
Indicators of perinatal health in Catalonia 2016



Executive report

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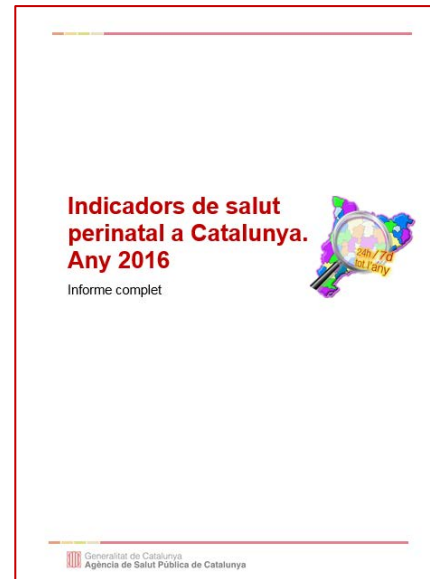
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Executive summary: notable aspects

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

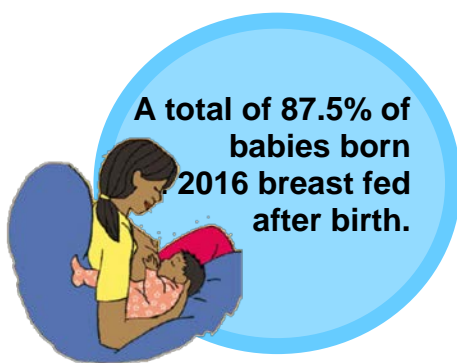
The register of babies covers 100% of live births at maternal health centres in the Integrated Public Health System of Catalonia (SISCAT) and private centres. Since 2011, the register has also gradually included births at home and in non-hospital birth centres.



In 2016, a total of 68,902 newborns were born to families that are resident in Catalonia.

The number of births has continued to fall since 2009, the year in which the birth rate began to drop annually after 14 years of increments. The reduction in number of births this year was 2.2% compared to 2015, and was particularly notable in the non-immigrant population (reduction of 3.9%), while the rate increased slightly in the immigrant population (by 1.9%).

Out of every 100 women, 38 gave birth aged over 34 years; 10 years ago the figure was 24 women out of every 100.



A total of 44.5% of mothers who gave birth aged from 14 to 17 years were immigrants. This percentage was up 16.2% on the previous year.



A total of 5 out of every 1,000 babies were born through a home birth or in a non-hospital birth centre.

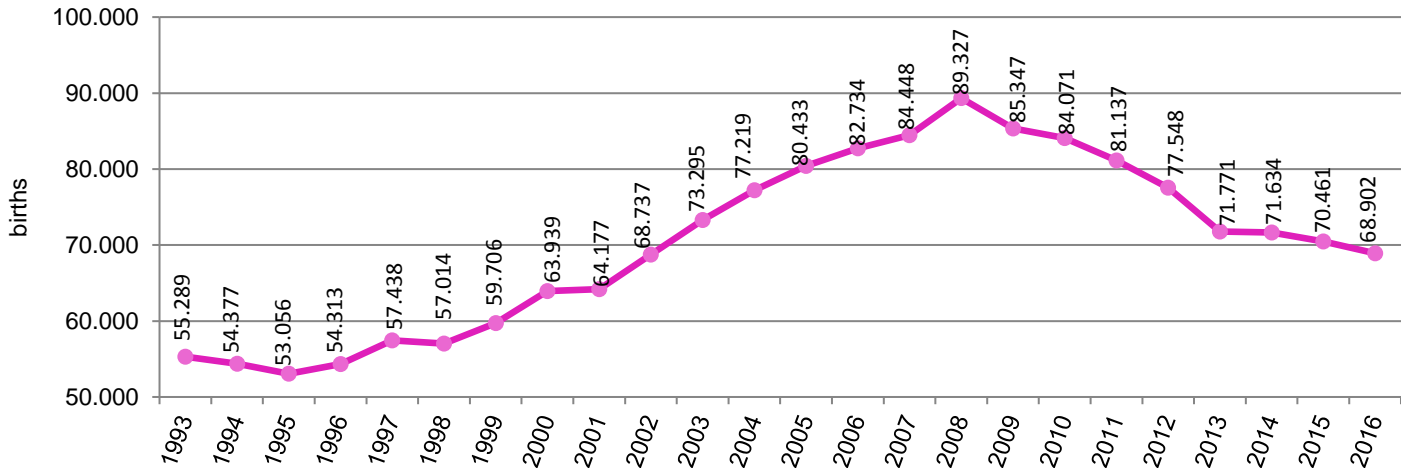


One out of every 3 babies born in Catalonia has a foreign mother.

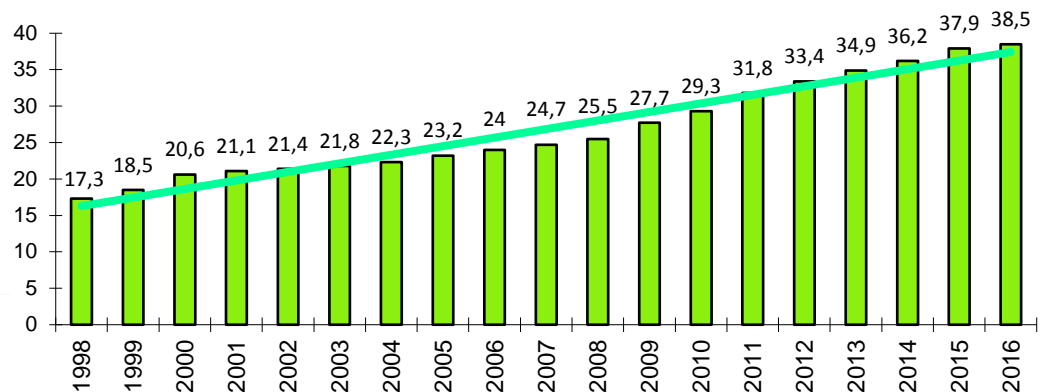
* You can consult the full document on the website of the Public Health Agency of Catalonia (ASPCAT). <http://canalsalut.gencat.cat/ca/professionals/vigilancia-epidemiologica/vigilancia-perinatal/>

Evolution in the number of births

In 2016, a total of 68,902 babies were born in Catalonia, 22.9% less than in 2008 when the peak was reached.



Mother's age: births to mothers aged over 34

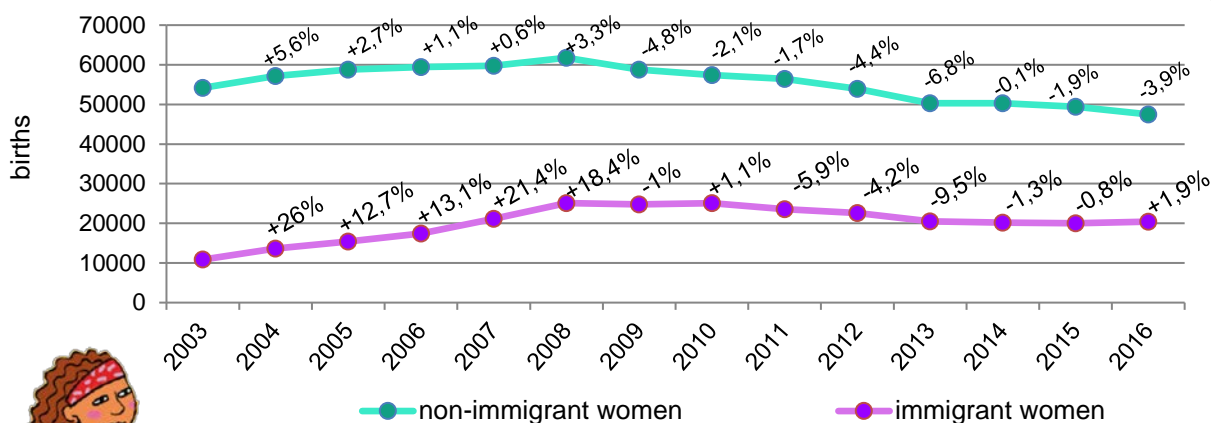


The **percentage of births among women aged over 34 years** continued to rise, and stood at **38.5%**. In the last decade, the relative increase was 60.4%.

By maternal origin, the percentage of mothers aged over 34 years was higher in non-immigrant mothers and mothers from European Union countries (43.1% and 46.1%, respectively). In contrast, the lowest percentages were found among mothers from the rest of Europe and Asia (22.7% and 16.8%, respectively).

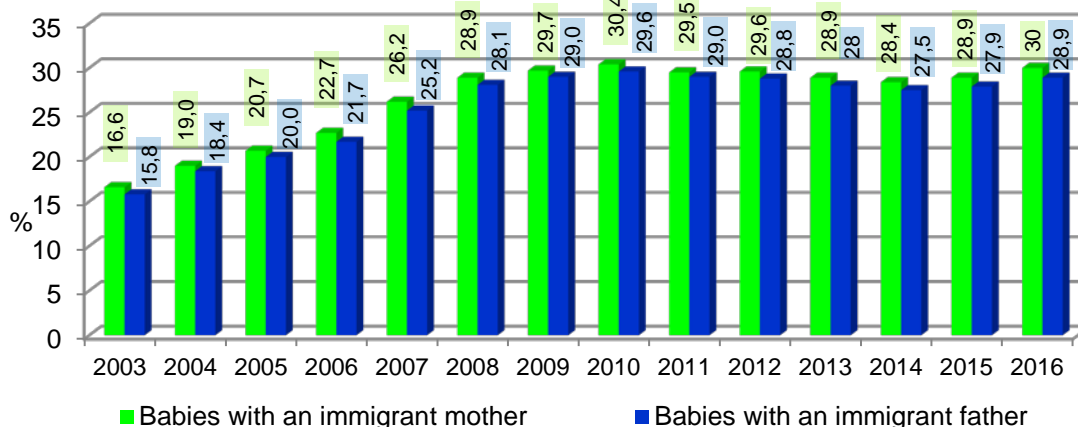
Origin of the mother and father

A. Evolution in the number of births by origin of the mothers



The number of births in 2016, compared to the previous year, went down 3.9% in the non-immigrant population, and rose 1.9% in the immigrant population.

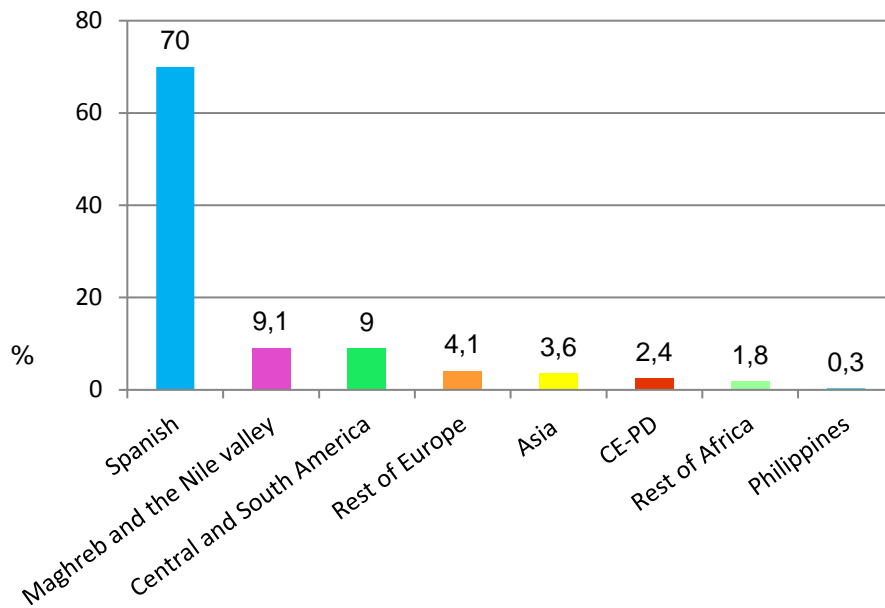
B. Percentage of live births to immigrant mothers and fathers



In 2016, 30% of babies had a mother from another country; and 28.9% a father from another country.



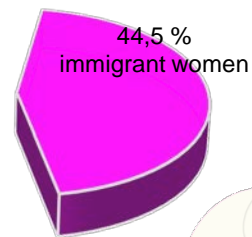
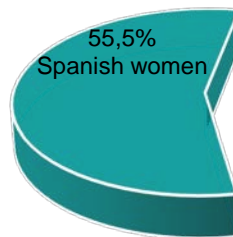
C. Distribution of origin of mothers



Among mothers from other countries, there was a high percentage from the Maghreb and the Nile valley and Central and South America, with 9.1% and 9% respectively.



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

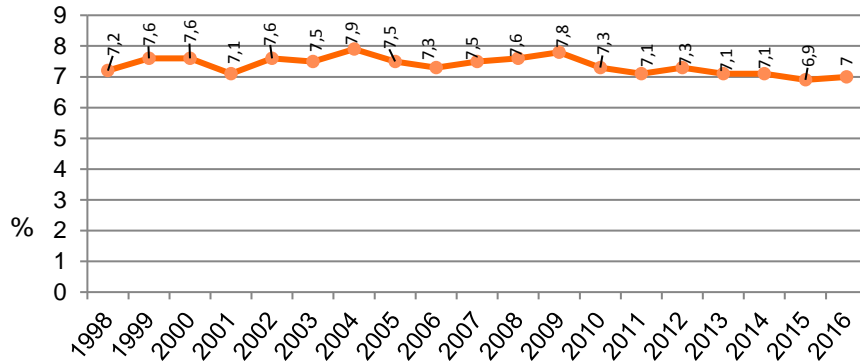


In 2016, 44.5% of births to young mothers aged between 14 and 17 years corresponded to immigrant women.



Evolution of prematurity

A. Overall premature birth rate (<37 weeks of gestation) out of the total number of babies

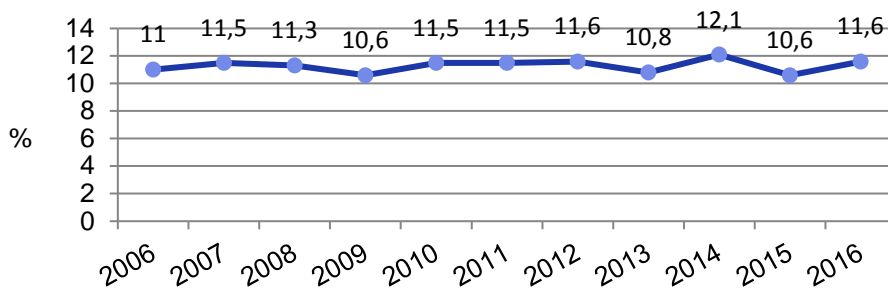


In 2016, the premature birth rate was 7%, with a decreasing trend over the last four years.

The rate was higher for Spanish women and those from the rest of Africa, at 7.2%.

The rate among women from the Maghreb and Nile valley was lower at 5.1%.

B. Extreme prematurity (<32 weeks of gestation) out of the total number of premature births

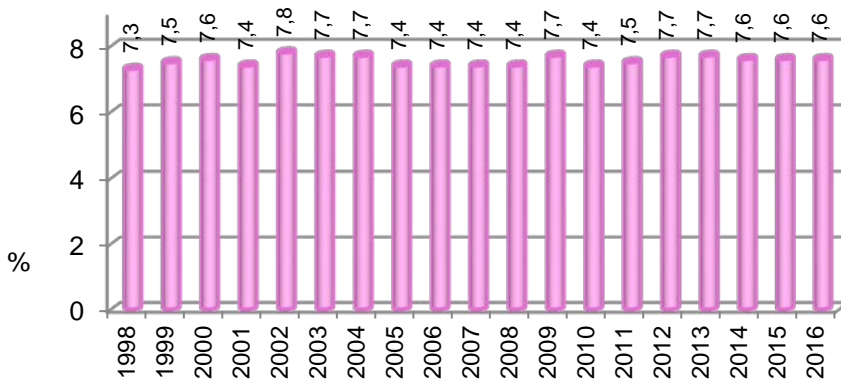


In 2016, the rate of extreme prematurity was 11.6%.

The rate of extreme prematurity increased by 9.4% compared to the previous year, although it has tended to stabilize in recent years.

Evolution of low birth weight

A. Overall evolution of low birth weight (< 2.500 g) out of the total number of babies

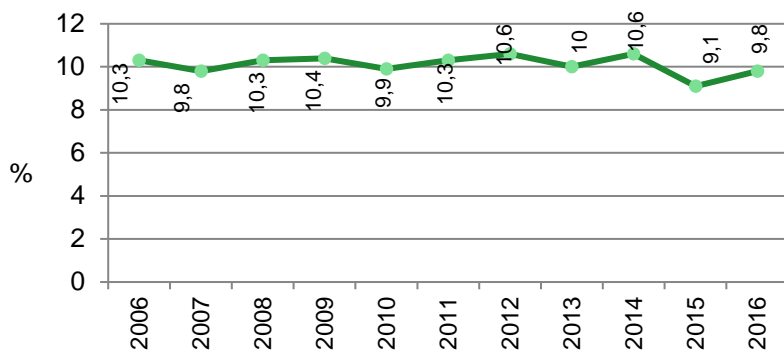


In 2016, the low birth weight stood at 7.6%.

In recent years, low birth weight has remained stable.

Women from the rest of Africa and Spanish women have the highest rate of low birth weight, at 10.9% and 8.1% respectively. Women from the Maghreb and the Nile valley had the lowest rate of low birth weight at 4.6%.

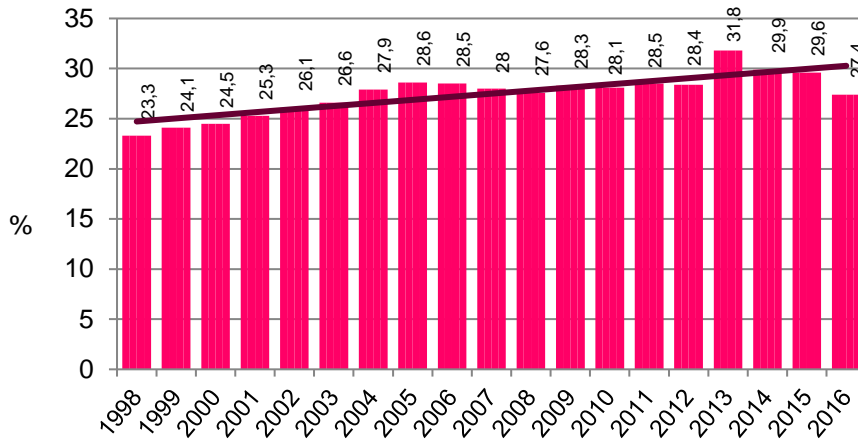
B. Evolution of extremely low birth weight (< 1.499 g) out of the total number of low birth weight babies



In 2016, extreme low birth weight stood at 9.8%.

There was an increase in extreme low birth weight of 7.7% compared to the previous year.

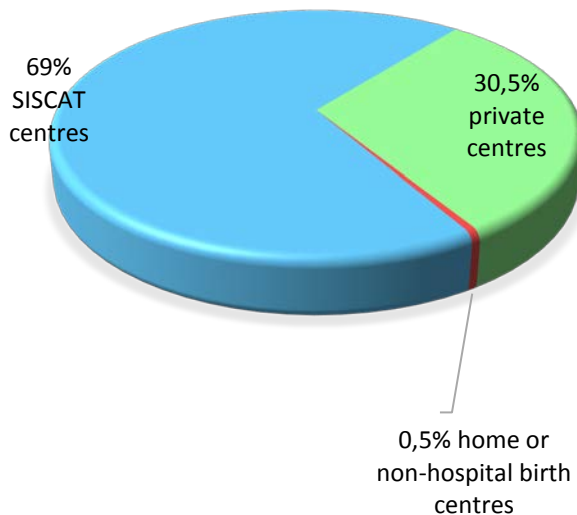
Evolution of babies born by Caesarean



In 2016, the percentage of live births by Caesarean dropped 7.4% compared to the previous year, to stand at 27.4%.

Spanish women had the highest percentage of Caesarean births, at 29.3%. Women from the Maghreb and the Nile valley had the lowest percentage at 16.8%.

Distribution of births according to the ownership of the maternity centre



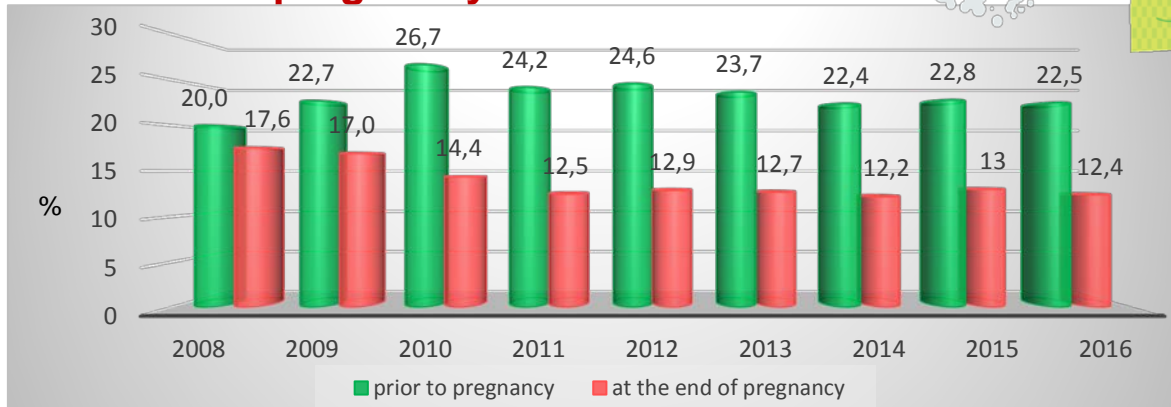
In 2016, a total of 69% of births in Catalonia took place at hospitals belonging to the Integrated Public Health System of Catalonia (SISCAT). This percentage has remained stable over the years.

Women from countries in the European Union, followed by Spanish women, are those with the highest percentage of

births in private centres, at 43.4% and 39%, respectively.

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

Tobacco consumption in mothers before and at the end of pregnancy

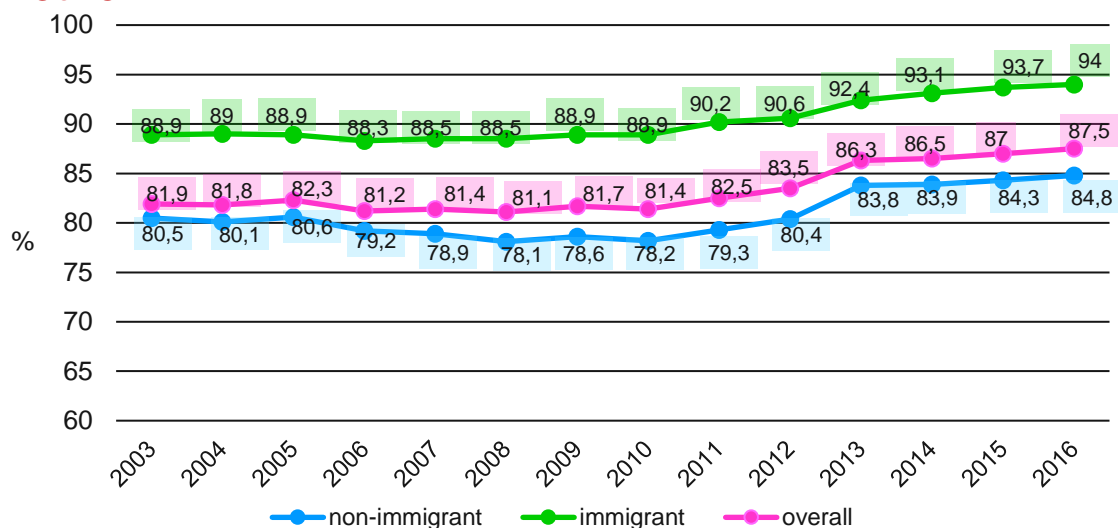


*: Given that maternity units have gradually incorporated this variable and the register was not complete, the annual values for 2008 and 2009 are not directly comparable.

In 2016, the prevalence of tobacco use at the start of pregnancy was 22.5% and remained stable compared to previous years.

A total of 44.9% of mothers who smoked gave up tobacco during gestation. The reduction in tobacco use during pregnancy has come to a standstill in recent years.

Evolution of breastfeeding at birth by nationality of the mother



In 2016, the prevalence of breastfeeding at birth was 87.5%. The percentage of breastfeeding was higher among immigrant women than among non-immigrant women (94% versus 84.8%). Women from the Maghreb and the Nile valley, the rest of Africa, and Central and South America had the highest percentages at 97.3%, 95.5% and 95.2%, respectively.