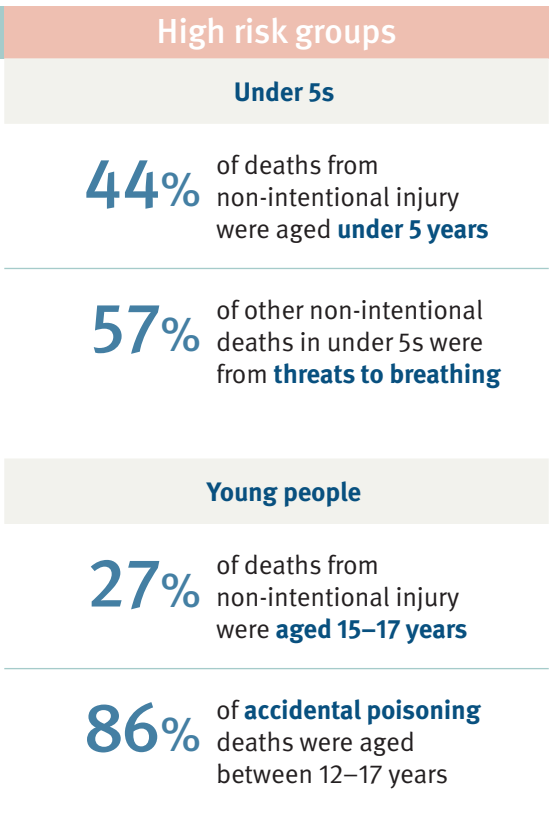
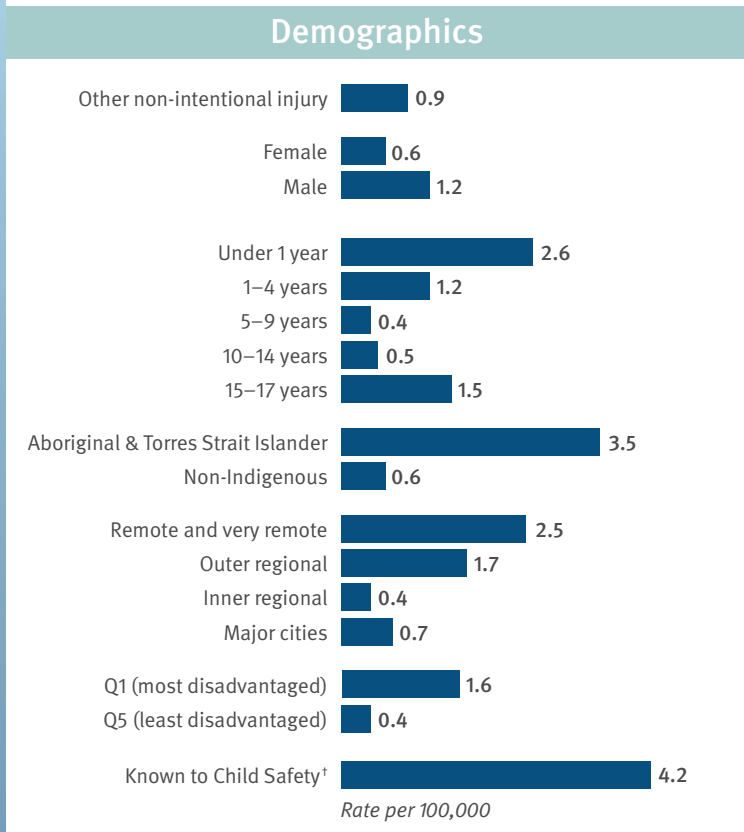
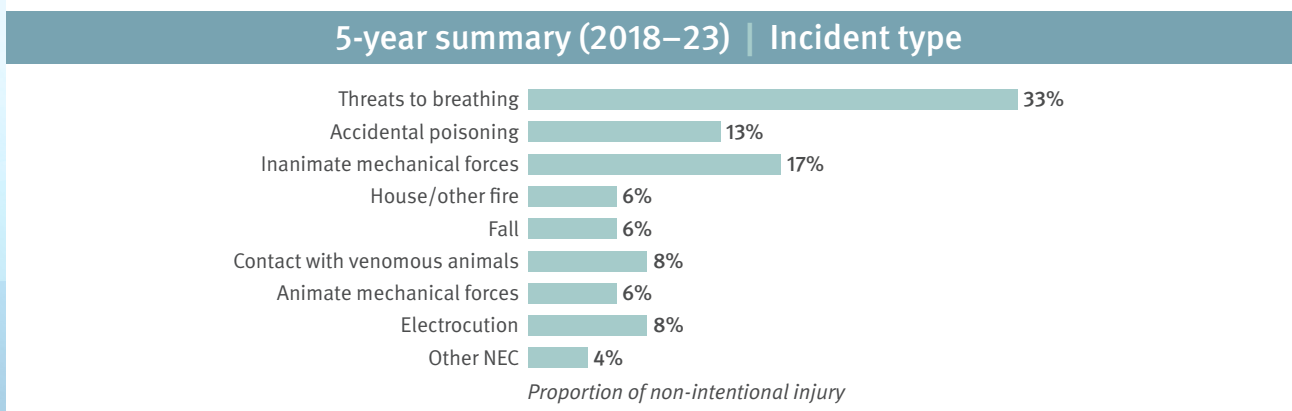
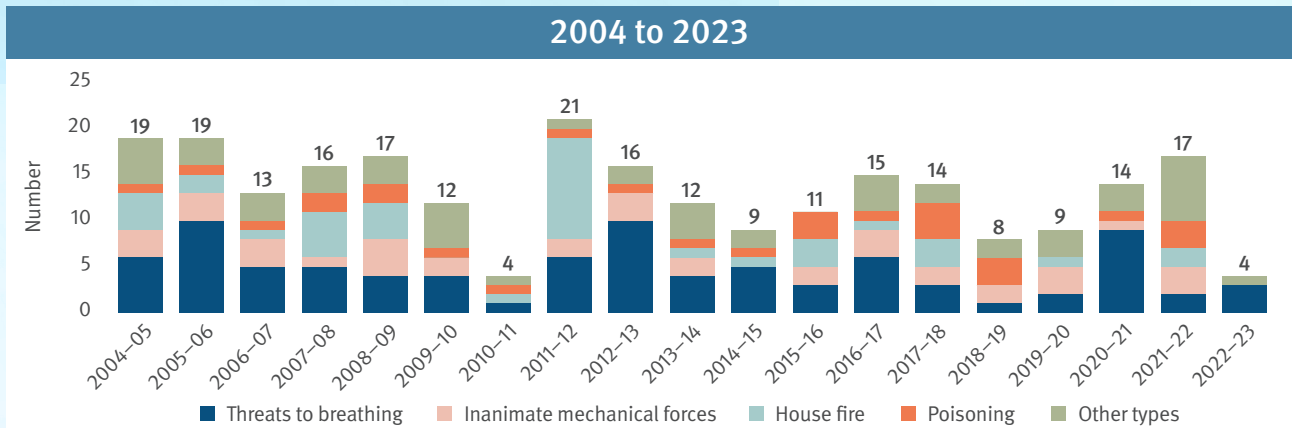


5 Other non-intentional injury



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** (available at www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sector/child-death/child-death-reports-and-data).

Injury type

Four deaths from other non-intentional injuries were recorded during 2022–23. These included 3 from threats to breathing and one from exposure to electrical current. The number of children and young people who died from non-intentional injuries in 2022–23 is the lowest recorded number in the past decade.

Over the last 5 years, the most common injury types were threats to breathing, exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, and accidental poisoning.⁵⁰

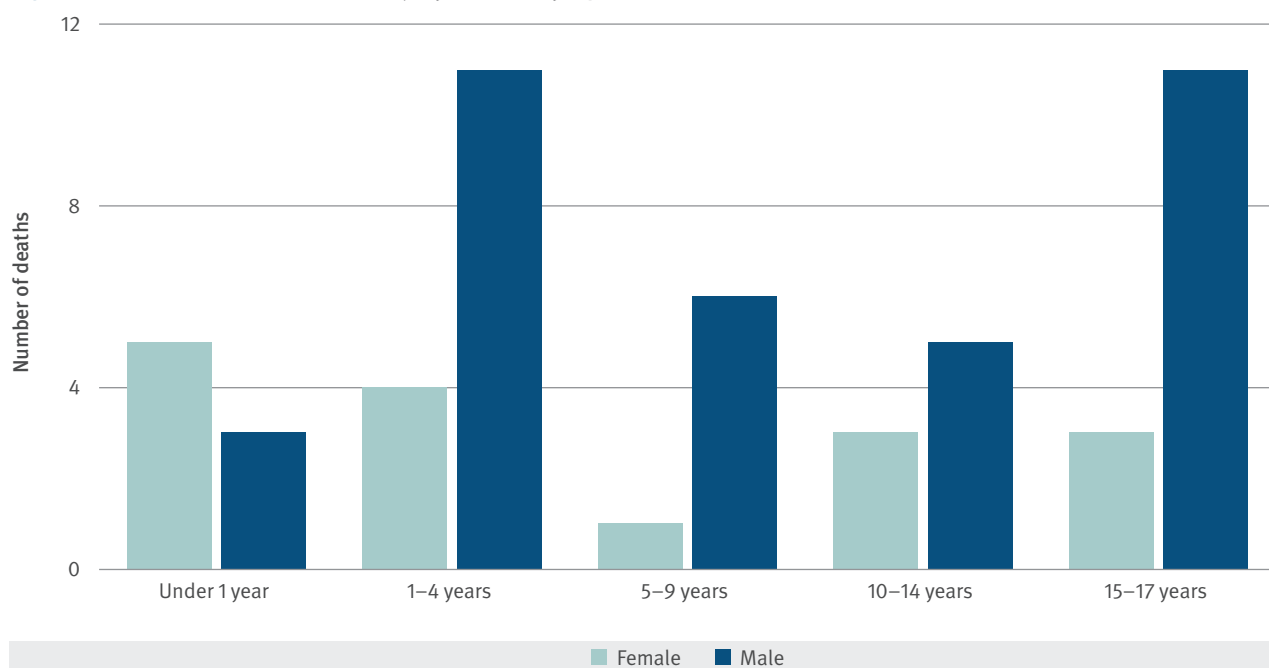
Table A.7 in **Appendix A** provides summary data on other non-intentional injury deaths in the last 5 years.⁵¹

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 69% of deaths from non-intentional injuries. In particular, the deaths of males outnumbered deaths of females in the age groups 1–4 years, 5–9 years, and 15–17 years.

The rate of death from non-intentional injuries was highest for infants aged under 1 year (2.6 per 100,000), followed by young people aged 15–17 years (1.5 per 100,000) and children aged 1–4 years (1.2 per 100,000) (5-year averages).

Figure 5.1: Other non-intentional injury deaths by age and sex (number), 2018–19 to 2022–23



⁵⁰ 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.

⁵¹ Tables with data for 2004–2023 are available online at www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sector/child-death/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:

- 7 children, all aged under 1 year, died in sleep accidents. Incidents involved accidental over-lay by a co-sleeping person (4) and entrapment/entanglement incidents in the sleep environment (3)
- 3 children died from fire-related incidents including 2 in residential house fires (all aged under 10 years)
- 4 children died from heat stress when they were unintentionally left alone or became trapped in vehicles.⁵²

Threats to breathing was the most common injury type for children aged 0–4 years (57% or 13 of 23 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:

- 3 from the use of an infant or child product where the products were either potentially maladapted, defective or with high intrinsic risk
- 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

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

- 6 deaths involved drug overdose
- 3 deaths appeared to be the result of a choking game or prank
- 1 death was from volatile substance misuse (also known as inhalant abuse or chroming)
- 86% of fatalities involving substance misuse or drug overdose were of children aged 12–17 years.

Charges and criminal proceedings

No deaths resulted in criminal charges in 2022–23. Over the last 5 years; however, there were criminal charges in relation to 4 of the 52 incidents.

Product safety priorities

In December 2022 the QFCC provided advice to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for consideration in relation to the ACCC's 2023–24 Product Safety Priorities. The QFCC raised the following issues and concerns:

- Reducing the risk of child deaths and injury from heat stress in vehicles through a review of Australian car seat standards, with the view to embed safety measures to prevent heat stress injury and death.
- Exploring the safety of infant swaddle suits, particularly relating to instances where an infant rolls from lying on their back to their front, inhibiting their ability to move their face away from the sleep surface or other suffocation hazards as their hands and arms are secured inside the suit.
- Querying if action could be taken to address volatile substance misuse (also known as chroming).

⁵² Only 2 of these deaths are counted in this chapter while the other 2 are included in [Chapter 7 – Fatal assault and neglect](#).