

CHAPTER 1

Child deaths in Queensland

This chapter provides an overview of child deaths in Queensland for 2015 – 16.

KEY FINDINGS

- The deaths of 390 children and young people were registered in Queensland between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016, a rate of 34.9 per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years.
- The total number of deaths decreased by 12% from 445 deaths in 2014 – 15, the largest annual change since reporting began in 2004.
- Infant mortality in Queensland was 3.7 deaths per 1000 live births, down from 4.5 per 1000 in 2014 – 15.
- Year to year fluctuations in numbers of deaths are typical, however in 2015 – 16 there were decreases across all of the main causes of death, including the two largest contributors of natural causes of death, perinatal conditions and congenital anomalies (down 18% and 15% respectively). External causes of death also decreased (down 28%), with decreases in transport, suicide, drowning and fatal assault and neglect.
- Deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children decreased by 30% from 74 deaths in 2014 – 15 to 52 deaths in 2015 – 16, with decreases in natural and external causes of death.
- The mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was 1.8 times the rate for non-Indigenous children (60.0 deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children, compared with 32.8 deaths per 100 000 non-Indigenous children).
- The infant mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was 6.0 deaths per 1000 live births compared to the non-Indigenous rate of 3.5 deaths per 1000 live births.
- Indigenous child mortality rates have decreased over the last decade. Based on three-year averages, between 2007 and 2016 infant mortality for Indigenous children decreased from 11.4 to 7.7 deaths per 1000 live births. The mortality rate for Indigenous children aged 1–17 years decreased from 38.6 to 29.9 deaths per 100 000 children. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child mortality; however, continues to be twice the rate for non-Indigenous children as decreases in Indigenous mortality have been matched by decreases in non-Indigenous mortality.
- Of the 390 child deaths, 46 children were known to the child protection system, representing a rate of 54.6 deaths per 100 000, compared with 34.9 deaths per 100 000 for all Queensland children.
- Queensland's infant mortality rates are higher than the most recently available national averages. In 2014, the national Indigenous infant mortality rate was 5.6 deaths per 1000 live births, while the non-Indigenous infant mortality rate was 3.2 deaths per 1000 live births.
- Deaths from diseases and morbid conditions (natural causes) accounted for the majority of deaths of children and young people registered in 2015 – 16 (75%), occurring at a rate of 26.0 deaths per 100 000 children and young people.
- External causes of death (transport, drowning, other non-intentional injury, suicide and fatal assault and neglect) accounted for 16% of child deaths, and occurred at a rate of 5.7 deaths per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years.
- Suicide was the leading external cause of death for the second consecutive year for children aged 0–17 years, occurring at a rate of 1.8 deaths per 100 000 children.

CHILD DEATHS IN QUEENSLAND 2013 – 16

An expanded version of Table 1.1 containing data since 2004 is available online at www.qfcc.qld.gov.au.

Table 1.1: Summary of deaths of children and young people in Queensland 2013 – 16

	2013 – 14		2014 – 15		2015 – 16		Yearly average
	Total n	Rate per 100 000	Total n	Rate per 100 000	Total n	Rate per 100 000	Rate per 100 000
All deaths							
Deaths of children 0–17 years	446	40.3	445	39.8	390	34.9	38.2
Cause of death							
Diseases and morbid conditions	367	33.2	338	30.2	291	26.0	29.7
Explained diseases and morbid conditions	336	30.4	318	28.4	285	25.5	28.0
Unexplained diseases and morbid conditions	31	2.8	20	1.8	6	0.5	1.7
<i>SIDS and undetermined causes (infants)</i>	29	2.6	18	1.6	5	0.4	1.6
<i>Undetermined causes (>1 year)</i>	2	*	2	*	1	*	0.1
External causes	78	7.0	89	8.0	64	5.7	6.9
Transport	31	2.8	25	2.2	18	1.6	2.2
Suicide	23	2.1	26	2.3	20	1.8	2.1
Drowning	7	0.6	16	1.4	8	0.7	0.9
Other non-intentional injury-related death	11	1.0	8	0.7	9	0.8	0.8
Fatal assault and neglect	6	0.5	14	1.3	9	0.8	0.9
Cause of death pending	1	*	18	1.6	35	3.1	1.6
Sudden unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI)							
Sudden unexpected infant deaths	43	67.4	39	62.8	29	46.7	59.5
Sex^a							
Female	198	36.8	207	38.0	167	30.7	35.0
Male	247	43.5	236	41.1	223	38.9	41.0
Age category							
Under 1 year	298	467.2	285	458.6	235	378.1	438.8
1–4 years	45	17.8	54	21.2	41	16.1	18.3
5–9 years	39	12.6	31	9.8	23	7.3	9.8
10–14 years	21	7.0	22	7.3	38	12.6	9.0
15–17 years	43	23.6	53	29.0	53	29.0	27.1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status							
Indigenous	69	80.5	74	85.4	52	60.0	75.0
Non-Indigenous	377	36.9	371	36.0	338	32.8	35.1
Known to the child protection system							
Known to the child protection system	80	47.8	51	52.7	46	54.6	..

Data source: Queensland Child Death Register (2013 – 16)

* Rates have not been calculated for numbers less than four.

.. Average across the three-year period has not been calculated due to the break in series (see note 4).

a Excludes deaths of children where sex was undetermined.

1. Data presented here is current in the Queensland Child Death Register as at August 2016 and thus may differ from those presented in previously published reports.
2. Rates are based on the most up-to-date denominator data available and are calculated per 100 000 children (in the sex/age/Indigenous status) in Queensland each year. Rates for the 2013 – 14 period use the ERP data as at June 2013 and rates for the 2014 – 15 and 2015 – 16 periods use the ERP data as at June 2014.
3. Rates for cause of death are calculated per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years in Queensland in each year, with the exception of SUDI, which is calculated per 100 000 children under the age of 1 year in Queensland.
4. For 2013 – 14, the number of children known to the child protection system represents the number of children whose deaths were registered in the reporting period, who were known to the DCCSDS within the three-year period prior to their death. From 2014 – 15 on, this relates to the deaths of children known to the DCCSDS within the one-year period prior to their death. The denominator for calculating rates is the number of children aged 0–17 who were known to the DCCSDS, through either being subject to a child concern report, notification, investigation and assessment, ongoing intervention, orders or placement, in the one-year period prior to the reporting period.
5. Yearly average rates have been calculated using the ERP data as at June 2014.

CHILD DEATHS IN QUEENSLAND: FINDINGS 2015 – 16

Between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016, the deaths of 390 children and young people were registered in Queensland, representing a rate of 34.9 deaths per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years.³ The total number of deaths decreased by 12.4% from 445 deaths in 2014 – 15, the largest annual change since reporting began in 2004.

Infant mortality in Queensland was 3.7 per 1000 live births, down from 4.5 deaths per 1000 in 2014 – 15.

Year to year fluctuations in numbers of deaths are typical, however in 2015 – 16 there were decreases across almost all of the main causes of death, including the two largest contributors of natural causes of death, perinatal conditions and congenital anomalies (down 18% and 15% respectively). External causes of death also decreased (down 28%), with decreases in transport, suicide, drowning and fatal assault and neglect.

Cause of death

Table 1.2 broadly outlines the causes of death for the 390 children and young people whose deaths were registered in 2015 – 16.⁴

Deaths from diseases and morbid conditions (natural causes) accounted for the majority of deaths of children and young people registered in 2015 – 16 (74.6%), occurring at a rate of 26.0 deaths per 100 000 children and aged 0–17 years.

External causes of death (transport, drowning, other non-intentional injury, suicide and fatal assault and neglect) accounted for 16.4% of child deaths, and occurred at a rate of 5.7 deaths per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years. Suicide was the leading external cause of death, occurring at a rate of 1.8 deaths per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years.

Over the 12 reporting periods in the Queensland Child Death Register, the leading external causes of death have generally been transport, suicide or drowning. Transport has been the leading external cause for the first 10 periods; however, in both 2014 – 15 and 2015 – 16, suicide has been the leading external cause of death for children aged 0–17 years.⁵

For a number of child deaths, the cause of death may be ‘pending’ until the outcomes of autopsies or coroners’ findings are final. For this reason, a number of deaths are recorded as ‘pending’ in the year they are registered. However, they are usually finalised within one to two years, at which point the Queensland Child Death Register is updated to reflect the actual cause. Of the 390 deaths of children and young people registered in 2015 – 16, there was no information available about the cause of death for 9.0% (35 deaths) and these were recorded as ‘cause of death pending’. The majority of deaths pending cause of death information were infants under the age of 1 year (21 of the total 35).

Sex

Males comprised 57.2% of child deaths registered in 2015 – 16, with a rate of 38.9 deaths per 100 000 male children aged 0–17 years. In comparison, females made up 42.8% of child deaths, with a rate of 30.7 deaths per 100 000 female children.

Age

Under 1 year

During 2015 – 16, diseases and morbid conditions were the most frequent cause of death for infants under 1 year of age, accounting for 90.2% of the deaths in this age category (212 of 235 deaths).

Infants account for 60.3% of all child deaths (235 of the 390 deaths). The infant mortality rate (using live births as the denominator) was 3.7 deaths per 1000 live births.

1–4 years

The leading cause of death for children aged 1–4 years during 2015 – 16 was diseases and morbid conditions (17 deaths), followed by 5 deaths each from transport, drowning and other non-intentional injury-related deaths.

³ For a summary of the population data used to calculate rates, see the online supplementary materials.

⁴ For a summary of the methodology for reporting causes of death, including development of the distinct research categories, see the online supplementary materials.

⁵ Tables with data for 2004 – 16 are available online at www.qfcc.qld.gov.au

5–9 years

The leading cause of death for children aged 5–9 years during 2015 – 16 was diseases and morbid conditions (18 deaths). Three children aged 5–9 years died from external causes, a much smaller number than in previous years. Two deaths were the result of fatal assault and neglect and one death was transport-related.

10–14 years

The leading cause of death for children aged 10–14 years during 2015 – 16 was diseases and morbid conditions (23 deaths). The leading external cause of death for 10–14 year-olds was suicide (4 deaths).

15–17 years

The leading cause of death for young people aged 15–17 years during 2015 – 16 was diseases and morbid conditions (21 deaths). Suicide was the leading external cause of death in this age category (16 deaths). Nine 15–17 year-olds died from transport-related incidents which is, along with 9 deaths in 2014 – 15, the lowest recorded since the commencement of the child death register in 2004.

Table 1.2: Cause of death by age category 2015 – 16

Cause of death	Under 1 year <i>n</i>	1–4 years <i>n</i>	5–9 years <i>n</i>	10–14 years <i>n</i>	15–17 years <i>n</i>	Total <i>n</i>	Rate per 100 000
Diseases and morbid conditions	212	17	18	23	21	291	26.0
Explained diseases and morbid conditions	207	17	18	22	21	285	25.5
Unexplained diseases and morbid conditions	5	0	0	1	0	6	0.5
<i>SIDS and undetermined causes (infants)</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	0.4
<i>Undetermined > 1 year</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	*
External causes	2	16	3	12	31	64	5.7
Transport	0	5	1	3	9	18	1.6
<i>Motor vehicle</i>	0	1	0	0	9	10	0.9
<i>Pedestrian</i>	0	4	1	0	0	5	0.4
<i>Motorcycle</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	*
<i>Quad bike</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	2	0	2	*
Drowning	0	5	0	1	2	8	0.7
<i>Non-pool</i>	0	3	0	0	2	5	0.4
<i>Pool</i>	0	2	0	1	0	3	*
Other non-intentional injury-related death	1	5	0	1	2	9	0.8
<i>Threats to breathing</i>	1	1	0	0	1	3	*
<i>Exposure to smoke, fire and flames</i>	0	2	0	1	0	3	*
<i>Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces</i>	0	2	0	0	0	2	*
<i>Non-intentional poisoning by noxious substances</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	*
Suicide	0	0	0	4	16	20	1.8
Fatal assault and neglect	1	1	2	3	2	9	0.8
Cause of death pending	21	8	2	3	1	35	3.1
Total	235	41	23	38	53	390	34.9
Rate per 100 000	378.1	16.1	7.3	12.6	29.0	34.9	

Data source: Queensland Child Death Register (2015 – 16)

* Rates have not been calculated for numbers less than four.

1. Rates are based on the most up-to-date denominator data available and are calculated per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years in Queensland each year. Rates for the 2015 – 16 period use the ERP data as at June 2014.
2. Rates for age categories are calculated per 100 000 children in each age category. Age-specific death rates are discussed in the chapters relating to each cause of death.

Leading cause of death by age category

Table 1.3 summarises the leading causes of death in each age category by rate of death per 100 000, based on rates averaged over the three-year period 2013 – 16. In using three-year average rates this table differs from those provided in previous years in which leading causes were based on single years only.

Table 1.3: Leading cause of death by age category 2013 – 16

Rank	Under 1 year	1–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–17 years
1	Perinatal conditions (220.4 per 100 000)	Drowning Transport (2.4 per 100 000)	Neoplasms (2.5 per 100 000)	Suicide (1.3 per 100 000)	Suicide (10.4 per 100 000)
2	Congenital anomalies (122.3 per 100 000)	Congenital anomalies (2.1 per 100 000)	Transport (1.7 per 100 000)	Transport Neoplasms (1.2 per 100 000)	Transport (5.1 per 100 000)
3	SIDS & undetermined causes (27.9 per 100 000)	Other non-intentional injury (2.0 per 100 000)	Diseases of the nervous system (1.1 per 100 000)	Congenital anomalies (1.0 per 100 000)	Neoplasms (2.9 per 100 000)
4	Diseases of the nervous system (9.1 per 100 000)	Neoplasms (1.8 per 100 000)	Fatal assault Drowning Congenital anomalies (0.7 per 100 000)	Diseases of the respiratory system (0.9 per 100 000)	Diseases of the nervous system (1.6 per 100 000)

Data source: Queensland Child Death Register (2013 – 16)

1. Yearly average rates have been calculated for age categories per 100 000 children in Queensland using the ERP data as at June 2014.
2. This table uses three-year average rates and International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, tenth revision (ICD-10) chapter classifications for diseases and morbid conditions (rather than the broader category of deaths reported elsewhere), and may therefore differ from other cause of death comparisons within the report.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

Of the 390 deaths of children and young people registered during 2015 – 16, 52 were identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, a decrease of 30% from 74 deaths of Indigenous children in 2014 – 15.

The mortality rate for Indigenous children was 1.8 times the rate for non-Indigenous children (60.0 deaths per 100 000 Indigenous children aged 0–17 years, compared to 32.8 deaths per 100 000 non-Indigenous children). Table 1.4 shows the breakdown by age and cause of death for Indigenous children and young people.

The greatest proportion of Indigenous deaths occurred among children under 1 year (62%) followed by children aged 1–4 years. A high proportion of infant deaths, compared to other age groups, due to diseases and morbid conditions is also seen in mortality data for non-Indigenous children. Suicide and transport were the leading external causes of death for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people in 2015 – 16.

The infant mortality rate for Indigenous children (using live births as the denominator) was 6.0 deaths per 1000 Indigenous live births, compared to 3.5 deaths per 1000 non-Indigenous live births.

Table 1.4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths by cause of death and age category 2015 – 16

Cause of death	Under 1 year <i>n</i>	1–4 years <i>n</i>	5–9 years <i>n</i>	10–14 years <i>n</i>	15–17 years <i>n</i>	Total <i>n</i>	Rate per 100 000 Indigenous children	Rate per 100 000 non-Indigenous children
Diseases and morbid conditions	31	3	3	1	0	38	43.8	24.5
Explained diseases and morbid conditions	30	3	3	1	0	37	42.7	24.1
Unexplained diseases and morbid conditions	1	0	0	0	0	1	*	*
<i>SIDS and undetermined causes (infants)</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	*	*
<i>Undetermined >1 year</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	*
External causes	0	5	0	0	5	10	11.5	5.2
Fatal assault and neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.9
Transport	0	3	0	0	1	4	4.6	1.4
Suicide	0	0	0	0	4	4	4.6	1.6
Drowning	0	2	0	0	0	2	*	0.6
Other non-intentional injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0.9
Cause of death pending	1	0	2	1	0	4	4.6	3.0
Total	32	8	5	2	5	52	60.0	32.8
Rate per 100 000 Indigenous children	596.9	39.3	20.3	8.7	37.5	60.0		
Rate per 100 000 non-Indigenous children	357.5	14.1	6.2	13.0	28.3	32.8		

Data source: Queensland Child Death Register (2015 – 16)

* Rates have not been calculated for numbers less than four.

1. Rates are calculated per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in Queensland, and per 100 000 non-Indigenous children aged 0–17 years in Queensland. Rates for the 2015 – 16 period use the ERP data as at June 2014.
2. Rates for age categories are calculated per 100 000 Indigenous/non-Indigenous children in each age category.
3. All rates by cause of death have been calculated per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years in Queensland (including SIDS and undetermined causes). Age-specific death rates are discussed in the chapters relating to each cause of death.

Indigenous child mortality rates have decreased over the last decade, as indicated in Table 1.5. Based on three-year averages, between 2007 and 2016:

- infant mortality for Indigenous children decreased from 11.4 to 7.7 deaths per 1000 live births
- the mortality rate for Indigenous children aged 1–17 years decreased from 38.6 to 29.9 deaths per 100 000 children aged 1–17 years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child mortality; however, continues to be twice the rate for non-Indigenous children as decreases in Indigenous mortality have been matched by decreases in non-Indigenous mortality.

Queensland's infant mortality rates are higher than the most recently available national averages. In 2014, the national Indigenous infant mortality rate was 5.6 deaths per 1000 live births, while the non-Indigenous infant mortality rate was 3.2 deaths per 1000.⁶

⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2016), *Children's Headline Indicators*

Table 1.5: Child mortality rates by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status by age category 2004 – 16

	3 years to June 2007	3 years to June 2010	3 years to June 2013	3 years to June 2016
	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
All child deaths 0–17 years	47.8	48.4	43.5	38.2
Indigenous	97.7	77.9	75.4	75.0
Non-Indigenous	44.2	45.9	40.8	35.1
Infant mortality (<1 year)	5.7	5.0	4.6	4.3
Indigenous	11.4	8.0	7.5	7.7
Non-Indigenous	5.3	4.7	4.4	4.0
Mortality 1–17 years	19.0	18.9	16.8	14.6
Indigenous	38.6	32.6	28.8	29.9
Non-Indigenous	17.6	17.7	15.8	13.3

Data source: Queensland Child Death Register (2004 – 16)

1. Infant mortality rates are calculated per 1000 live births in Queensland, other mortality rates are per 100 000 children in the age/Indigenous status group.
2. Rates are based on the most up-to-date denominator data available.
3. Rates are averaged over three-year periods.

Geographical area of usual residence (ARIA+)⁷

During 2015 – 16, remote, regional and metropolitan areas of Queensland had similar child mortality rates—35.8, 34.7 and 32.3 deaths per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years, respectively.

Regional areas recorded the highest child mortality rate from diseases and morbid conditions (26.4 deaths per 100 000 children), while remote areas recorded the highest child mortality rate for external causes (9.4 deaths per 100 000 children).

Socio-economic status of usual residence (SEIFA)

During 2015 – 16, children and young people living in low to very low socio-economic status (SES) areas recorded the highest child mortality rates (38.9 deaths per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years). Moderate SES areas recorded a mortality rate of 31.9 deaths per 100 000 children, while high to very high SES areas recorded the lowest mortality rate (28.7 deaths per 100 000 children). This pattern was similar to the previous three reporting periods.

Low to very low SES areas recorded the highest rate of deaths for both diseases and morbid conditions (28.8 deaths per 100 000 children) and external causes (6.1 deaths per 100 000 children).

Children known to the child protection system

Following recommendations made in the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry Final Report, *Taking Responsibility: A Road Map for Queensland Child Protection*, changes were made to the timeframes required for the DCCSDS to conduct a review of the death of a child. For the purpose of this report, a child is deemed to have been known to the Queensland child protection system if, within one year before the child's death:

- the child was in the custody or guardianship of DCCSDS, or if
- DCCSDS was aware of alleged harm or risk of harm, or if
- DCCSDS took action under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, or if
- DCCSDS was notified of concerns before the birth of a child and reasonably suspected the child might be in need of protection after their birth.

Prior to July 2014 the timeframe for review was within three years of the department's last involvement with the child prior to their death.

⁷ Note that ARIA+ and SEIFA breakdowns exclude 16 children whose usual residence was outside of Queensland, 10 died from diseases and morbid conditions, 5 from external causes and one was pending a cause of death.

The population used as a denominator for ‘children known to the child protection system’ for the 2015 – 16 reporting period is based on the number of children known to the department in the 2014 – 15 financial year who were subject to a child concern report, notification, investigation and assessment, ongoing intervention, child protection orders or placements as provided by DCCSDS.

Of the 390 children and young people whose deaths were registered in 2015 – 16, 46 were known to the Queensland child protection system. Table 1.6 shows the breakdown by age and cause of death for children known to the child protection system.

Of the children known to the child protection system, 17 died as a result of diseases and morbid conditions (37%) and 17 as a result of external causes (37%). Five deaths of children known to the child protection system were suicides, 4 were fatal assault and 4 were other non-intentional injuries.

In 2015 – 16, the mortality rate for children known to the child protection system was 54.6 deaths per 100 000 children aged 0–17 years, compared with 34.9 deaths per 100 000 for all Queensland children. For external causes of death, the mortality rate for children known to the child protection system was more than three times the rate for all children in Queensland (20.2 deaths per 100 000 children, compared with 5.7 deaths per 100 000 children).

The rates of death of children known to the child protection system have consistently been higher than all children. This is explained, to the large extent, by the significant disadvantage, abuse and neglect these children experience prior to coming to the attention of the child protection system.

Table 1.6: Cause of death of children known to the child protection system by age category 2015 – 16

Cause of death	Under 1 year <i>n</i>	1–4 years <i>n</i>	5–9 years <i>n</i>	10–14 years <i>n</i>	15–17 years <i>n</i>	Total <i>n</i>	Rate per 100 000 in child protection system	Rate per 100 000 all Queensland children
Diseases and morbid conditions	11	2	0	3	1	17	20.2	26.0
Explained diseases and morbid conditions	8	2	0	3	1	14	16.6	25.5
Unexplained diseases and morbid conditions	3	0	0	0	0	3	*	0.5
<i>SIDS and undetermined causes (infants)</i>	3	0	0	0	0	3	*	0.4
<i>Undetermined >1 year</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*
External causes	0	8	1	2	6	17	20.2	5.7
Transport	0	2	0	0	0	2	*	1.6
Suicide	0	0	0	0	5	5	5.9	1.8
Drowning	0	2	0	0	0	2	*	0.7
Other non-intentional injury	0	3	0	0	1	4	4.7	0.8
Fatal assault and neglect	0	1	1	2	0	4	4.7	0.8
Cause of death pending	8	1	2	1	0	12	14.2	3.1
Total	19	11	3	6	7	46	54.6	34.9

Data source: Queensland Child Death Register (2015 – 16)

* Rates have not been calculated for numbers less than four.

1. The number of children known to the child protection system represents the number of children, whose deaths were registered in the reporting period, who were known to the DCCSDS within the one-year period prior to their death.
2. Rates of death for children known to the child protection system use as a denominator the number of children aged 0–17 years who were known to DCCSDS, through either being subject to a child concern report, notification, investigation and assessment, ongoing intervention, orders or placement, in the one-year period prior to the reporting period. For the one-year period to 30 June 2015 there were 84,262 children were known to DCCSDS.
3. Rates of death for all Queensland children are based on the number of children aged 0–17 years in Queensland, using the most up-to-date denominator data available. Rates for the 2015 – 16 period use the ERP data as at June 2014.