



# Review of stillbirths at a tertiary hospital over a six year period

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## Background

In Australia, stillbirth is defined as the birth of a baby without signs of life after 20 weeks gestation or 400g birthweight. It is a major public health problem with enormous psychosocial and economic impacts. A large number of stillbirths are 'unexplained' in their cause.

## Aims

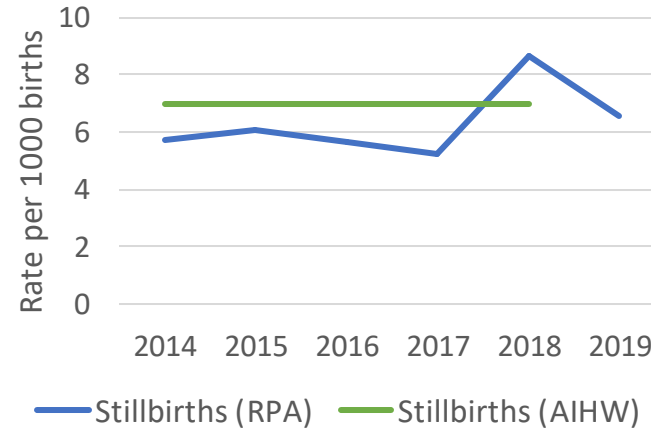
To compare our hospital's stillbirth outcomes to the national data in relation to gestation and classification.

## Methods

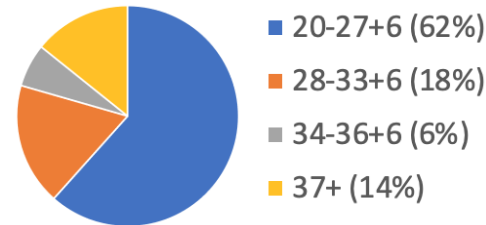
Retrospective study of women who had a stillbirth from 1 January 2014 - 31 December 2019 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

## Results

Our stillbirth rate was 6.5 per 1000 births (AIHW 7.1):

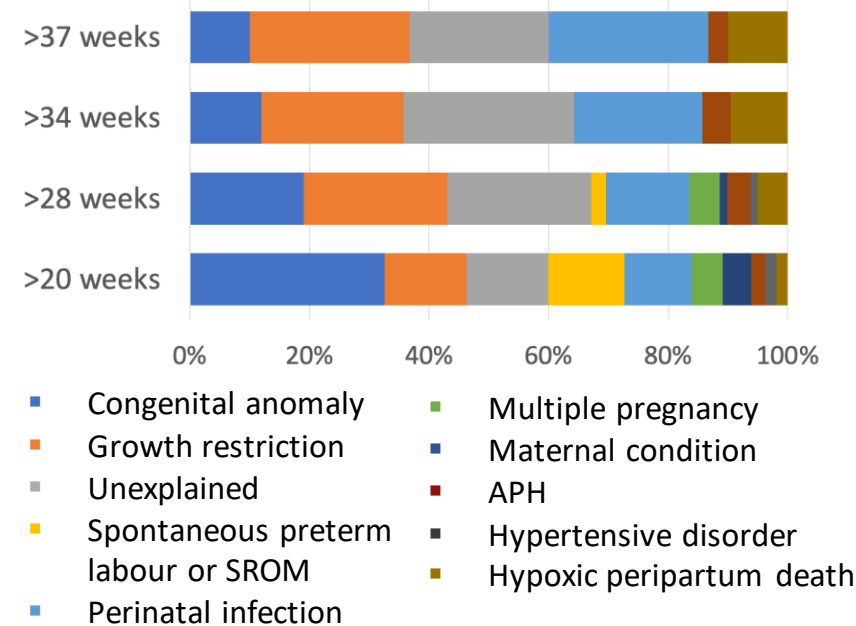


Stillbirths by gestational age:



We have less unexplained stillbirths (13%, v AIHW 16%).

As gestation increases, congenital anomaly becomes a less common cause of stillbirth while perinatal infection and growth restriction become more common:



## Conclusion

Our stillbirth rate was slightly lower than AIHW. Our lower unexplained stillbirth rate likely reflects compliance to performing investigations to identify the cause.