



# Key Statistics on Children and Young People in Queensland

2004

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This paper aims to provide recent information on key indicators of health and wellbeing of children and young people in Queensland, grouped into the areas of: population and families; health and mortality; childcare and education; and child abuse, crime and social problems. It updates the summary of key statistics published in *Children and young people in Queensland: a snapshot 2003* (Commission for Children and Young

People, 2004). The information usually relates to children and young people aged under 18 years, although for some indicators the available information relates to those aged under 20 years.

The information in the tables below highlights areas of concern and demonstrates successes in the critical areas of health and welfare.

**Table 1: Key statistics on population and families**

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Queensland Indigenous	Australia
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Population	Population aged under 18 – of all population <sup>1</sup>	2001	27.5%	25.8%	25.6%	46.5%	25.1%
Indigenous population	Indigenous population aged under 18 – of all population under 18 years <sup>2</sup>	2001	5.4% <sup>3</sup>	na	5.7%	100%	4.0%
Single parent families	Children aged under 15 living in single parent families – of all children under 15 years <sup>4</sup>	2003	14.2% <sup>5</sup>	22.8%	20.4%	38% <sup>6</sup>	19.9%
Teenage births	Births to teenage mothers – of all births <sup>7</sup>	2003	6.6%	6.1%	5.8%	19.7%	4.3%
	Births to teenage mothers per 1,000 females 15-19 years <sup>7</sup>	2003	26.0	22.3	21.6	76.0	16.3
Jobless parents	Couple families with children aged under 15 where neither parent is employed – of all couple families with children under 15 years <sup>4</sup>	2003	10.6% <sup>8</sup>	7.9%	7.1%	na	6.3%
	Single parent families with children aged under 15 where parent is not employed – of all single parent families with children under 15 years <sup>4</sup>	2003	55.8% <sup>9</sup>	57.7%	55.6%	na	54.0%

na not available

## Key Points

- 46.5% of the Queensland Indigenous population in 2001 were aged 0-17, which was above the state average of 25.6% aged 0-17.
- 5.7% of 0-17 year olds in Queensland were Indigenous in 2001, compared to the Australian average of 4.0%.
- Single parent families made up over a third of Indigenous families in 2001, whereas 20.4% of Queensland children aged 0-14 were in single parent families (in 2002).

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Census 2001: Basic Community Profiles*; ABS, *Estimated Resident Population*, cat. no. 3201.0.

2 ABS, *Census 2001: Indigenous Profiles*.

3 Indigenous population aged under 20 of all population aged under 20. ABS, *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, cat. no. 3238.0 (estimated resident population at 30 June 1991).

4 ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2004*, cat. no. 4102.0.

5 1991 data. ABS, *1991 Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profile, Queensland*, cat. no. 2722.3 (table B33).

6 2001 data, Indigenous single parent families with children 0-14 years – of all Indigenous families with children 0-14 years. ABS, *Census 2001: Indigenous Profiles* (table I12).

7 ABS, *Births Australia, 2003*, cat. no. 3301.0.

8 Couple families with dependants where neither parent is employed. ABS, *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia, June 1993*, cat. no. 6224.0 (table 16).

9 Single parent families with dependants where parent is not employed – of all single parent families with dependants.



**Table 2: Key statistics on health and mortality**

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Queensland Indigenous	Australia
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Mortality	Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 births <sup>10</sup>	2002	10.6	9.7	8.8	19.3 <sup>11</sup>	8.0
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births <sup>12</sup>	2002	7.9	5.9	5.8	11.5 <sup>13</sup>	5.0
SIDS deaths	SIDS infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births <sup>14</sup>	2000-2002	1.00 <sup>15</sup>	0.69	0.61	1.83 <sup>16</sup>	0.47
Drowning deaths	Drowning mortality rate children 0-4 per 100,000 population <sup>17</sup>	2000-2002	9.1 <sup>16</sup>	6.1	5.0	— <sup>18</sup>	3.5
Transport deaths	Transport mortality rate children 5-14 per 100,000 population <sup>17</sup>	2000-2002	4.8 <sup>16</sup>	3.2	3.2	1.0 <sup>18</sup>	2.9
	Transport mortality rate persons 15-19 per 100,000 population <sup>17</sup>	2000-2002	26.8 <sup>16</sup>	20.0	20.2	15.9 <sup>18</sup>	18.8
Youth suicide	Suicide rate males 15-19 per 100,000 population <sup>17</sup>	2000-2002	22.5 <sup>16</sup>	19.8	18.7	90.3 <sup>18</sup>	13.6
Juvenile diabetes	New cases of Type 1 diabetes among males 0-14 per 100,000 population <sup>19</sup>	2000-2001	na	na	21.5	na	20.3
	New cases of Type 1 diabetes among females 0-14 per 100,000 population <sup>19</sup>	2000-2001	na	na	18.7	na	18.9
Disability	Children 5-14 with severe/profound restriction in communication, mobility or self care activities – of all children 5-14 <sup>20</sup>	2003	na	na	7.3%	na	6.9%
Low birth weight	Babies born weighing less than 2,500g – of all babies <sup>21</sup>	2002	6.7%	6.8%	7.2%	12.6%	na
Immunisation	Children fully immunised at 6 years of age – of all children 6 years of age <sup>22</sup>	30 June 2004	na	82.0%	83.6%	na	83.5%
Breastfeeding	Children 0-3 who had not been breastfed or were breastfed for less than 6 months – of all children 0-3 <sup>23</sup>	2001	na	na	41%	na	41%

na not available – nil or rounded to zero

## Key Points

- In 2002 the perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 births was 8.8 in Queensland, a decrease from 9.7 in 2001 but still above the national rate of 8.0.
- The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 5.8 in Queensland in 2002, which was above the national rate of 5.0.
- Indigenous perinatal and infant mortality rates were around twice the Queensland average in 2002.
- The Queensland death rate due to drowning for children aged 0-4 per 100,000 population was 5.0 during 2000-2002, which was above the national rate of 3.5. Queensland children are more at risk due to the greater relative number of domestic swimming pools compared to southern states.
- The suicide rate for males aged 15-19 per 100,000 population was 18.7 in Queensland during 2000-2002 compared to a national rate of 13.6.
- In 2000-2002 the suicide rate for Indigenous young men aged 15-19 was almost five times higher than the Queensland average.
- 12.6% of Indigenous babies were born with a low birthweight compared to the Queensland average of 7.2% in 2002.

10 ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 3303.0.

11 Analysed using poisson regression. Queensland Health.

12 ABS, *Deaths, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 3302.0.

13 Three year average 2000-2002.

14 Three year average. ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 3303.0.

15 Five year average 1992-1996. ABS, *Causes of Infant and Child Deaths, 1982-96*, cat. no. 4398.0.

16 Three year average 1990-1992. ABS, *Deaths Collection* (unpublished data).

17 Three year average. ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 3303.0 (data cubes).

18 Rates are based on relatively small numbers and should be used with caution. ABS, *Deaths Collection* (unpublished data); ABS, *Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, cat. no. 4713.3.55.001 (estimated resident population at 30 June 2001).

19 Two year average. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *National Diabetes Register: Statistical profile, December 2001, Diabetes Series No. 4*.

20 ABS, *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2003*, cat. no. 4430.0 (summary tables, Queensland).

21 Queensland Health, *Perinatal Data Collection*.

22 Health Insurance Commission, *Australian Childhood Immunisation Register*. Retrieved August 18, 2004 from [http://www.hic.gov.au/providers/health\\_statistics/statistical\\_reporting/acir.htm](http://www.hic.gov.au/providers/health_statistics/statistical_reporting/acir.htm)

23 ABS, *National Health Survey, 2001*, cat. no. 4364.0 – companion data.

**Table 3: Key statistics on child care and education**

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Queensland Indigenous	Australia
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Child care	Children under 3 using formal child care – of all children under 3 <sup>24</sup>	2002	(23.9% 1996)	na	29.7%	na	25.2%
	Children 3-4 using formal child care – of all children 3-4 <sup>24</sup>	2002	na	na	75.0%	na	72.8%
	Median weekly hours of care received by children aged under 3 – formal and informal care combined <sup>24</sup>	2002	na	na	16	na	13
Working mothers	Labour force participation rate of mothers with children 0-4 – of all mothers with children 0-4 <sup>24</sup>	June 2003	na	49.9%	52.0%	na	49.5%
Retention to Year 12	Year 12 apparent retention rate <sup>25</sup>	2003	82.9%	81.3%	81.5%	55.9% <sup>26</sup>	75.4%
	Year 12 apparent retention rate - males <sup>25</sup>	2003	79.1%	77.4%	77.6%	na	70.3%
	Year 12 apparent retention rate - females <sup>25</sup>	2003	86.8%	85.5%	85.7%	na	80.7%
Reading	Year 5 students reaching national reading benchmark <sup>27</sup>	2003	na	83.0%	81.4%	55.5%	na
Numeracy	Year 5 students reaching national numeracy benchmark <sup>27</sup>	2003	na	88.7%	86.3%	62.6%	na

na not available

## Key Points

- The proportion of children under 3 years using formal child care has increased from 23.9% in 1996 to 29.7% in 2002.
- In 2003 the apparent retention in high school was higher in Queensland than nationally (81.5% compared to 75.4%). Apparent retention rates are calculated from full-time enrolments in the cohort's first year and last year of high school. Therefore, factors like differences in net migration and the number of high school years between states would tend to inflate the Queensland retention rate. A more accurate indicator of completion of Year 12 would be available if individual students could be tracked nationally, a plan currently under consideration.
- Apparent retention to Year 12 was lower for Indigenous students than the state average in 2003. In addition to the limitations in the method of calculating apparent retention rates mentioned above (which tend to increase the errors for smaller population groups), an increasing propensity to identify as Indigenous would inflate the Indigenous apparent retention rate.
- The proportions of Indigenous students in Year 5 able to meet the national benchmarks in literacy and numeracy were below the state averages in 2002.

24 ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2004*, cat. no. 4102.0.

25 ABS, *Schools, Australia, 2003*, cat. no. 4221.0.

26 Education Queensland.

27 Queensland Studies Authority, *Overview of Statewide Student Performance in Aspects of Literacy and Numeracy, 2003*.

## Notes

The 'current' information in the tables applies to the reference period indicated, and refers to the most recent data available at the time of publication.

The tables include data from previous periods to allow some assessment of trends over time. Unless otherwise stated, sources for data '10 years before' are earlier editions of the same publication.

Current year comparisons are also made with national rates and with rates for Indigenous children and young people. The Indigenous statistics are calculated using the relevant Indigenous data in the numerator and the denominator.

Caution should be used in interpreting all statistics.

Some components of change over time may be due to improvements in data collection or changes in definitions. Data limitations may be outlined further in the source documents.

Data quality issues exist generally for Indigenous statistics. Although the Indigenous Identifier is increasingly used in administrative collections, the level of completeness is often well below 100%. In addition, population estimates based on census counts are influenced by an increasing propensity to identify as Indigenous.

**Table 4: Key statistics on child abuse, crime and social problems**

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Queensland Indigenous	Australia
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Child abuse	Children 0-16 with substantiated abuse or neglect per 1,000 children <sup>28</sup>	2002-03	na	8.3	10.1	15.9	na
	Children 0-17 on care and protection orders per 1,000 children <sup>28</sup>	30 June 2003	na	4.0	4.3	16.4	4.6
	Children 0-17 in out-of-home care per 1,000 children <sup>28</sup>	30 June 2003	na	3.5	4.0	14.0	4.2
	Children in out-of-home care with substantiated abuse or neglect (from household member) – of all children in out-of-home care <sup>29</sup>	2002-03	na	3.8%	4.3%	na	na
Crime victims	Assault victims aged 0-14 per 1,000 population <sup>30</sup>	2003	na	2.8	3.1	na	3.1
	Sexual assault victims aged 0-14 per 1,000 population <sup>30</sup>	2003	na	3.0	3.4	na	1.9
Offending	Offenders aged 10-17 of offences against the person per 1,000 population <sup>31</sup>	2003-04	na	8.6	8.6	na	na
	Offenders aged 10-17 of offences against property per 1,000 population <sup>31</sup>	2003-04	na	72.0	71.8	na	na
Youth detention	Persons aged 10-17 in juvenile detention per 100,000 population <sup>32</sup>	30 June 2002	20.1	20.3	22.7	225.5	24.9
Drug use	Young people 14-19 smoking daily <sup>33</sup>	2001	na	na	18%	na	15%
	Young people 14-19 who consumed alcohol on a weekly basis <sup>34</sup>	2001	na	na	na	na	28%
	Young people 14-24 who had used marijuana in the last 12 months <sup>33</sup>	2001	na	na	28%	na	28%
	Young people 14-24 who had used other illicit drugs in the last 12 months <sup>33</sup>	2001	na	na	2.4%	na	3.8%
Homelessness	Estimated number of homeless young people 12-18 per 10,000 population <sup>35</sup>	2001	na	na	175	na	138

na not available

### Key Points

- There were 14 Indigenous children per 1,000 in out-of-home care in 2003 which was more than three times the state average (4).
- At 30 June 2002 the youth detention rate per 100,000 population aged 10-17 was 22.7 in Queensland, which was below the national rate of 24.9.
- The Indigenous youth detention rate was around ten times the Queensland average in 2002.

Additional information and comments on the health and wellbeing of Queensland's children and young people can be found in *Children and young people in Queensland: a snapshot 2003* (Commission for Children and Young People, 2004).

28 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Child Protection Australia, 2002-03*.

29 Productivity Commission. *Report on Government Services 2004*.

30 ABS, *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2003*, cat. no. 4510.0.

31 Queensland Police Service, *Statistical Review, 2003-04*; ABS, *Estimated Resident Population*, cat. no. 3201.0; Office of Economic & Statistical Research, *Population Projections to 2051: Queensland*.

32 Nationally comparable data is calculated using 10-17 year olds. Note that in the Queensland justice system, juveniles are defined as 10-16 year olds. Australian Institute of Criminology, *Statistics on Juvenile Detention in Australia: 1981-2002*.

33 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory supplement*.

34 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First results*.

35 ABS, *Counting the Homeless 2001*, cat. no. 2050.0; ABS, *Estimated Resident Population*, cat. no. 3201.0.

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