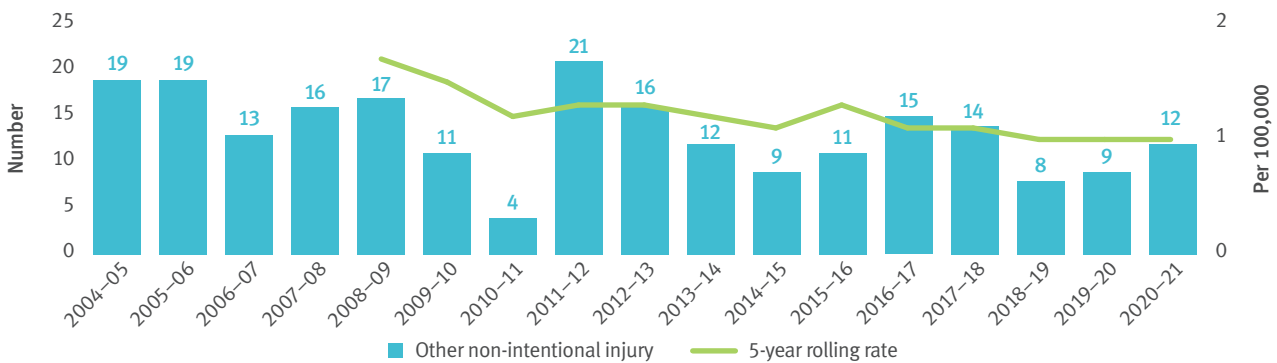


5 Other non-intentional injury

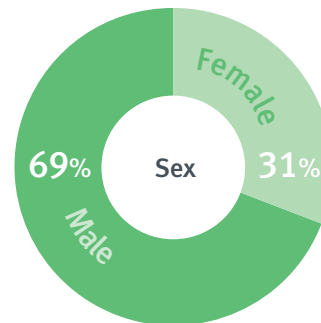
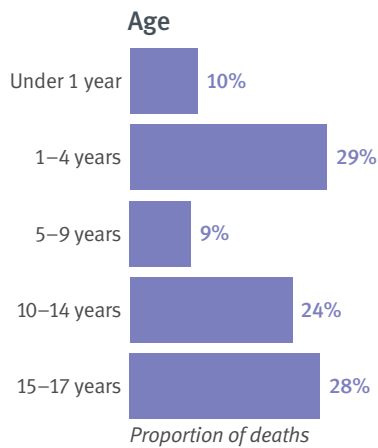
Overview

- 12 child deaths from other non-intentional injury in 2020–21.
- Fatal injuries related to infant sleep, product safety and residential house fires, while rare, are all potentially preventable.
- Children aged under 5 years are at most risk from product or other injuries within the home setting.
- Children and young people aged over 10 years may place themselves at risk of serious injury and death through risk-taking activities.

Other non-intentional injury deaths in Queensland



Five-year summary (2016–21)



Indigenous status



Notes: Counting is by date of death registration by the Registry Births, Deaths and Marriages. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

* in the 12 months prior to death

Key findings

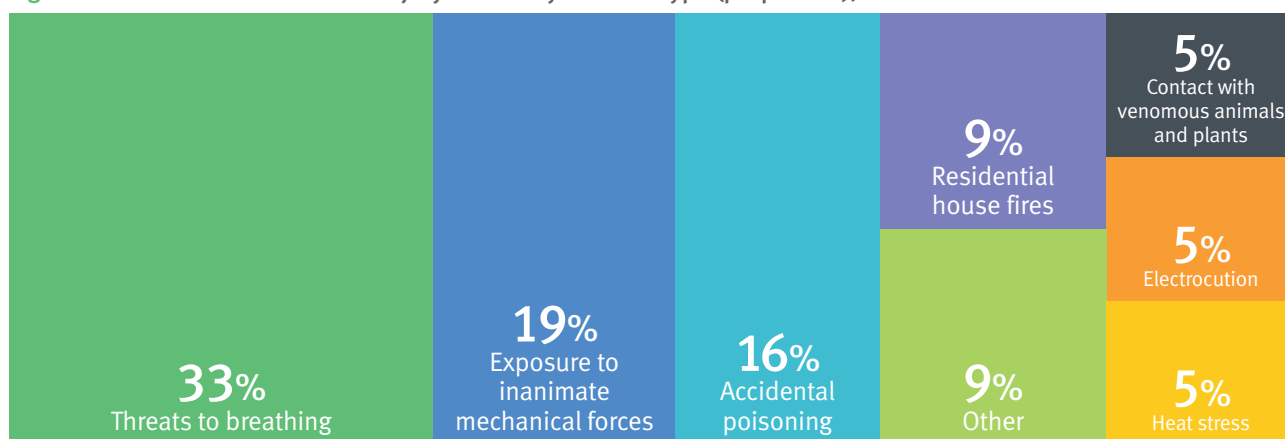
The child deaths discussed in this chapter are those unintentional deaths which fall outside the scope of the more common non-intentional injury-related deaths examined earlier in this report (transport incidents and drowning).³³

Twelve deaths from other non-intentional injuries were recorded during 2020–21. These included sleep accidents (3, all infants), strangulation (3), and 1 each from choking on foreign object, button battery ingestion, electrocution, drug overdose, box jelly fish sting, and heat stress in a vehicle.

Injury type

Over the last 5 years, the most common injury types were threats to breathing, exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, accidental poisoning, and residential house fires, as shown in Figure 5.1.³⁴

Figure 5.1: Other non-intentional injury deaths by incident type (proportion), 2016–17 to 2020–21



Notes: Other includes falls, exposure to animate forces and other injuries not elsewhere classified. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Situational risks

Children, particularly young children, are at risk in certain settings and circumstances. Over the last 5 years:

- 5 children, all aged under 1 year, died in sleep accidents. Incidents involved accidental over-lay by a co-sleeping person (3) and entrapment/entanglement incidents in the sleep environment (2)
- 5 children died in residential house fires
- 3 children died from heat stress when they were unintentionally left alone or became trapped in vehicles.

³³ See **Appendix D** a comprehensive outline of categories of death constituting 'other non-intentional injury-related deaths'. **Table A.7** in **Appendix A** provides summary data on other non-intentional injury deaths in the last 5 years.

³⁴ Threats to breathing includes suffocation, strangulation and other threats to breathing. Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces includes, for example, struck or crushed by an object and accidental firearm discharge.

Product safety

A number of consumer products are subject to mandatory or voluntary safety standards, including products which present a higher risk of injury to children.

Button batteries can cause life-long or even fatal injuries if swallowed. Loose or inadequately secured batteries pose a risk to young children as placing small objects in their mouth is part of exploratory play. Two children have died in Queensland from button battery injuries since 2004, of which one occurred during 2020–21.

Other child fatalities involving consumer products in Queensland over the last 5 years included:

- 2 from strangulation from window blind/roller cords (4 in total since 2004)
- 1 from furniture/appliance tip-over (7 in total since 2004)
- 1 from caustic substances (3 in total since 2004).

Risk-taking activities

Some deaths have occurred during risk-taking activities. In the last 5 years:

- 4 deaths were from volatile substance misuse (also known as inhalant abuse or chroming)—the substances involved in the majority of deaths were aerosol deodorants
- 4 deaths involved drug overdoses and/or excessive consumption of alcohol
- 5 deaths appeared to be the result of a choking game or prank
- all fatalities involving risk taking activities were children aged 10–17 years.