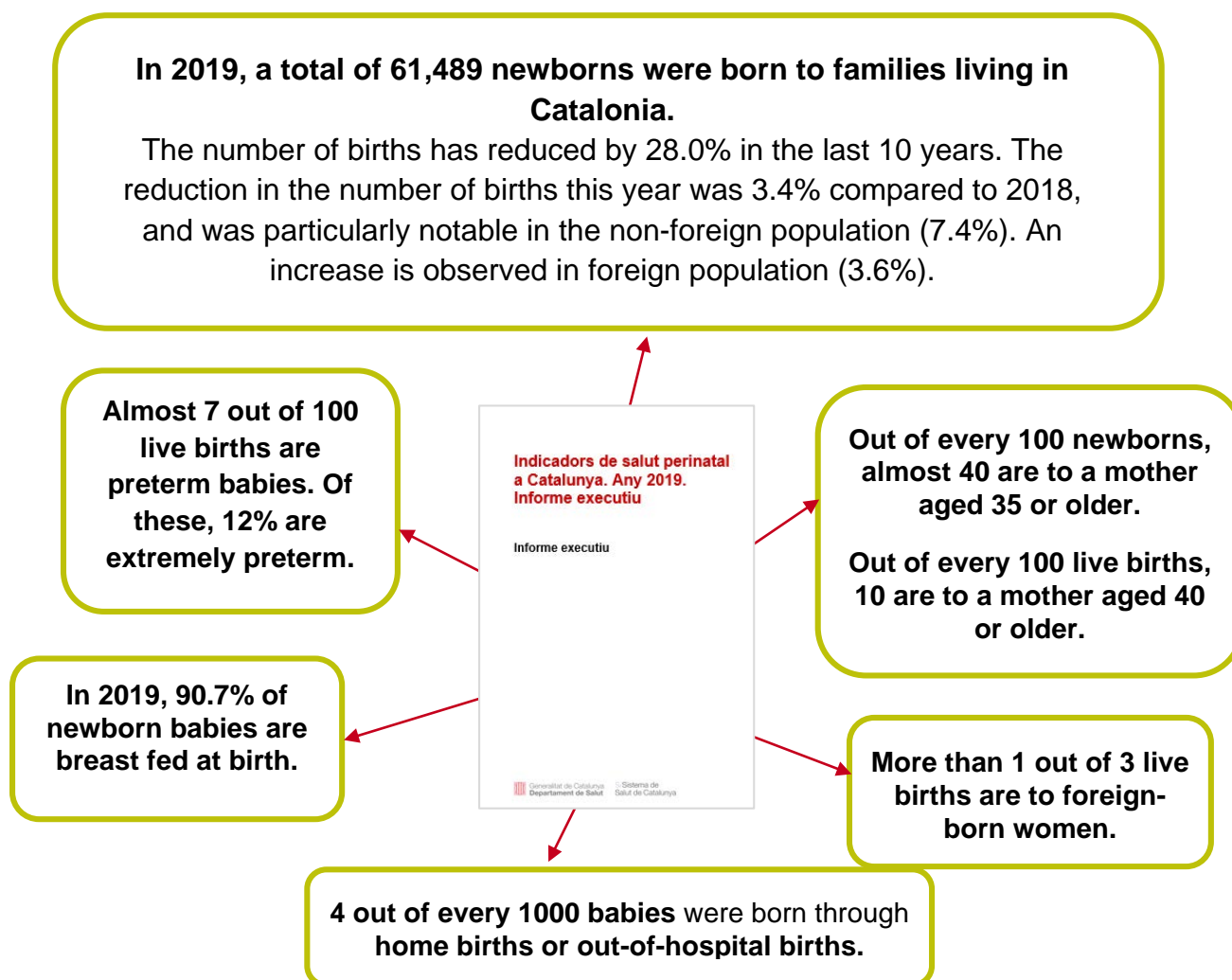
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Executive summary: notable aspects

The data presented in this document are drawn from the register of babies compiled by 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.

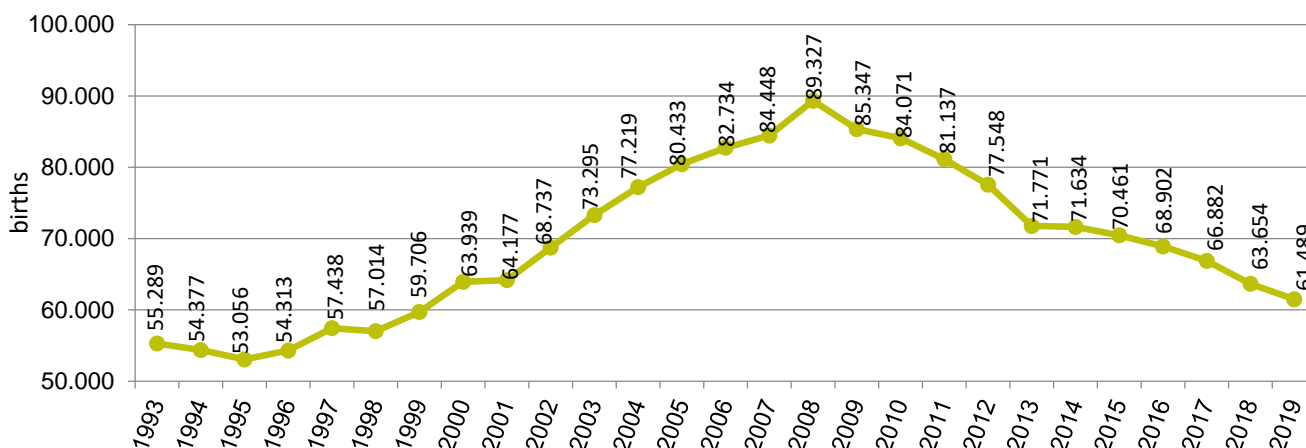
The register of babies covers 100% of live births at maternal health centres in the Integrated Public Health System of Catalonia (SISCAT) and private centres. Since 2011, the register has also gradually included births at home and non-hospital birth centres.



* Access the full document at: <http://canalsalut.gencat.cat/ca/professionals/vigilancia-epidemiologica/vigilancia-perinatal/>

1. Evolution in the number of births

In 2019, a total of 61,489 live births were registered in Catalonia. The chart shows that one-quarter in the number of births has reduced in the last 10 years.



2. Maternal age: births to mothers aged 35 years or older

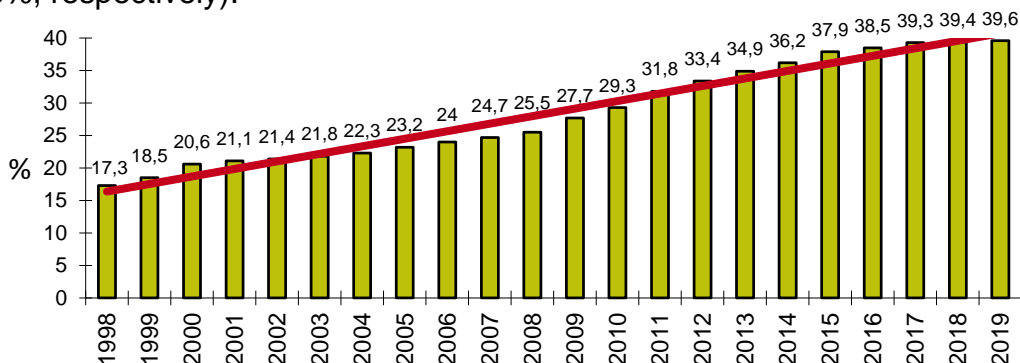


The **percentage of births among women aged 35 or more** continues to increase. In the last decade, the relative increase was 42.2%.

For every 100 babies, 10 are to a mother aged 40 years or more. In 2015 the percentage of newborns to mothers aged ≥ 40 years was 8% and in 2019, 10.5%, representing an increase of 31.2% during these 5 years. This increase accounts for up to 105.9% in

the last decade.

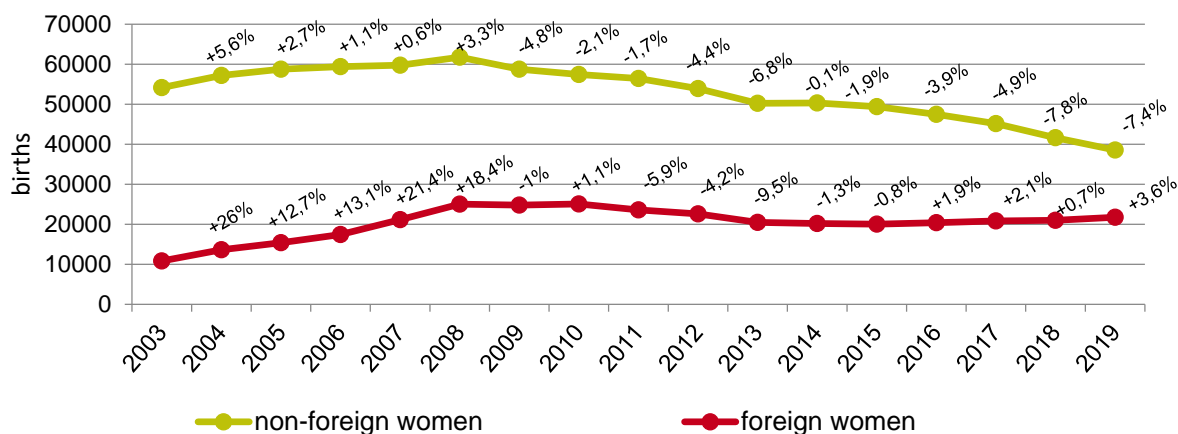
In relation to the origin of the mother, the highest percentages for newborns to mothers aged 35 or over are found among indigenous mothers and those from EU countries (44.7% and 51.8%, respectively). In contrast, lowest percentages were found among mothers from Maghreb and the Nile valley and Asia (27.2% and 19.8%, respectively).



3. Origin of the mother and father

3.1. Evolution in the number of live births by origin of the mothers

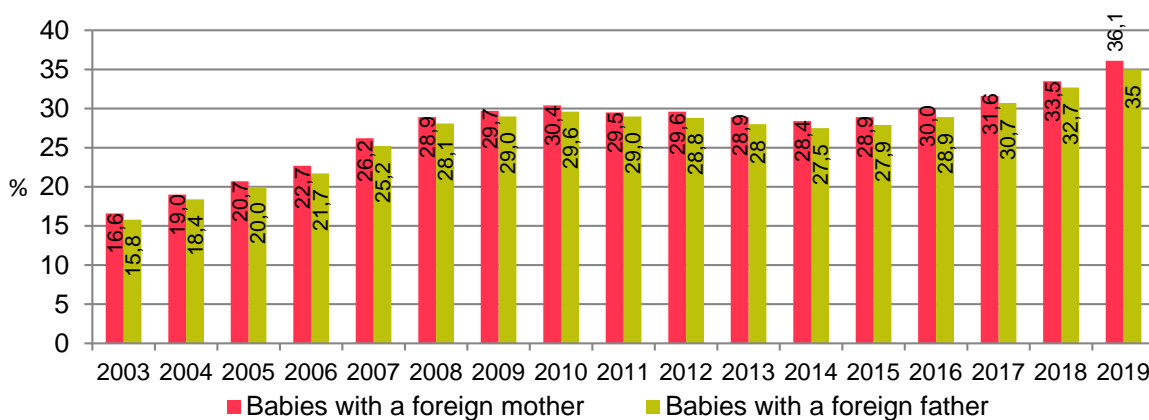
The number of births in 2019, compared to the previous year, went down 7.4% in non-foreign women and increased 3.6% in foreign women.



3.2. Percentage of live births to foreign-born mothers and fathers

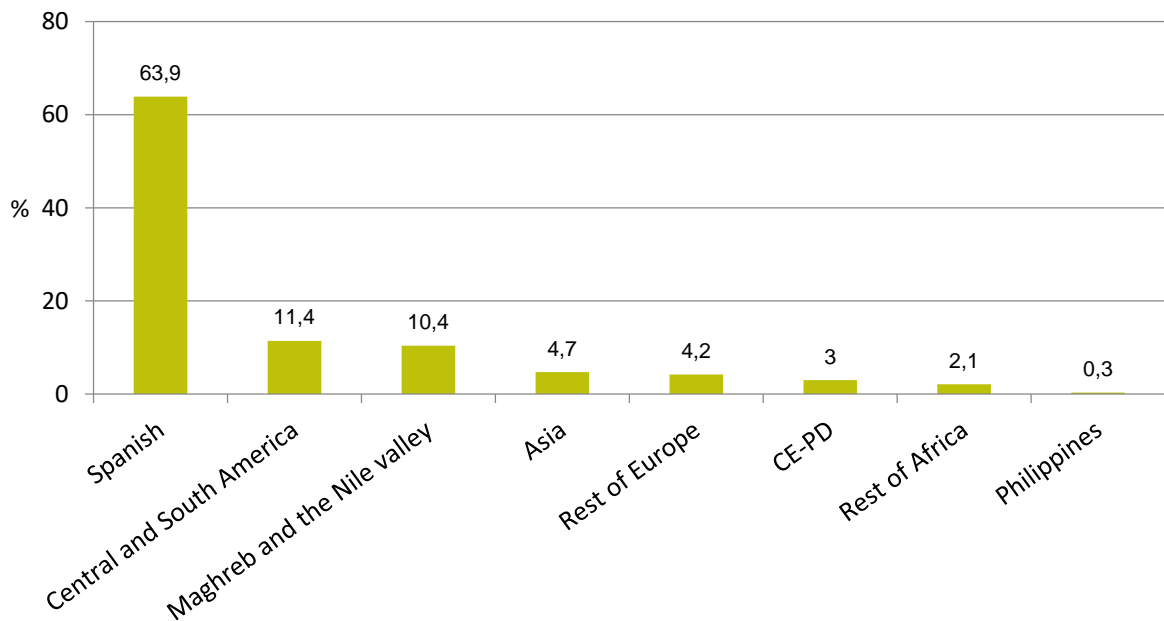


In 2019, 36 out of 100 babies are to a foreign mother; and 35 out of 100 babies are to a foreign father. This indicator increases by 7.7% and 7.0% respectively compared to the previous year.



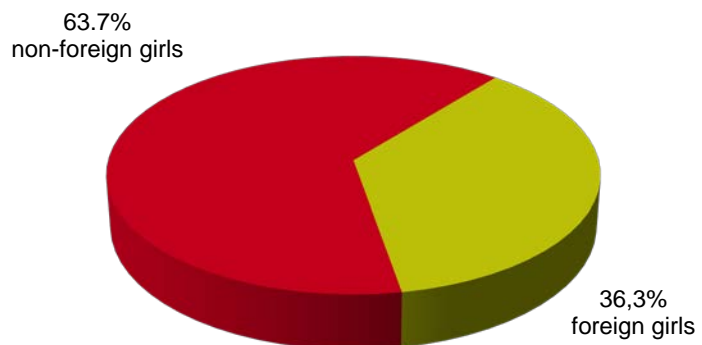
3.3. Distribution of mother's origin

In 2019 among foreign mothers, there was a high percentage from the Central and South America and Maghreb and the Nile valley, accounting for 11.4% and 10.4%, respectively.



3.4. Distribution of births among girls aged 14 to 17 by origin

In 2019, a total of 36.3% of births to young mothers aged between 14 and 17 years corresponded to foreign women.

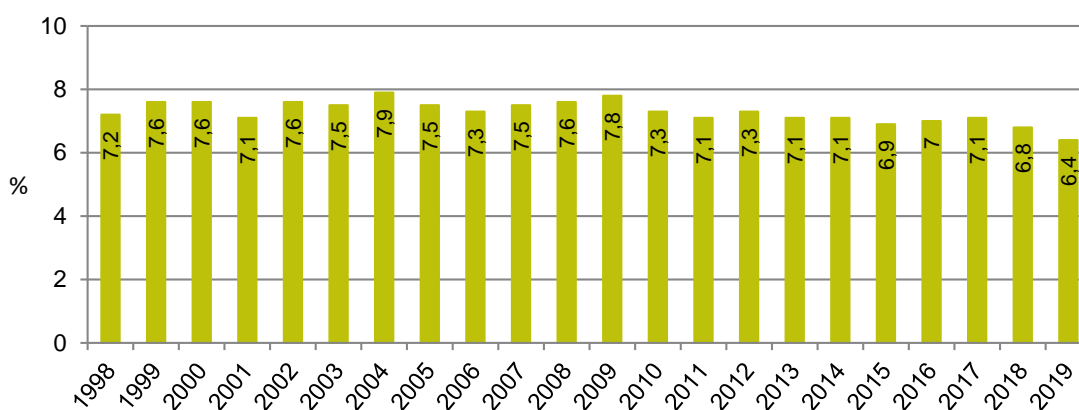


4. Evolution of preterm births

4.1. Overall preterm births (<37 weeks of gestation) of total births

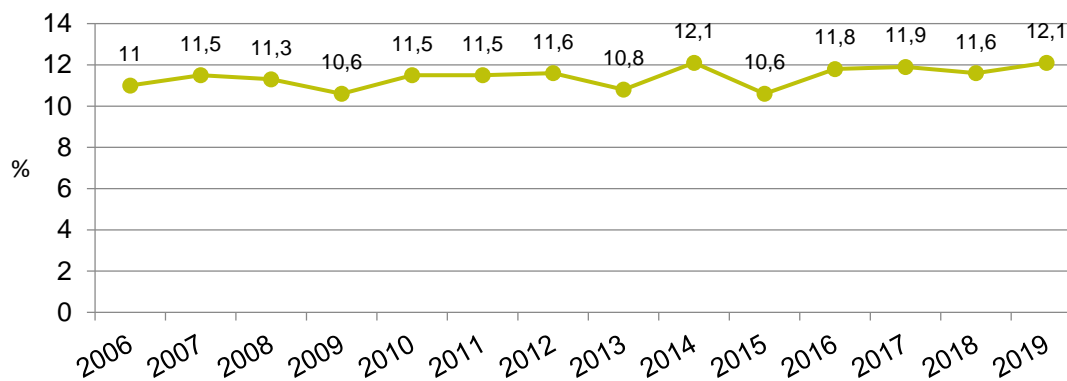
In 2019 preterm birth rate was 6.4%. A trend towards stabilisation with a slight reduction is observed in the last two years.

The rate was higher for the women from the Rest of Africa, Asia, and Central and South America, at 8.1%, 7.1%, and 6.6%, respectively. The rate among women from Maghreb and Nile valley was lower at 5%.



4.2. Extremely preterm births (<32 weeks of gestation) of total of preterm births

In 2019, the rate of extreme preterm birth stands at 12.1%, showing an increase of 4.3% in the previous year, but remains rather stable in the last years.

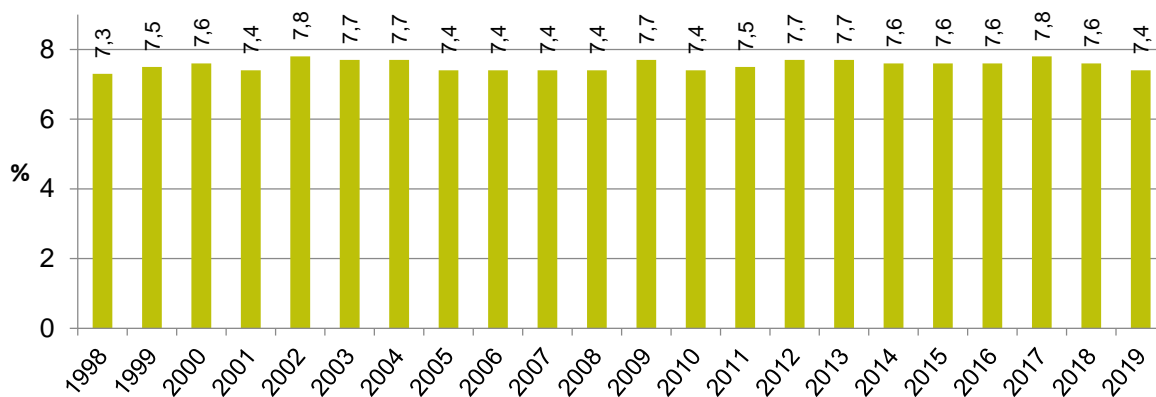


5. Evolution of low birth weight

5.1. Evolution of low birth weight (<2500 grams) of total births

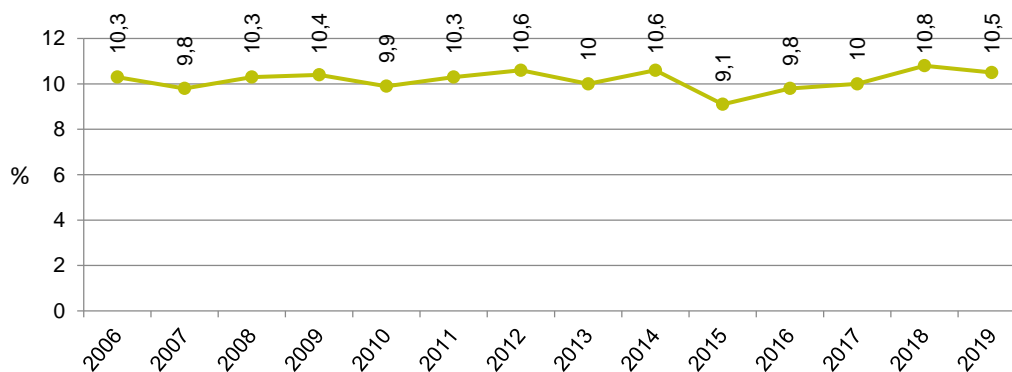
In 2019, low birth weight stands at 7.4%. Although it has decreased by 2.6% compared to 2018, in recent years this indicator has remained stable.

Women from the Rest of Africa, Asia and non-foreign women have higher low birth weight rates, at 11.1%, 9.1% and 7.8%, respectively. Women from Maghreb and the Nile valley have the lowest low birth weight, at 5%.



5.2. Evolution of very low birth weight (<1500 grams) of total of low birth weights

In 2019 very low birth weight stands at 10.5%. An 8% increase in this indicator is observed compared to the previous year.

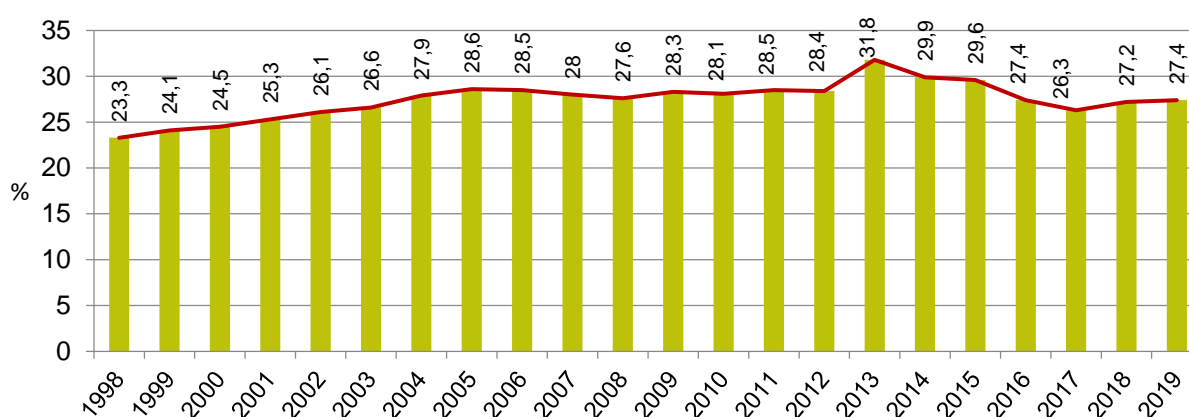


6. Evolution of births by Caesarean section



In 2019 the percentage of live births by Caesarean section stands at 27.4%.

Women aged 35 or more had a higher percentage of Caesarean (33.9%). Non-foreign women had the highest percentage of Caesarean, at 28.9%. Women from the Maghreb and the Nile valley had the lowest percentage, at 19.2%.

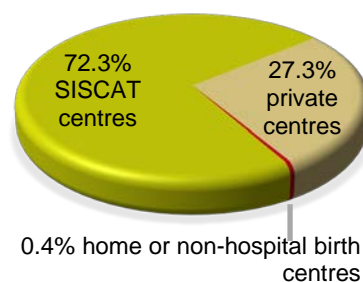


7. Distribution of births by ownership of maternity centre

In 2019, a total of 72.3% of births in Catalonia took place at hospitals belonging to the Integrated Public Health System of Catalonia (SISCAT). This percentage has remained stable over the years.

Women from EU and developed countries, followed by non-foreign women, are those with a highest percentage of births in private centres, at 54.5% and 63%, respectively.

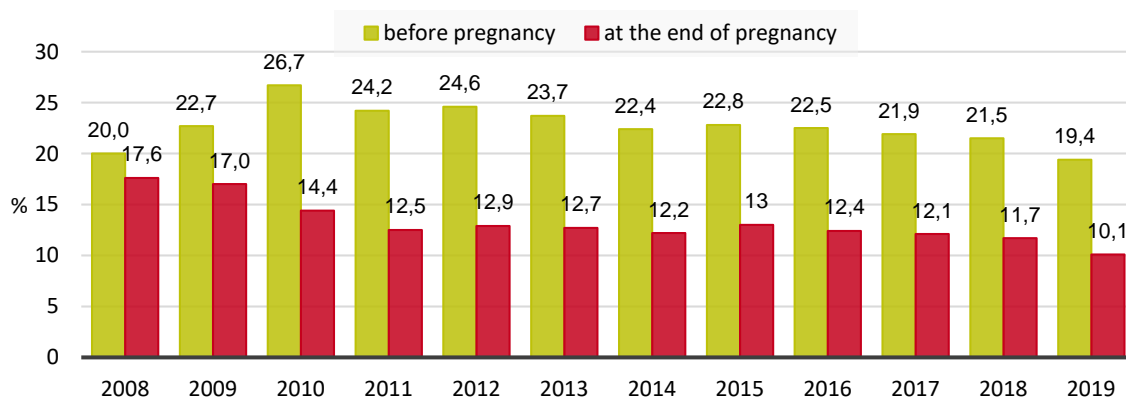
Four out of 1,000 babies were born at home or at a non-hospital birth centre.



8. Tobacco use in mothers before and at the end of pregnancy

In 2019, the prevalence of tobacco use at the start of pregnancy was 19.4%, representing a relative reduction by 9.8 compared to 2018.

A total of 47.9% of mothers who smoked gave up tobacco during gestation. The reduction in tobacco use during pregnancy has come to a standstill in recent years.



* Given that maternity centres have gradually incorporated this variable and the registre was not complete, the annual values are not directly comparable for 2008 and 2009.

9. Evolution of breast feeding at birth by nationality of the mother



In 2019, the prevalence of breastfeeding at birth was 90.7%, slightly decreasing compared to 2018. The percentage of breastfeeding was 7.8% higher among foreign women than among non-foreign women. Specifically, women from the Maghreb and the Nile valley and Central and South America had the highest percentages at 97.1% and 95.6%, respectively.

