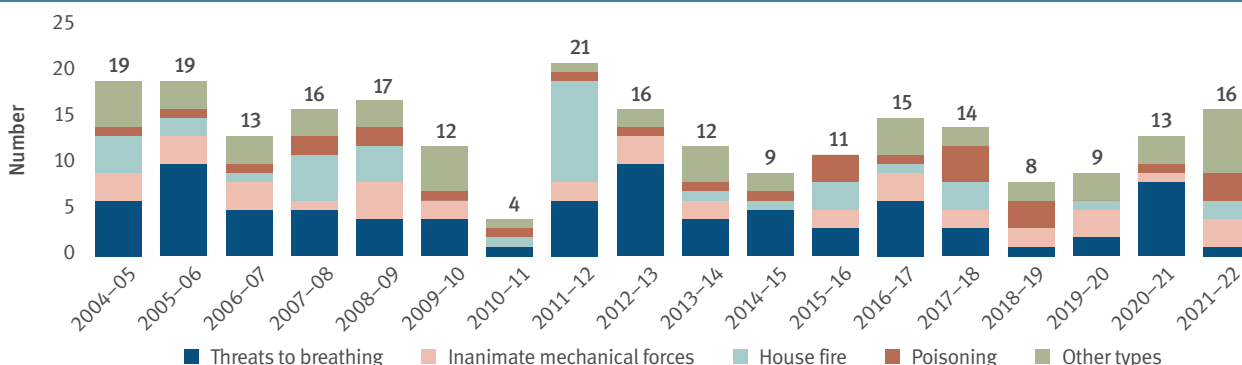
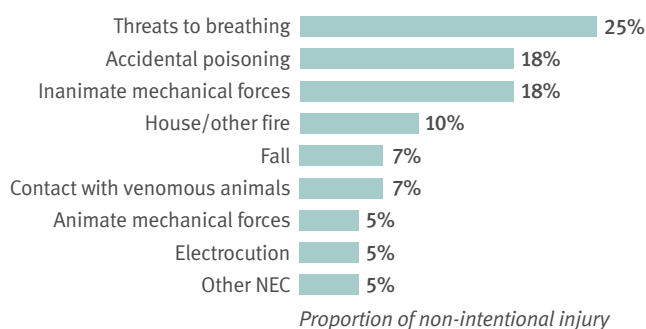


# 5 Other non-intentional injury

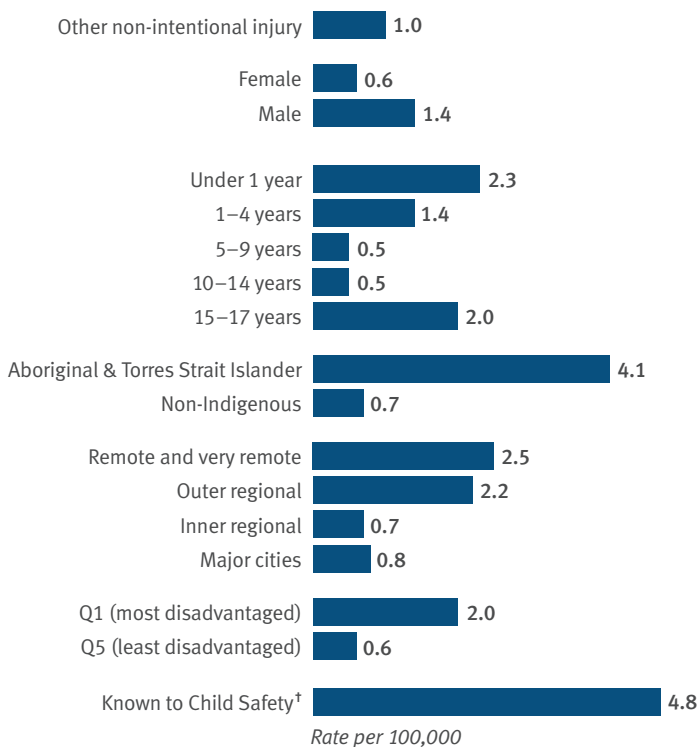
## 2004 to 2022



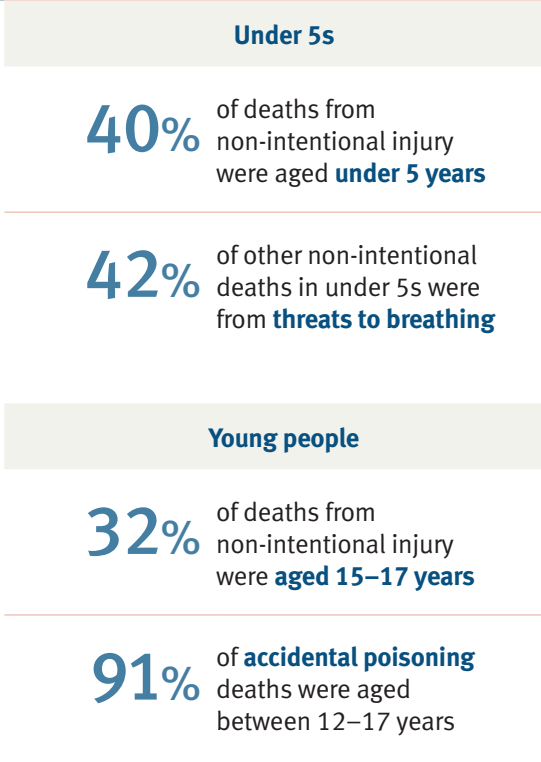
## 5-year summary (2017-22) | Incident type



## Demographics



## High risk groups



Notes: Counting is by date of death registration. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. † in the 12 months prior to death.

## Key findings

This chapter considers all non-intentional injury-related deaths outside of transport or drowning fatalities. A comprehensive outline of the types of incidents included in ‘other non-intentional injury-related deaths’ can be found in [Appendix E](#).<sup>45</sup>

### Injury type

Sixteen deaths from other non-intentional injuries were recorded during 2021–22. These included falls (3), drug overdose (3), dog attack (2), crush injuries from falling objects (3), contact with venomous animals (2), fire (2), and 1 from a sleep accident.

Over the last 5 years, the most common injury types were threats to breathing, exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, accidental poisoning and fire.<sup>46</sup>

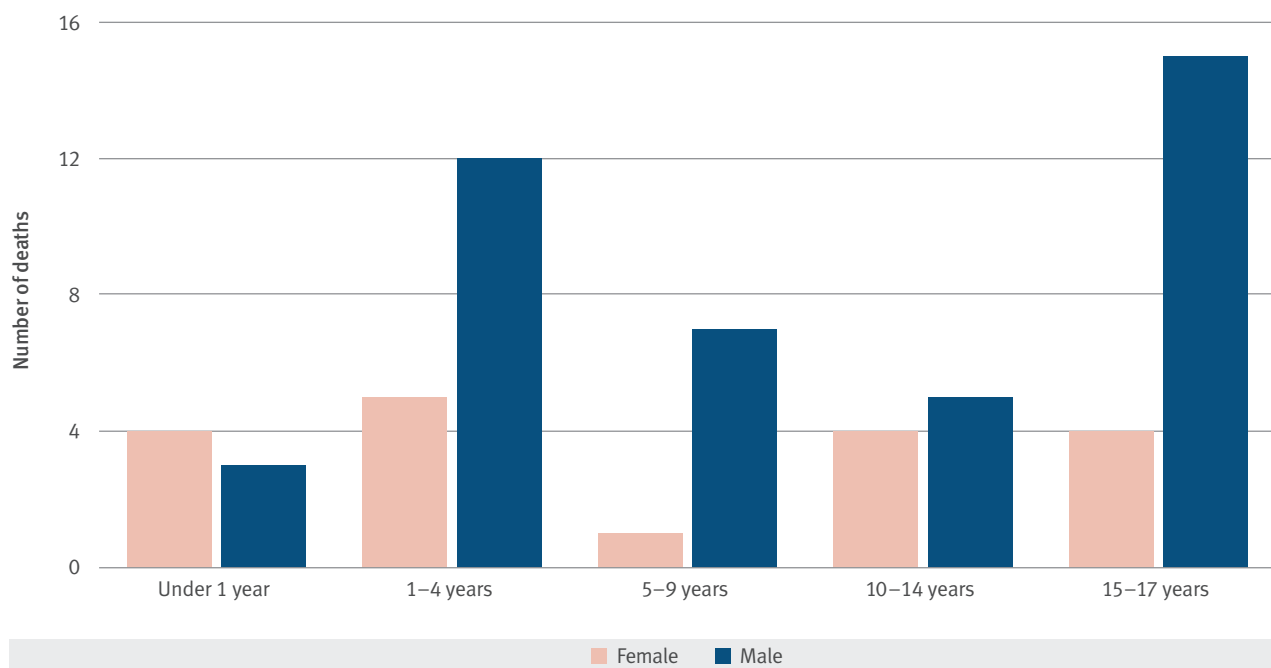
[Table A.7](#) in [Appendix A](#) provides summary data on other non-intentional injury deaths in the last 5 years.<sup>47</sup>

### Age and sex

As illustrated in Figure 5.1, patterns in differential risk of death by age and sex emerge in deaths from non-intentional injuries. Over the last 5 years, males have made up 70% of deaths from non-intentional injuries. While a gender difference was not seen in the under 1 and 10–14 age groups, deaths of males in the 1–4, 5–9 and 15–17 age groups clearly outnumbered deaths of females.

The rate of death from non-intentional injuries was highest for infants aged under 1 year (2.3 per 100,000), followed by young people aged 15–17 years (2.0 per 100,000) and children aged 1–4 years (1.4 per 100,000) (5-year averages).

**Figure 5.1:** Other non-intentional injury deaths by age and sex (number), 2017–18 to 2021–22



<sup>45</sup> [www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/about-us/publications/child-death-reports-and-data](http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/about-us/publications/child-death-reports-and-data)

<sup>46</sup> 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.

<sup>47</sup> Tables with data for 2004–2022 are available online at [www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/about-us/publications/child-death-reports-and-data](http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/about-us/publications/child-death-reports-and-data)

## Risk factors

### 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 (all aged under 7 years)
- 4 children died from heat stress when they were unintentionally left alone or became trapped in vehicles.<sup>48</sup>

Threats to breathing was the most common injury type for children aged 0–4 years (42% or 10 of 24 deaths).

### Product safety

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

Child fatalities involving consumer products in Queensland over the 5 years included:

- 2 from strangulation after becoming entangled in a roller blind cord (4 in total since 2004)
- 1 from ingesting a button battery (2 in total since 2004).

### Risk-taking activities

Some deaths have occurred during risk-taking activities. In the 5 years ending 30 June 2022:

- 3 deaths were from volatile substance misuse (also known as inhalant abuse or chroming)—the substances involved in the majority of deaths were aerosol deodorants
- 8 deaths involved drug overdoses and/or excessive consumption of alcohol
- 3 deaths appeared to be the result of a choking game or prank
- 93% of fatalities involving risk taking activities were of children aged 12–17 years.

## Review of safety standards for toppling furniture

In June 2022 the QFCC made a **submission**<sup>49</sup> to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in relation to regulatory options to reduce injuries and fatalities related to toppling furniture.

Six deaths involving the toppling of freestanding storage furniture have been recorded in the Queensland Child Death Register since 2004. The age of the children who died ranged from 1 to 2 years. Five of the furniture items were chests of drawers (with or without televisions on them) with no evidence of furniture anchoring.

The QFCC supported the introduction of a mandatory safety standard with labelling, safety information, anchoring devices and stability requirements.

<sup>48</sup> Only two of these deaths are counted in this chapter while the other two are included in [Chapter Z](#) – Fatal assault and neglect.

<sup>49</sup> [www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sector/policy/policy-submissions](http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sector/policy/policy-submissions)