

**Table 1. Background characteristics of primiparous women aged 25-31 years (reference group) and  $\geq 32$  years (advanced age), and for representativeness; comparisons between a sub-sample giving birth in 2003 and all primiparous women aged  $\geq 25$  years in Norway in 2003 (P-value for differences between a sub-sample from 2003 and all Norwegian primiparous women  $> 25$  years giving birth in 2003).**

	Women in the study			Women $\geq 25$ years giving birth in 2003		P-value
	Age 25-31	Age $\geq 32$	All	Sub-sample	Norway	
	n=21 226 %	n=8839 %	n=30 065 %	n=3549 %	n=16 760 %	
<i>Demographic and social factors</i>						
Age (years)*						0.07
25-29			50.8	55.2	54.0	
30-34			37.6	35.2	35.1	
35-39			10.3	8.8	9.6	
$\geq 40$			1.3	0.8	1.2	
Smoking*	8.4	7.6	8.2	10.8	13.9	<0.001
Single status*	2.9	4.9	3.5	2.7	5.7	<0.001
Native language other than Norwegian	5.9	8	6.5	4.7		
Unemployed	1.7	1.6	1.7			
Income (NOR)**						
<200 000	11.2	6	8.7			
200 000-399 999	55.5	43.7	51.5			
$\geq 400 000$	29.1	46	33.7			
Pregravid BMI, mean (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.6	24.1	23.8			
IVF present pregnancy*	2.6	8.9	4.4	3.8	4.9	<0.001
<i>Labour*</i>						
Mode of delivery						
Vacuum	14.2	16	14.8	14.1	13.7	0.54
Forceps	2.8	3.4	3	2.7	2.4	0.27
Elective cesarean delivery	3.1	6	4	3.8	5.3	<0.001
Emergency cesarean delivery	9.7	13.5	10.8	11.4	12.5	0.06
Unspecified cesarean delivery	1.9	2.9	2.2	1.2	2.5	<0.001
Prematurity***	5.5	6.4	5.8	6.5	8.8	<0.001
Neonatal transfer	9.2	10.8	9.3	10.8	12.5	<0.001

\* Data from the Norwegian Medical Birth Register

\*\* NKR: NOK/GBP = 10.90

\*\*\* Prematurity: 22-36 weeks of pregnancy