

# Queensland Suicide Data

## Monthly report – October 2023

### About this report

This report contains information about suicide in Queensland. The Queensland Mental Health Commission (the Commission) acknowledges that behind each of these numbers is a person who had friends and family who loved them. Suicide is a far-reaching tragedy that stretches across all age groups and all walks of life. Each suicide profoundly affects families, friends, kinship groups, colleagues, classmates and communities.

This report is released as part of Queensland's effort to reduce suicide and self-harm across the state. Improving the availability and accessibility of data assists services to help identify trends, emerging areas of concern and to inform responses.

Some people may find the contents of this report distressing. If you need help, please ask for the support you need. If affected in any way, please contact:

- [Beyond Blue](#) on 1300 22 4636
- [Lifeline](#) on 13 11 44
- or seek help from these [other helplines](#).

The Commission respectfully acknowledges those who have died or have been affected by suicide. We acknowledge and thank those people with a lived experience of suicide who provided feedback on this reporting template, and we are committed to working with people with lived experience of suicide to support suicide prevention in Queensland.

### Where does the monthly data come from?

The Queensland Government has funded the monitoring of suicide deaths with a suicide register for over three decades. In Queensland there are two systems that are used to monitor suicide deaths: the Queensland Suicide Register (QSR) that includes suicide data since 1990 and is used to monitor longer-term trends, and the interim Queensland Suicide Register (iQSR) that was established in 2011 to provide real-time information on suicide deaths.

This report is based on data from the iQSR. The iQSR is a real-time suicide monitoring system that records interim data on suspected suicides in Queensland, shortly after the death occurs. Data on suspected suicides is based on initial police reports and other information that is available to police at the time when they refer the death to the coroner.

The iQSR supports communities, frontline organisations and government agencies in detecting emerging issues and informing place-based responses to suspected suicides, including suicide postvention measures.

The iQSR is currently managed by the Commission on behalf of the Queensland Government, with support from the Coroners Court of Queensland (CCQ) and the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

Monthly reports are published around eight weeks from the last day of the reporting month. This time allows for processing, cross-checking and updating of data, and preparation of reports and approvals.

## How accurate is the data?

The data in the iQSR provides an estimate of suicide numbers in Queensland. A final determination of whether a death is a confirmed suicide can only be made after the detailed coronial investigation into that death is completed. As this report is developed using information about open coronial investigations, the term 'suspected suicide' is used as the final coronial determination has not been made. This is a technical and legal term to refer to the collection of data and the Commission recognises that there are diverse views around the use of technical language when discussing sensitive and emotive issues.

Information in the iQSR is not directly comparable with official cause of death data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which is based on final coronial determinations. The differences are generally small, however appropriate caution should be applied to iQSR data.

## Number of suicides to 31 October 2023

There have been 640 suspected deaths by suicide reported in Queensland from 1 January 2023 to 31 October 2023 (Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of suspected suicides**

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to 31 October
683	819	780	770	790	816	796	640

**Table 2. Number of suspected suicides by month**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to 31 October
January	63	76	72	70	76	70	71	73
February	66	74	67	70	75	81	65	64
March	61	77	68	58	69	62	71	65
April	46	57	54	68	66	54	65	64
May	41	54	57	67	70	67	50	66
June	55	63	61	46	54	70	52	47
July	53	62	57	77	52	72	65	68
August	60	71	59	59	57	68	63	56
September	49	64	67	62	62	67	53	68
October	65	81	73	69	63	70	73	69
November	61	73	79	64	74	67	92	
December	63	67	66	60	72	68	76	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>640</b>

Note: Cells with less than five suspected suicides are shown as < 5.

**Table 3. Number of suspected suicides by sex**

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023 to 31 OCT	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
JAN	46	17	57	19	63	9	57	13	61	15	49	21	52	19	55	18
FEB	58	8	52	22	50	17	54	16	66	9	63	18	54	11	45	19
MAR	45	16	56	21	58	10	45	13	50	19	48	14	61	10	47	18
APR	34	12	40	17	43	11	45	23	48	18	33	21	53	12	44	20
MAY	26	15	42	12	38	19	51	16	56	14	54	13	35	15	48	18
JUN	45	10	51	12	49	12	35	11	38	16	54	16	43	9	33	14
JUL	39	14	49	13	44	13	63	14	42	10	54	18	53	12	53	15
AUG	46	14	56	15	45	14	40	19	46	11	54	14	51	12	39	17
SEP	35	14	49	15	56	11	47	15	48	14	52	15	36	17	53	15
OCT	51	14	61	20	48	25	51	18	51	12	54	16	50	23	53	16
NOV	49	12	55	18	61	18	45	19	56	18	47	20	65	27		
DEC	52	11	53	14	48	18	45	15	54	18	50	18	58	18		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>170</b>

Note: Cells with less than five suspected suicides are shown as < 5. Suspected suicides where information was not available are not included in totals.

**Table 4. Number of suspected suicides by age group**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to 31 October
Under 18	21	22	37	24	30	29	15	18
18 to 24	90	96	105	85	104	91	77	60
25 to 34	128	141	139	119	145	150	136	122
35 to 44	129	159	143	169	151	140	138	104
45 to 54	117	172	139	141	132	157	171	127
55 to 64	97	113	116	114	104	115	111	87
65 and over	101	116	100	118	124	134	145	122
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>640</b>

Note: Cells with less than five suspected suicides are shown as < 5. Suspected suicides where information was not available are not included in totals.

**Table 5. Number of suspected suicides by location of usual residence (where usual residence is known)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to 31 October
Major Cities	375	450	440	405	449	442	433	347
Inner Regional	145	186	164	173	176	205	191	165
Outer Regional	126	148	135	153	124	141	129	93
Remote	16	10	19	13	15	11	18	13
Very Remote	15	12	8	13	13	9	17	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>629*</b>

Note: Cells with less than five suspected suicides are shown as < 5. Suspected suicides where information was not available are not included in totals.

\*Only 629 suspected suicides had data on usual residence.

## Notes on methodology

Deaths are counted as suspected suicides if the apparent cause of death is described by QPS as a suspected suicide or if information is included in the police report to suggest that the death may be a suicide (e.g., the deceased person left a note or had indicated to family or friends that they intended to take their own life).

Totals may vary between tables due to missing data on some variables (e.g., not all suspected suicides include information about location of usual residence).

Suspected suicides by interstate or international visitors are not included in the totals. For those people where no information about usual residential address was available, it is assumed that the deceased person was a Queensland resident unless the police report contains information to suggest otherwise.

Numbers may vary slightly over time due to suspected suicides being added after the monthly reporting period (e.g., suspected suicides that had not been received during the monthly reporting period).

The year and month of death indicate the time when the death occurred, not when it was registered.

Numbers are not adjusted for population size or for the age structure of the population. Caution should be used when interpreting this data.

Until September 2023, the iQSR was managed by the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (Griffith University) on behalf of the Queensland Government. From September 2023, the iQSR has been managed by the Commission. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure data continuity and consistency over time, however this transition period should be noted and appropriate caution applied to the data.

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