

2 Key statistics

The following tables provide recent information on key indicators of health and wellbeing of children and young people in Queensland, grouped by population and families; mortality; health; child abuse; child care and education; and crime, drug use and homelessness.

In some cases, alternative indicators to those reported elsewhere in this report have been included in this chapter to allow comparison with national levels, or because a longer time series was available and is likely to continue to be available.

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

A guide to using the tables can be found in the “Notes” box on this page.

Notes

Caution should be used in interpreting the statistics in these tables. Some apparent change over time may be the result of improvements in data collection or changes in definitions. Data limitations may be discussed further in the source documents.

Data are usually in the form of age-standardised population rates, with “per population” rates calculated as a proportion of the relevant population group (usually age, sex or Indigenous group).

The term “Indigenous” is used interchangeably with “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander” in the tables and throughout this report.

In general, there may be problems of data quality for Indigenous statistics. Although the Indigenous Identifier is increasingly used in administrative collections, the level of people responding to this question is often well below 100%. In addition, population estimates based on census counts are influenced by a recent increasing tendency to identify as Indigenous.

Population and family statistics

Table 2.1 provides a summary of statistics on population and families for children and young people. The key points are:

- Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up a much larger proportion of the Indigenous population, with 45.8% of the population aged under 18 in 2007, compared with 24.5% of the total Queensland population aged under 18. Contributing to this imbalance is the large proportion of Indigenous children (approximately two-thirds) with only one of their parents being Indigenous. As babies born with an Indigenous

and a non-Indigenous parent are usually identified as Indigenous, this effectively increases the Indigenous proportion of new births above that of the population of parents.

- In 2007, 6.0% of 0–17 year olds in Queensland were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared with the Australian average of 4.3% (in 2006).
- The Queensland rate of births to teenage women has been gradually decreasing, as has the Indigenous rate of births to teenage women.

Table 2.1
Population and family statistics

Topic / Indicator	Queensland 1998 to 2007										Aust.
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
Population (per cent)											
Population aged under 18 – of all population ^a	26.1	25.9	25.8	25.6	25.3	25.0	24.7	24.6	24.4	24.5	23.5
Indigenous population aged under 18 – of all Indigenous population ^b	na	na	na	46.1	46.0	45.8	45.5	45.2	44.8	45.8	44.5 (2006)
Indigenous population (per cent)											
Indigenous population aged under 18 – of all population under 18 years ^b	na	na	na	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	4.3 (2006)
Single-parent families (per cent)											
Children aged under 15 living in single-parent families – of all children under 15 years ^c	19.4	20.3	19.0	21.5	22.5	20.3	22.6	19.6	19.5	20.6	19.5
Indigenous single-parent families with children 0–14 years – of all Indigenous families with children 0–14 years ^d	na	na	na	37.8	na	na	na	na	na	na	38.3 (2001)
Teenage births (per cent)											
Births to teenage mothers – of all births ^e	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.2	na	4.0 (2006)
Births to Indigenous teenage mothers – of all births to Indigenous mothers ^e	17.3	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.6	20.4	19.7	18.7	17.7	na	19.2 (2006)
Teenage fertility (births per 1000 females 15–19)											
Teenage fertility rate ^e	23.3	22.4	22.7	22.5	22.3	21.6	21.7	20.5	19.7	na	15.4 (2006)
Indigenous teenage fertility rate ^e	69.5	71.2	75.6	74.2	74.6	76.0	67.8	66.7	60.9	na	69.2 (2005)
Jobless parents (per cent)											
Couple families with children aged under 15 where neither parent is employed – of all couple families with children under 15 years ^c	9.6	8.3	7.9	8.8	8.0	7.0	6.0	5.1	5.7	4.2	4.8
Single-parent families with children aged under 15 where parent is not employed – of all single-parent families with children under 15 years ^c	57.2	54.2	52.6	52.2	57.2	55.0	52.5	53.8	na	na	50.7 (2005)

Notes and Sources:

na Not available.

a. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, cat. no. 3201.0.

b. Based on experimental estimates of resident populations. ABS, *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, cat. no. 3238.0; ABS, *Census 2001: Indigenous Profiles*.

c. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Social Trends*, cat. no. 4102.0.

d. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census 2001: Indigenous Profiles* (table 12).

e. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Births, Australia*, cat. no. 3301.0.

- The Indigenous teenage fertility rate was three times higher than the Queensland average.

Mortality statistics

Table 2.2 provides a summary of statistics on mortality for children and young people.

- Neonatal, post-neonatal and infant mortality rates have generally declined over the 10-year period, although neonatal and post-neonatal rates did increase in the 2004–2006 period (3.8 and 1.7 deaths per 1000 live births respectively).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infant mortality rates were more than double those of the Queensland rate (11.8 and 5.4 per 1000 live births respectively).
- SIDS mortality rates have been generally decreasing. A number of different factors have contributed to the decrease, including increased public awareness of SIDS risk factors. However, some component of the decreases may be accounted for by the increases in infant deaths classified as having undetermined causes, reflecting ambiguities in definitions of SIDS and sudden unexpected deaths.
- The Queensland death rate due to drowning for children aged 0–4 was 4.6 per 100,000 in 2005–2007, which was down slightly from 4.8 in 2004–2006. However, the relatively small numbers involved can result in short-term fluctuations in rates – the rate for 2005–2007 was lower than the rates occurring earlier in the 10-year time period.

Table 2.2

Mortality statistics

Topic / Indicator	Queensland 1996–1998 to 2005–2007 ^a										Aust. ^b
	1996–1998	1997–1999	1998–2000	1999–2001	2000–2002	2001–2003	2002–2004	2003–2005	2004–2006	2005–2007	2007
Neonatal & infant mortality (per 1000 births)											
Neonatal mortality ^c rate	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.8	na	3.3 (2006)
Post-neonatal mortality ^d rate	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	na	1.4 (2006)
Infant mortality ^e rate	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.4	na	4.7 (2006)
Indigenous infant mortality rate	3.3	0.9	4.3	8.8	11.4	11.0	10.4	10.9	11.8	na	na
SIDS & Undetermined causes (per 1000 births)											
SIDS mortality rate ^f	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	na	0.2 (2006)
Infant mortality rate, cause undetermined ^f	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	na	na
Drowning deaths (per 100,000 population)											
Drowning mortality rate children 0–4	5.9	5.6	6.3	6.3	5.3	3.5	3.3	3.0	4.8	4.6	na
Transport deaths (per 100,000 population)											
Transport-related mortality rate children 5–14	3.9	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.1	1.7	2.0	na
Transport-related mortality rate persons 15–17	18.1	17.4	14.7	16.3	15.3	14.5	13.9	13.3	13.2	12.9	na
Youth suicide (per 100,000 population)											
Suicide rate males 15–17 ^g	14.9	12.9	13.1	10.9	11.2	8.2	5.7	4.4	6.5	9.9	na
Suicide rate females 15–17 ^g	3.6	3.1	5.8	4.4	5.2	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.4	na

Notes and sources:

- na Not available.
SIDS Sudden infant death syndrome.
a. Years stated refer to three-year rolling averages. OESR, *Deaths Collection* (for deaths in the years to 2003); CCYPCG, *Queensland Child Death Register* (for deaths in the years after 2003).
b. ABS, *Deaths, Australia*, cat. no. 3302.0.
c. Deaths under 4 weeks of age.
d. Deaths between 4 weeks and under 1 year of age.
e. Deaths under 1 year of age.
f. Based on ICD-10 codes R95 for SIDS deaths and R96–99 for deaths, cause undetermined.
g. Suicide rates are likely to be underestimated, particularly prior to 2004.

- The suicide rate for males aged 15–17 years in 2005–2007 was 9.9 deaths per 100,000 population – a five-year high. Recent increases in the suicide rate for this group should be interpreted with caution because of the small numbers involved (which mean that rates can vary markedly from year to year). It is also possible that the inclusion of suspected suicides is affecting the data (see Chapter 7).

Because of data quality issues with determining Indigenous mortality rates, relevant information is not presented here, although various research findings can be found in Chapter 7, “Deaths”.

Health statistics

Table 2.3 provides a summary of statistics on health for children and young people. Information on key health indicators is limited. Measures on some topics such as weight and breastfeeding are difficult to collect systematically, and a reliance on survey results means that data are irregular, and may not be repeated in a consistent way in subsequent surveys. The key points from the available data are:

- Indigenous babies are more likely to be born with a low birthweight compared with the Queensland average; however, the gap between the Indigenous average and the general Queensland average is narrowing.

Table 2.3
Health statistics

Topic / Indicator	Queensland 1997 to 2006										Aust.
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006
Juvenile diabetes (per 100,000 population)											
New cases of Type 1 diabetes among children 0–14 ^a	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	24.7	24.1	na	22.6 (2005)
Disability (per cent)											
Children 5–14 with severe/profound restriction in communication, mobility or self-care activities – of all children 5–14 ^b	na	5.7	na	na	na	na	5.8	na	na	na	4.9 (2003)
Low birthweight (per cent)											
Babies born weighing less than 2500g – of all babies ^c	6.9	6.8	6.7	7.1	6.8	7.2	6.9	7.1	6.5	7.3	6.4 ^d (2005)
Indigenous babies born weighing less than 2500g – of all Indigenous babies ^c	11.9	11.4	11.1	12.8	12.0	12.7	12.1	12.1	11.4	11.6	13.2 ^d (2005)
Immunisation (per cent)											
Children fully immunised at 6 years of age – of all children 6 years of age ^e	na	na	na	na	na	82.9	83.6	81.6	81.4	87.6	84.0
Breastfeeding (per cent)											
Children 0–4 who had been breastfed at 3 months – of all children 0–4 ^f	na	na	na	na	na	na	69.1	na	na	na	na
Children 0–4 who had been breastfed at 5 months – of all children 0–4 ^f	na	na	na	na	na	na	60.0	na	na	na	na
Exclusive Breastfeeding (per cent)											
Babies breastfed exclusively at 3 months – of all babies at 3 months ^f	na	na	na	na	na	na	38.9	na	na	na	na
Babies breastfed exclusively at 5 months – of all babies at 5 months ^f	na	na	na	na	na	na	3.1	na	na	na	na

Notes and sources:

- na Not available.
a. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *National Diabetes Register: Statistical profile 1999–2005*, cat. no. CVD 39. Diabetes Series no. 7.
b. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2003*, cat. no. 4430.0 (summary tables, Queensland).
c. Queensland Health, *Perinatal Data Collection*.
d. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's Mothers and Babies*, Perinatal Statistics Series.
e. As at 31 December. Medicare Australia, *Australian Childhood Immunisation Register*.
www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/providers/health_statistics/statistical_reporting/acir.htm
f. Queensland Health, *Infant and Child Nutrition in Queensland 2003*.

- The immunisation rate in Queensland was greater than the Australian average (87.6% and 84.0% respectively).

Child abuse statistics

Despite recent decreases in some key measures of child abuse from child protection service data, the rates are still much higher than those recorded 5–10 years ago. However, recent changes in processes and data collection are likely to have affected the key measures, making it difficult to interpret the trends. Increased community awareness about child abuse and neglect and a greater preparedness to report are likely to have also contributed to increased notifications.

- The rate of Queensland children in alternative care per 1000 increased from 2.9 in June 2000 to 5.9 in June 2007, which was higher than the Australian rate of 5.8 per 1000.

- The rates of children and young people on protective orders was down from 6.5 per 1000 in 2005–06 to 6.1 per 1000 in 2006–07.
- Compared with the general Queensland rates, Indigenous children were:
 - three times more likely to have experienced substantiated harm
 - almost five times more likely to be in alternative care
- Information on Indigenous children and young people on protection orders was not available at the time of publication.

Table 2.4
Child abuse statistics

Topic / Indicator	Queensland 1998 to 2007										Aust.
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
Substantiated abuse (per 1000 population)											
Children 0–16 with substantiated abuse or neglect ^a	na	5.1	5.6	7.3	8.3	10.1	14.0	14.1	10.9	9.2	7.0
Indigenous children 0–16 with substantiated abuse or neglect ^a	na	na	9.3	12.4	14.3	15.6	20.8	20.4	23.0	29.2	31.8
Protective orders (per 1000 population)											
Children 0–17 on protective orders ^b	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.3	5.2	6.0	6.5	6.1	6.0
Indigenous children 0–17 on protective orders ^b	na	na	15.1	13.9	15.0	16.0	18.9	21.9	26.7	na	33.4
Alternative care (per 1000 population)											
Children 0–17 in alternative care ^b	na	na	2.9	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.6	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.8
Indigenous children 0–17 in alternative care ^b	na	na	10.4	11.0	12.0	13.6	15.8	20.8	24.0	27.9	36.1
Abuse in alternative care (per cent)											
Children in alternative care with substantiated abuse or neglect (from household member) – of all children in alternative care ^{a,c}	na	na	2.0	3.6	3.8	4.3	8.1	7.6	3.9	na	na

Notes and sources:

- na Not available.
- a. Year refers to 12 months ending 30 June. Department of Child Safety (unpublished data); Productivity Commission, *Report on Government Services* (various).
- b. As at 30 June. Department of Child Safety (unpublished data); Productivity Commission, *Report on Government Services* (various).
- c. Includes harm which occurred prior to the period, but was notified and substantiated during the period.



Child care and education statistics

Table 2.5 provides a summary of statistics of child care and education.

- In 2007, apparent retention in high school was higher in Queensland than nationally (78.5% compared with 74.3%). Apparent retention rates are calculated from full-time enrolments in the cohort's first year and again in the last year of high school. These rates should be used with caution as factors such as repeating a year of education, migration and other net changes to school population can impact on calculations. Further, retention rates do not measure completion of Year 12, only commencement.
- Apparent retention to Year 12 for Indigenous students in Queensland was lower than the state average, but higher than the national average for Indigenous students.
- The proportions of Indigenous students in Year 5 who met the national benchmarks in reading and numeracy were lower than for other students.
- The proportions of Year 5 students in Queensland who met the national benchmarks in reading and numeracy were lower than the national averages.

Table 2.5
Child care & education statistics

Topic / Indicator	Queensland 1998 to 2007										Aust.
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
Child care (per cent)											
Children under 3 using formal child care – of all children under 3 ^a	na	25.8	na	na	29.7	na	na	36.9	na	na	28.2 (2005)
Children 3–4 using formal child care (excluding preschool) – of all children 3–4 ^b	na	47.6	na	na	48.7	na	na	53.7	na	na	45.5 (2005)
Median weekly hours of care received by children aged under 3 – formal and informal care combined ^b	na	13 hours	na	na	16 hours	na	na	16 hours	na	na	14 hours (2005)
Median weekly hours of care received by children aged 3–4 – formal and informal care combined ^b	na	14 hours	na	na	18 hours	na	na	18 hours	na	na	16 hours (2005)
Working mothers (per cent)											
Labour force participation rate of mothers with children 0–4 – of all mothers with children 0–4 ^b	51.7	49.4	48.4	50.7	50.1	52.3	47.3	54.1	52.6	na	52.4 (2006)
Retention to Year 12 (per cent)											
Year 12 apparent retention rate ^c	77.3	77.5	77.3	79.0	81.3	81.5	81.2	79.9	78.5	78.5	74.3
Year 12 apparent retention rate – Indigenous ^c	50.3	50.8	52.3	52.1	55.9	55.9	56.7	54.1	54.2	56.5	42.9
Year 12 apparent retention rate – males ^c	72.3	72.4	72.4	74.9	77.4	77.6	77.0	75.3	73.7	73.9	68.8
Year 12 apparent retention rate – females ^c	82.6	82.9	82.6	83.2	85.5	85.7	85.7	84.7	83.6	83.8	80.1
Reading (per cent)											
Year 5 students reaching national reading benchmark ^d	na	80.0 ± 3.0	78.5 ± 3.6	83.0 ± 1.6	83.0 ± 1.9	81.4 ± 2.4	83.4 ± 2.3	79.7 ± 2.4	81.2 ± 3.1	na	88.4 ± 1.6 (2006)
Indigenous Year 5 students reaching national reading benchmark ^d	na	54.4 ± 5.6	54.4 ± 6.1	57.3 ± 3.4	58.5 ± 3.9	55.5 ± 4.2	65.0 ± 4.2	52.2 ± 4.2	60.7 ± 4.9	na	66.3 ± 4.4 (2006)
Numeracy (per cent)											
Year 5 students reaching national numeracy benchmark ^d	na	na	86.2 ± 2.2	81.8 ± 1.9	88.7 ± 1.9	86.3 ± 1.6	89.3 ± 1.6	88.1 ± 1.9	85.4 ± 1.6	na	90.3 ± 1.3 (2006)
Indigenous Year 5 students reaching national numeracy benchmark ^d	na	na	58.9 ± 5.2	54.4 ± 3.5	68.9 ± 4.0	62.6 ± 3.4	71.7 ± 3.6	65.8 ± 3.4	62.8 ± 3.4	na	66.0 ± 3.8 (2006)

Notes and sources:

- na Not available.
- a. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Child Care, Australia*, cat. no. 4402.0.
- b. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Social Trends*, cat. no. 4102.0.
- c. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Schools, Australia*, cat. no. 4221.0.
- d. Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, *National Report on Schooling in Australia: 2006 National Benchmark Results Reading, Writing and Numeracy Years 3, 5 and 7*.

Crime, drug and homelessness statistics

The key points for the data in Table 2.6 are:

- Youth offending rates for offences against the person were at the highest levels for 11 years (9.9 per 1000 population).
- Youth offending rates for property offences (such as stealing, property damage and unlawful entry) increased in 2006–07 to 64.8 per 1000 aged 10–17, but were still lower than the rates witnessed in the late 1990s and early 2000s.
- The 2006 Queensland youth detention rate for those aged 10–17 was 29.9 per 100,000 population, in comparison with 21.7 for the previous year. The Queensland rate was comparable with the national rate (29.1 per 100,000 population). This should be interpreted with caution as 17 year old offenders in Queensland are sentenced under the adult criminal code (including prison sentences), whereas in other states and territories 17 year old offenders are sentenced as juveniles.
- The Indigenous youth detention rate was approximately eight times the Queensland rate in 2006.
- In 2007, 7.3% of young people across Australia aged 14–19 years smoked daily, with 20.9% drinking alcohol on a weekly basis. Updated Queensland data were not available at the time of publication, although previous survey data indicate that the level of young people smoking decreased between 2001 and 2004.
- An estimated 109 children per 10,000 accompanied adult clients using SAAP services in 2006–07.

Table 2.6
Crime, drug use and homelessness statistics

Topic / Indicator	Queensland 1998 to 2007										Aust.
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
Crime victims (per 1000 population)											
Assault victims aged 0–17 ^a	na	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.6	na
Sexual offences victims aged 0–17 ^a	na	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.2	na
Offending (per 1000 population)											
Offenders aged 10–17 of offences against the person ^a	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.7	8.6	8.6	8.2	9.3	9.9	na
Offenders aged 10–17 of offences against property ^a	69.0	70.4	76.3	73.8	70.6	72.1	71.9	63.4	61.6	64.8	na
Youth detention (per 100,000 population)											
Persons aged 10–17 in juvenile detention ^b	31.3	33.7	24.7	20.3	22.7	23.2	20.6	21.7	29.9	na	29.1 (2006)
Indigenous persons aged 10–17 in juvenile detention ^b	353.4	330.5	244.4	240.2	234.7	237.4	200.9	188.1	237.0	na	315.1 (2006)
Drug use (per cent)											
Young people 14–19 who smoked daily ^c	18	na	na	17.8	na	na	11.6	na	na	na	7.3
Young people 14–19 who consumed alcohol on a weekly basis ^c	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	20.9
Young people 14–19 who had used marijuana in the last month ^d	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	9.1 (2004)
Young people 14–19 who had used any illicit drug except marijuana in the last month ^d	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	4.9 (2004)
Homelessness (per 10,000 population)											
Estimated number of homeless young people 12–18 ^e	na	na	na	175	na	na	na	na	na	na	138 (2001)
SAAP agency clients aged under 15 ^f	na	na	na	16	16	18	23	17	18	18	15
SAAP agency clients aged 15–17 ^f	na	na	na	131	114	120	132	122	na	na	na
Children aged 0–17 accompanying SAAP agency clients ^f	na	na	na	na	88	98	90	89	83	109	141

Notes and sources:

na Not available.

SAAP Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

a. Year refers to 12 months ending 30 June. Queensland Police Service, *Statistical Review*; Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, cat. no. 3201.0.

b. As at 30 June. Nationally comparable data calculated using 10–17 year olds. In the Queensland justice system, juveniles are defined as 10–16 year olds. Australian Institute of Criminology, *Juveniles in Detention in Australia: 1981–2006*.

c. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First results*; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and territory supplement*.

d. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: Detailed findings*.

e. Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Counting the Homeless 2001*, cat. no. 2050.0; Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, cat. no. 3201.0.

f. Year refers to 12 months ending 30 June. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Homeless People in SAAP: SAAP National Data Collection Annual Report*.