



Introduction

Outcomes are improving for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) mothers and babies, however, more is needed to close the gap. The 2019-2021 report on maternal and neonatal outcomes in Victoria, Australia, found ATSI babies significantly more likely to be preterm and low birthweight(1). Our regional level 5 Victorian hospital has a midwifery continuity of care program for ATSI women named Midwife for Indigenous Maternity Services (MIMS).

Aims

Audit the perinatal outcomes of our MIMS and compare to the statewide published outcomes.

Methods

Retrospective cohort audit of ATSI and non-ATSI perinatal outcomes between 01 January 2019 and 31 December 2021 at large regional Victorian health service; same three years as published statewide data. Charts manually reviewed. Statewide data from CCOPMM report(1).

Results

In our study, 3.71% of women were ATSI compared to 1.6% statewide. ATSI babies were more likely compared to their non-ATSI counterparts to be born preterm (10.91% vs 7.54%;OR=1.5, $p=0.114$) and LBW (8.82% vs 6.86%;OR=1.31, $p=0.325$). Comparatively, in statewide data, ATSI babies were significantly more likely to be born preterm (OR=1.70, $p<0.0001$) and LBW (OR=1.86, $p<0.0001$). (Table 2).

Table 1: Baseline Maternal and Neonatal Data 2019-2021 at Regional Service

	ATSI	Non-ATSI
Number of babies^a	171	4269
Number of women	168	4222
Number of twin pregnancies	3	47
Number of stillbirths	1	27
Number of preterm births^b	18	315
Number of low birthweight babies^c	15	291

Preterm birth Odds Ratio Gap in Outcomes

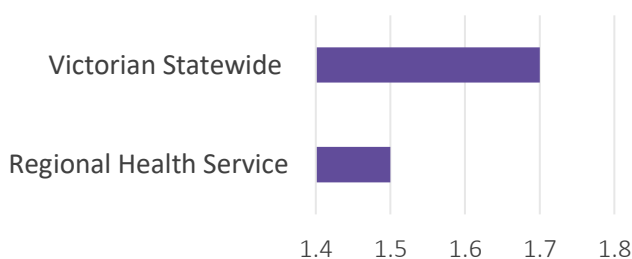


Table 2: The gap between ATSI and non-ATSI preterm birth and LBW at Regional Victorian Maternity Service vs Victorian Statewide

	Regional Victorian maternity service				Victorian Statewide (CCOPMM)			
	ATSI ^a (%)	Non-ATSI (%)	OR (95% CI)	P-value	ATSI ^a (%)	Non-ATSI (%)	OR (95% CI)	P-value
Preterm delivery^b	10.91%	7.54%	1.50 (0.91, 2.48)	0.114	12.4%	7.7%	1.70 (1.44, 2.01)	<0.0001
Low birthweight^c	8.82%	6.68%	1.31 (0.76, 2.62)	0.325	10.9%	6.2%	1.86 (1.55, 2.22)	<0.0001

^a refers to babies born to ATSI women only

^b excludes twin/multiple pregnancies

^c excludes stillbirths

Discussion

Our regional maternity service has a higher proportion of ATSI women. There is a lower percentage and non-significantly increased odd (compared to non-ATSI babies) of ATSI babies born preterm and LBW, compared to Victorian data. This indicates a smaller gap in care outcomes and is likely due to multi-dimensional factors that require further study.