

Queensland Suicide Data

Monthly report – February 2024

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 29 February 2024

There have been 138 suspected deaths by suicide reported in Queensland from 1 January 2024 to 29 February 2024.

Table 1. Number of suspected suicides

2020		2021		2022		2023		2024
790	151	816	151	795	135	782	137	138
Full year	1 January to 29 February	Full year	1 January to 29 February	Full year	1 January to 29 February	Full year	1 January to 29 February	1 January to 29 February

Table 2. Number of suspected suicides by month

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	76	70	71	73	86
February	75	81	64	64	52
March	69	62	71	65	-
April	66	54	65	64	-
May	70	67	50	66	-
June	54	70	52	47	-
July	52	72	65	68	-
August	57	68	63	56	-
September	62	67	53	69	-
October	63	70	73	72	-
November	74	67	92	63	-
December	72	68	76	75	-
Total	790	816	795	782	Calendar year to date: 138

Table 3. Number of suspected suicides by gender and age group

	Full year				1 January to 29 February				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male									
Under 18	20	17	9	10	-	3	3	2	5
18 to 24	85	71	55	53	15	8	15	10	7
25 to 34	107	117	107	117	18	26	15	16	20
35 to 44	124	103	110	104	32	16	16	16	21
45 to 54	106	115	129	105	26	20	19	26	24
55 to 64	86	86	85	77	18	16	16	7	20
65 to 74	44	52	58	60	7	14	6	11	9
75 plus	44	51	58	57	11	9	16	12	7
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	616	612	611	583	127	112	106	100	113
Female									
Under 18	10	12	6	11	1	3	1	2	1
18 to 24	19	20	22	19	2	3	2	4	3
25 to 34	38	33	29	29	5	6	4	7	5
35 to 44	27	37	28	35	6	4	1	5	4
45 to 54	26	42	42	44	6	10	12	6	3
55 to 64	18	29	25	28	-	5	3	6	4
65 to 74	18	12	14	14	3	3	5	3	4
75 plus	18	19	15	19	1	5	1	4	1
Unknown	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	174	204	184	199	24	39	29	37	25
All									
Under 18	30	29	15	21	1	6	4	4	6
18 to 24	104	91	77	72	17	11	17	14	10
25 to 34	145	150	136	146	23	32	19	23	25
35 to 44	151	140	138	139	38	20	17	21	25
45 to 54	132	157	171	149	32	30	31	32	27
55 to 64	104	115	110	105	18	21	19	13	24
65 to 74	62	64	72	74	10	17	11	14	13
75 plus	62	70	73	76	12	14	17	16	8
Unknown	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	790	816	795	782	151	151	135	137	138

Table 4. Number of suspected suicides by location of usual residence

	Full year				1 January to 29 February				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Major Cities	449	442	433	426	80	82	67	70	64
Inner Regional	176	205	191	194	32	39	39	40	39
Outer Regional	124	141	129	115	29	25	23	21	28
Remote	15	11	17	15	4	2	3	2	3
Very Remote	13	9	17	11	3	1	2	2	2
Other / Unknown	13	8	8	21	3	2	1	2	2
Total	790	816	795	782	151	151	135	137	138

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 have been 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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