

2 Key Statistics on Children and Young People

A number of key statistics on children and young people are listed in the following table. Indicators have been selected to cover a broad range of topics. In some cases alternative indicators have been chosen from those reported in later chapters to allow comparison with national levels or because a longer time series was available and was likely to continue to be available.

Table 2.1 Key statistics on children and young people

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Qld Indigenous	Aust.
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Population	Population aged under 18 – of all population ¹	2001	27.5%	25.8%	25.6%	46.5%	25.1%
Indigenous population	Indigenous population aged under 18 – of all population aged under 18 ²	2001	4.1%	na	5.7%	100%	4.0%
Single parent families	Children under 15 living in single parent families – of all children under 15 ³	2002	14% ⁴	21.5%	22.8%	38% ⁵	20.5%
Teenage births	Births to teenage mothers – of all births ⁶	2001	7.1%	6.1%	6.1%	18.1%	4.8%
Jobless parents	Children under 15 living in couple families where neither parent is employed – of all children under 15 in couple families ⁷	2002	12% ⁸	8.9%	7.9%	na	7.2%
Mortality	Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 births ⁹	2001	11.1	8.9	9.7	21.3 ¹⁰	8.4
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ¹¹	2001	7.6	6.2	5.9	11.7 ¹²	5.3
SIDS deaths	SIDS infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ¹³	1999–2001	1.4 ¹⁴	0.7	0.7	na	0.4 ¹⁵
Drowning deaths	Drowning mortality rate children 0-4 per 100,000 ¹⁶	1999–2001	10.2	6.0	6.1	na	2.9 ¹⁷

¹ ABS, *Census 2001: Basic Community Profiles*.

² ABS, *Census 2001: Indigenous Profiles*.

³ ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2003*, cat. no. 4102.0.

⁴ 1991 data. ABS, *1991 Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profile, Queensland*, cat. no. 2722.3 (table B33).

⁵ 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*.

⁶ ABS, *Births Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 3301.0.

⁷ ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2003*, cat. no. 4102.0.

⁸ 1991 data for children aged under 13. ABS, *1991 Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profile, Queensland*, cat. no. 2722.3 (table B40).

⁹ ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 3303.0.

¹⁰ 3 year average 1998–2000. Qld Health (unpublished data).

¹¹ ABS, *Deaths, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 3302.0.

¹² 3 year average 1999–2001.

¹³ ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 3303.0.

¹⁴ 5 year average 1987–1991. ABS, *Causes of infant and child deaths, 1982–96*, cat. no. 4398.0.

¹⁵ 2001 data.

¹⁶ ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 3303.0.

¹⁷ 2001 data.

Table 2.1 Key statistics on children and young people (continued)

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Qld Indigenous	Aust.
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Transport deaths	Transport mortality rate children 5-14 per 100,000 population ¹⁸	1999–2001	6.5	3.0	3.2	na	2.6 ¹⁹
	Transport mortality rate persons 15-19 per 100,000 population ²⁰	1999–2001	30.2	19.5	20.0	na	18.4 ²¹
Youth suicide	Suicide rate males 15-19 per 100,000 population ²²	1999–2001	22.4	19.9	19.8	77.1 ²³	13.8
Juvenile diabetes	New cases of Type 1 diabetes among males 0-14 per 100,000 population ²⁴	2000–2001	na	na	21.5	na	20.3
	New cases of Type 1 diabetes among females 0-14 per 100,000 population ²⁵	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 ²⁶	1998	na	na	5.7%	na	4.4%
Low birth weight	Babies born weighing less than 2,500g – of all babies ²⁷	2001	6.8%	7.1%	6.8%	12.0%	na
Immunisation	Children fully immunised at 6 years of age – of all children 6 years of age ²⁸	31 Dec. 2003	na	na	83.6%	na	83.7%
Breastfeeding	Children 0-3 who had not been breastfed or were breastfed for less than 6 months – of all children 0-3 ²⁹	2001	na	na	41%	na	41%
Child abuse	Children 0-16 with substantiated abuse or neglect per 1,000 children ³⁰	2001-02	na ³¹	7.4	8.3	14.3	na
	Children 0-17 on care and protection orders per 1,000 children ³²	30 June 2002	na	3.9	4.0	15.1	4.3
	Children 0-17 in out-of-home care per 1,000 children ³³	30 June 2002	na	3.3	3.5	12.2	3.9
	Children in out-of-home care with substantiated abuse or neglect (from household member) – of all children in out-of-home care ³⁴	2001-02	na	3.6%	3.8%	na	na

¹⁸ ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 3303.0.

¹⁹ 2001 data.

²⁰ ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 3303.0.

²¹ 2001 data.

²² ABS, *Deaths Collection* (unpublished data); ABS, *Causes of Death: Suicide Deaths 1997 to 2001*, cat. no. 3303.0.

²³ Suicide rate per 100,000 Indigenous males aged 15-17. ABS, *Deaths Collection* (unpublished data).

²⁴ Average annual rate. AIHW, *National Diabetes Register: Statistical profile, December 2001, Diabetes Series No. 4*.

²⁵ Average annual rate. AIHW, *National Diabetes Register: Statistical profile, December 2001, Diabetes Series No. 4*.

²⁶ ABS, *Disability, Ageing and Carers: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, Australia, 1998*, cat. no. 4433.0 (Summary Tables, Queensland).

²⁷ Queensland Health, *Perinatal Data Collection*.

²⁸ Health Insurance Commission, *Australian Childhood Immunisation Register*. Retrieved February 12, 2004 from http://www.hic.gov.au/providers/health_statistics/statistical_reporting/acir.htm

²⁹ ABS, *National Health Survey, 2001*, cat. no. 4364.0 - companion data.

³⁰ AIHW, *Child Protection Australia, 2001-02*.

³¹ 1991-92 data published previously by AIHW used a different counting methodology.

³² AIHW, *Child Protection Australia, 2001-02*.

³³ AIHW, *Child Protection Australia, 2001-02*.

³⁴ Productivity Commission. *Report on Government Services 2003*.

Table 2.1 Key statistics on children and young people (continued)

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Qld Indigenous	Aust.
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Child care	Children under 3 using formal child care – of all children under 3 ³⁵	2002	(23.9% 1996)	na	29.7%	na	25.2%
	Children 3-4 using formal child care – of all children 3-4 ³⁶	2002	na	na	75.0%	na	72.8%
	Median weekly hours of care received by children aged under 3 – formal and informal care combined ³⁷	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 ³⁸	June 2002	na	50.5%	49.9%	na	49.2%
Retention	Year 12 apparent retention rate ³⁹	2002	85.0%	79.0%	81.3%	55.9%	75.1%
	Year 12 apparent retention rate – males ⁴⁰	2002	81.2%	74.9%	77.4%	na	69.8%
	Year 12 apparent retention rate – females ⁴¹	2002	89.0%	83.2%	85.5%	na	80.7%
Reading	Year 5 students reaching national reading benchmark ⁴²	2002	na	83.0%	83.0%	58.5%	na
Numeracy	Year 5 students reaching national numeracy benchmark ⁴³	2002	na	81.8%	88.7%	68.9%	na
Drug use	Young people 14-19 smoking daily ⁴⁴	2001	na	(18% 1998 ⁴⁵)	18%	na	15%
	Young people 14-19 who consumed alcohol on a weekly basis ⁴⁶	2001	na	na	na	na	28%
	Young people 14-24 who had used marijuana in the last 12 months ⁴⁷	2001	na	na	28%	na	28%
	Young people 14-24 who had used other illicit drugs in the last 12 months ⁴⁸	2001	na	na	2.4%	na	3.8%
Homelessness	Estimated number of homeless young people 12-18 per 10,000 population ⁴⁹	2001	na	na	175	na	138
Crime victims	Assault victims aged 0-14 per 1,000 population ⁵⁰	2002	na	na	2.8	na	2.9
	Sexual assault victims aged 0-14 per 1,000 population ⁵¹	2002	na	na	3.0	na	1.9

³⁵ ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2003*, cat. no. 4102.0.

³⁶ ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2003*, cat. no. 4102.0.

³⁷ ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2003*, cat. no. 4102.0.

³⁸ ABS, *Australian Social Trends, 2003*, cat. no. 4102.0.

³⁹ ABS, *Schools, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4221.0.

⁴⁰ ABS, *Schools, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4221.0.

⁴¹ ABS, *Schools, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4221.0.

⁴² QSA, *Overview of Statewide Performance in Aspects of Literacy and Numeracy, 2002*.

⁴³ QSA, *Overview of Statewide Performance in Aspects of Literacy and Numeracy, 2002*.

⁴⁴ AIHW, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory supplement*.

⁴⁵ AIHW, *1998 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: Queensland results*.

⁴⁶ AIHW, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First results*.

⁴⁷ AIHW, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory supplement*.

⁴⁸ AIHW, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory supplement*.

⁴⁹ ABS, *Counting the Homeless 2001*, cat. no. 2050.0; ABS, *Estimated Resident Population*, cat. no. 3201.0.

⁵⁰ ABS, *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4510.0.

⁵¹ ABS, *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2002*, cat. no. 4510.0.

Table 2.1 Key statistics on children and young people (continued)

Topic	Indicator	Reference period	Queensland			Qld Indigenous	Aust.
			10 years before	1 year before	Current	Current	Current
Offending	Offenders aged 10-17 of offences against the person per 1,000 population ⁵²	2001-02	na	7.5	7.7	na	na
	Offenders aged 10-17 of offences against property per 1,000 population ⁵³	2001-02	na	73.8	70.7	na	na
Youth detention	Persons aged 10-17 in juvenile detention per 100,000 population ⁵⁴	30 June 2002	20.1	20.3	22.7	225.5	24.9

⁵² QPS, *Statistical Review, 2001-02*; ABS, *Estimated Resident Population*, cat. no. 3201.0.

⁵³ QPS, *Statistical Review, 2001-02*; ABS, *Estimated Resident Population*, cat. no. 3201.0.

⁵⁴ 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. AIC, *Statistics on Juvenile Detention in Australia: 1981-2002*.

Final comments

Some comparisons between Queensland and national data which stand out from the key statistics table include:

- In 2001 the perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 births was 9.7 in Queensland, which was above the national rate of 8.4.
- The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 5.9 in Queensland in 2001, which was above the national rate of 5.3.
- The Queensland death rate due to drowning for children aged 0 to 4 per 100,000 population was 6.1 in 1999-2001, which was above the national rate of 2.9 in 2001. 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 to 19 per 100,000 population was 19.8 in Queensland in 1999-2001 compared to a national rate of 13.8.
- In 2002 the apparent retention to Year 12 was higher in Queensland than nationally (81% compared to 70%). However, factors such as differences in net migration and in the number of high school years between states would contribute to the higher rate in Queensland.
- At 30 June 2002 the youth detention rate per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17 was 22.7 in Queensland, which was below the national rate of 24.9.

Some comparisons with Indigenous data of particular interest include:

- 5.7% of 0 to 17 year olds in Queensland were Indigenous in 2001, compared to the Australian average of 4.0%.
- 46.5% of the Queensland Indigenous population in 2001 were aged 0 to 17, which was above the state average of 25.8% aged 0 to 17.
- 38% of Indigenous children aged 0 to 14 were living in single parent families in 2001, which was above the state average of 22.8% of all 0 to 14 year olds (in 2002).
- Indigenous perinatal and infant mortality rates were at least twice the Queensland average in 2001.
- In 2001 the suicide rate for Indigenous young men aged 15 to 19 was several times higher than the Queensland average.
- 12% of Indigenous babies were born with a low birthweight compared to the Queensland average of 7% in 2001.
- Apparent Year 12 retention was lower for Indigenous students than the state average in 2002.
- The proportion of Indigenous students in Year 5 able to meet the national benchmarks in literacy and numeracy was below the state average in 2002.
- The Indigenous youth detention rate was around ten times the Queensland average in 2002.

The list of key statistics may change in future reports as more suitable or more reliable indicators become available, and the availability of data for '10 years before' should improve in coming years as many series have only recently become available at a state level.

Caution should be used in interpreting all statistics, and the reader is advised to check on data limitations from the source documents. Data quality issues exist generally for Indigenous statistics. While the Indigenous Identifier is increasingly included in administrative data collections, the level of completeness is often well below 100% and the data are therefore under-counted.

Population estimates are based on the Census, but an increasing propensity to identify as Indigenous in recent Census counts has resulted in 'jumps' in estimated Indigenous populations following each count. Comparing Indigenous rates from different years should be done with care, as rates are usually calculated using the estimated population.