

Queensland Suicide Data

Monthly report – May 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 31 May 2024

There have been 308 suspected deaths by suicide reported in Queensland from 1 January 2024 to 31 May 2024.

Table 1. Number of suspected suicides

2020		2021		2022		2023		2024
790	356	816	334	795	321	782	332	308
Full year	1 January to 31 May	Full year	1 January to 31 May	Full year	1 January to 31 May	Full year	1 January to 31 May	1 January to 31 May

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	50
April	66	54	65	64	64
May	70	67	50	66	56
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: 308

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

	Full year				1 January to 31 May				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male									
Under 18	20	17	9	10	10	8	5	4	7
18 to 24	85	71	55	53	36	25	26	19	18
25 to 34	107	117	107	117	39	49	40	51	48
35 to 44	124	103	110	104	68	43	48	39	48
45 to 54	106	115	129	105	45	43	53	51	44
55 to 64	86	86	85	77	49	39	38	24	40
65 to 74	44	52	58	60	16	25	20	24	22
75 plus	44	51	58	57	18	15	25	27	17
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	616	612	611	583	281	247	255	239	244
Female									
Under 18	10	12	6	11	5	6	2	4	1
18 to 24	19	20	22	19	10	11	11	14	6
25 to 34	38	33	29	29	14	16	8	17	11
35 to 44	27	37	28	35	15	13	6	14	15
45 to 54	26	42	42	44	13	17	23	16	13
55 to 64	18	29	25	28	5	10	9	13	8
65 to 74	18	12	14	14	6	6	6	7	6
75 plus	18	19	15	19	7	8	1	8	4
Unknown	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	174	204	184	199	75	87	66	93	64
All									
Under 18	30	29	15	21	15	14	7	8	8
18 to 24	104	91	77	72	46	36	37	33	24
25 to 34	145	150	136	146	53	65	48	68	59
35 to 44	151	140	138	139	83	56	54	53	63
45 to 54	132	157	171	149	58	60	76	67	57
55 to 64	104	115	110	105	54	49	47	37	48
65 to 74	62	64	72	74	22	31	26	31	28
75 plus	62	70	73	76	25	23	26	35	21
Unknown	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	790	816	795	782	356	334	321	332	308

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

	Full year				1 January to 31 May				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Major Cities	449	442	433	426	189	189	171	176	160
Inner Regional	176	205	191	194	84	80	80	89	76
Outer Regional	124	141	129	115	64	54	53	49	47
Remote	15	11	17	15	7	3	8	7	11
Very Remote	13	9	17	11	6	5	7	5	4
Other / Unknown	13	8	8	21	6	3	2	6	10
Total	790	816	795	782	356	334	321	332	308

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.

Queensland **Mental Health Commission**
PO Box 13027 George Street Brisbane QLD 4003
Phone **1300 855 945**
Email info@qmhc.qld.gov.au

[f](#) [t](#) | www.qmhc.qld.gov.au

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