



INJURY BULLETIN

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| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|
| Unclassified | | | 78 |
| SIDS | | | 165 |
| Infection | Bacterial | 16 | |
| | Viral | 23 | |
| | Congenital | 6 | |
| | Unknown agent | 32 | 77 |
| Cardiac | Congenital Heart | 48 | |
| | Cardiomyopathy | 9 | 57 |
| Respiratory | Premature lung disease | 18 | |
| | Other | 12 | 30 |
| Gastro-intestinal | NEC | 11 | |
| | Liver Failure | 7 | |
| | Other | 6 | 24 |
| Neurological | Congenital defect | 7 | |
| | CNS tumour | 5 | |
| | Spinal Muscular Atrophy | 4 | |
| | Neurodegenerative | 2 | |
| | Other | 5 | 23 |
| Metabolic disorder | | | 6 |
| Renal | Congenital | 3 | |
| | HUS | 1 | |
| | Tumour | 1 | 5 |
| Haematological | Leukaemia | 2 | |
| | Other | 2 | 4 |
| Muscular Disorder | Congenital Muscle | | 2 |
| TOTAL | | | 471 |

Queensland Child Deaths

This Injury Bulletin provides Queensland child mortality data for the past five years, 1992-1996. The data has been collated from a variety of sources and checked against death certification records from the Office of the Registrar-General.

Injury deaths include late deaths, eg some drownings or head injuries result in death from medical complications years after the initial traumatic event.

The data is presented by developmental stage in years, reflecting changing patterns of risk.

1 Month - 1 Year n = 501

The major cause of death during the first year is clearly SIDS, representing one-third of all deaths for this age group (Table 1).

After SIDS, deaths were most frequently caused by infections (n=77) and cardiac disease (n=57).

Injury deaths for this age group numbered thirty (Table 2). Ten of these were drownings, of which nine occurred in baths.

Table 1 (left) Medical causes of death 1 to 12 months Queensland 1992-1996



| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------|
| Immersion | Bath | 9 | |
| | Swimming Pool | 1 | 10 |
| Pedestrian | | 3 | 3 |
| Motor Vehicle | Passenger | 3 | 3 |
| Suffocation | | 2 | 2 |
| Fall | | 1 | 1 |
| Unclassified | | | 11 |
| TOTAL | | | 30 |

Table 2 Injury causes of death 1 to 12 months, Queensland 1992-1996

| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|
| Drowning | Domestic Pool | 38 | |
| | Public Pool | 4 | |
| | Dam | 9 | |
| | Bath | 6 | |
| | River / Creek | 7 | |
| | Canal | 2 | |
| | Pond | 3 | |
| | Tank | 2 | |
| | Bucket | 1 | |
| | Wading Pool | 1 | |
| | Post hole | 1 | 74 |
| Pedestrian | Low speed run over* | 22 | |
| | Public Road | 15 | 37 |
| Motor Vehicle | Passenger | | 23 |
| Fire, Flames, Smoke | | | 18 |
| Homicide | Struck by person | 8 | |
| | Knife | 1 | |
| | Firearm | 2 | |
| | Poisoning | 3 | 14 |
| Threat to Breathing | Foreign Body (not food) | 4 | |
| | Food Foreign Body | 2 | |
| | Rope, Strap, Cord, Cot | 5 | |
| | Other | 2 | 13 |
| Unintentional Crush | Falling heavy object | | 4 |
| Electrocution | | | 3 |
| Farm Machinery | | | 3 |
| Fall from building | | | 1 |
| Train | | | 1 |
| Go kart | | | 1 |
| Heat Exhaustion | | | 1 |
| Poisoning | Unintentional | | 1 |
| Unclassified | | | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 196 |

* most low speed run overs are toddlers reversed over by family members in the driveway

| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|
| Neurological | CNS Tumour | 17 | |
| | Congenital defect | 16 | |
| | Cerebral Palsy | 10 | |
| | Neuroblastoma | 9 | |
| | Convulsion | 7 | |
| | Hydrocephalus | 4 | |
| | Neurodegenerative | 3 | 66 |
| Infection | Bacterial | 15 | |
| | Viral | 17 | |
| | Congenital | 1 | |
| | Unknown Agent | 1 | 34 |
| Cardiac | Congenital Heart | 26 | |
| | Other | 2 | 28 |
| Haemato-logical | Leukaemia | 17 | |
| | Immune Deficiency | 2 | 19 |
| SIDS | | | 13 |
| Gastro-intestinal | Liver Failure* | 10 | |
| | Tumour | 2 | |
| | Malrotation | 1 | 13 |
| Muscular Disorder | Myopathy/ Myotonia | 5 | |
| | Spinal Muscular Atrophy | 2 | |
| | Tumour | 1 | 8 |
| Metabolic Disorder | Various | | 7 |
| Chromosomal | Downs Syndrome | 5 | |
| | Other | 1 | 6 |
| Respiratory | Aspiration | 2 | |
| | Cystic Fibrosis | 1 | |
| | Asthma | 1 | |
| | Other | 1 | 5 |
| Bone | Osteogenesis | 2 | |
| | Tumour | 1 | |
| | Other | 1 | 4 |
| Renal | Congenital | 2 | |
| | Tumour | 1 | 3 |
| Other Congenital | | | 2 |
| Autoimmune | | | 1 |
| Unclassified | | | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 209 |

*many of the liver deaths were overseas patients involved in the liver transplant program

Table 4 (above) Medical causes of death 1 to 4 years, Queensland 1992-1996

Table 3 (left) Injury causes of death 1 to 4 years, Queensland 1992-1996

| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Neurological | CNS Tumour | 14 | |
| | Neurodegenerative | 8 | |
| | Cerebrovascular | 5 | |
| | Cerebral Palsey | 5 | |
| | Hydrocephalus | 4 | |
| | Convulsion | 2 | |
| | Other | 8 | 46 |
| Haematological | Leukaemia | 19 | |
| | Lymphoma | 2 | |
| | Other | 1 | 22 |
| Infection | Bacterial | 6 | |
| | Viral | 5 | |
| | Congenital | 1 | |
| | Unknown Agent | 3 | 15 |
| Cardiac | Congenital | 7 | |
| | Cardiomyopathy | 1 | |
| | Fibroelstosis | 1 | 9 |
| Neuroblastoma | | | 6 |
| Liver Failure* | | | 4 |
| Chromosomal | Downs syndrome | 3 | |
| | Other | 1 | 4 |
| Respiratory | Asthma | 2 | |
| | Cystic Fibrosis | 1 | |
| | Aspiration | 1 | 4 |
| Muscle | Tumour | | 3 |
| Bone | Tumour | 1 | |
| | Congenital | 1 | 2 |
| Metabolic | Various | | 2 |
| Renal | Tumour | | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 118 |

* many of the liver deaths were overseas patients involved in the liver transplant program

Table 5 Medical causes of death 5 to 9 years, Queensland 1992-1996

1 - 4 Years n = 405

Increased mobility and rapid developmental change from one to four years is reflected in the increase in injury deaths for this group.

The proportion of injury deaths rose from six per cent of the *one month to one year* deaths to almost half (48.3%) for the *one to four year* group. 37.8% of the injury deaths were drownings with more than half occurring in domestic swimming pools (Table 3).

Thirty-seven deaths were pedestrians and twenty-three, motor vehicle passengers. Twenty-two of the pedestrians were classified as *low-speed run over*, where toddlers were frequently reversed over by family members in

| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|
| Motor Vehicle | Car passenger | 26 | |
| | Motorcycle driver | 3 | |
| | Bus passenger | 1 | 30 |
| Drowning | Dam | 5 | |
| | Public Pool | 4 | |
| | River | 3 | |
| | Sea | 2 | |
| | Bath | 2 | |
| | School Pool | 1 | |
| | Domestic Pool | 1 | |
| | Waterhole | 1 | 19 |
| Pedestrian | | | 18 |
| Pedal Cyclist | | | 6 |
| Homicide | Other | 4 | |
| | Firearm | 2 | 6 |
| Fire | House fire | | 5 |
| Fall | Building | 2 | |
| | Tree | 2 | |
| | Furniture | 1 | 5 |
| Struck by | Heavy objects | | 3 |
| Poisoning | Carbon monoxide | | 2 |
| Electrocution | | | 1 |
| Threat to breathing | Hanging | | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 96 |

Table 6 Injury causes of death 5 to 9 years, Queensland 1992-1996

the driveway at home.

The medical deaths for this age group were most frequently neurological (n=66), the result of infection (n=34) or cardiac disease (n=28) (Table 4).

5 - 9 Years n = 214

Injury deaths for the five to nine years group were predominately road traffic accidents (56%); including eighteen pedestrians and six pedal cyclists (Table 6) Drowning was the next most common category of injury (19.8%). The proportion of injury deaths for this age group was 44.9%.

There were more neurological deaths (40%) than any other medical death category (Table 5). Haematological causes, including nineteen leukaemia deaths, became more common in this age group.

10 - 14 Years n = 268

Road traffic accidents, the most common cause of death for ten to fourteen year-olds, represented 26% of all deaths for this age group and 55.5% of the injury deaths

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(Table 8). There were more pedal cyclist deaths (n=18) in this age group than any other. There were thirteen road pedestrians and an additional two pedestrians, struck by trains.

There were seven known suicides aged ten to fourteen years, of which six were by hanging. The proportion of injury deaths was 47% of the total deaths for this age group.

Medical deaths were again predominately neurological (26%) or haematological (17.6%), although there was an increase in respiratory deaths in this age group with nine cystic fibrosis and eight asthma deaths (Table 7).

Across all age groups, house fires resulted in thirty-one

| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----|
| Neurological | CNS tumour | 16 | |
| | Neurodegenerative | 8 | |
| | Cerebrovascular | 3 | |
| | Cerebral Palsy | 6 | |
| | Other | 4 | 37 |
| Haemat-ological | Leukaemia | 18 | |
| | Lymphoma | 6 | |
| | Other | 1 | 25 |
| Respiratory | Cystic fibrosis | 9 | |
| | Asthma | 8 | |
| | Other | 2 | 19 |
| Infection | Bacterial | 2 | |
| | Viral | 8 | |
| | Unknown | 8 | 18 |
| Cardiac | Cardiomyopathy | 3 | |
| | Congenital | 3 | |
| | Other | 1 | 7 |
| Genitourinary | Tumour | 5 | |
| | Other | 1 | 6 |
| Metabolic | Various | | 6 |
| Bone | Tumour | | 5 |
| Muscle | Muscular dystrophy | 4 | |
| | Tumour | 1 | 5 |
| Gastro-intestinal | Liver failure | | |
| | Other | 1 | 5 |
| Endocrine | Diabetes mellitus | | 2 |
| Chromosomal | | | 2 |
| Other | SLE | | 1 |
| Unclassified* | | | 4 |
| TOTAL | | | 142 |

* information on the death certificate insufficient for classification at this time

Table 7 Medical causes of death 10 to 14 years, Queensland 1992-96

deaths and homicide, twenty-three deaths.

The data identifies the following areas as priorities for reducing the frequency of preventable mortality:

- SIDS (1month -1 year);
- drowning (0-4 years);
- low speed run-over (0-4 years);
- road traffic accidents - including motor vehicle, pedestrian and pedal cyclists (variable developmental stages);
- house fires;
- homicide;

| Major Categories | Specific Causes | Deaths | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----|
| Motor Vehicle | Car Passenger | 31 | |
| | Motorcycle driver | 3 | |
| | Motor cycle passenger | 3 | |
| | Car driver | 1 | |
| | Not specified | 1 | 39 |
| Pedal cyclist | | 18 | 18 |
| Pedestrian | Motor vehicle | 13 | 13 |
| Fire, Flames, Smoke | | 8 | 8 |
| Drowning | Pond | 2 | |
| | River | 2 | |
| | Other | 3 | 7 |
| Firearms | Unintentional | 3 | |
| | Homicide | 1 | |
| | Intent unknown | 3 | 7 |
| Threat to breathing | Hanging | 6 | |
| | Intent Unknown | 2 | |
| | Corn silo | 1 | 9 |
| Fall from height | Building | 2 | |
| | Horse riding | 2 | 4 |
| Electrocution | Electricity | 2 | |
| | Lightning | 2 | 4 |
| Poisoning | Suicide | 1 | |
| | Petrol | 1 | |
| | Bromochloroethane | 1 | |
| Struck by | Tricyclic | 1 | 4 |
| | Tree | 2 | |
| | Homicide | 2 | |
| Aircraft | Boat | 2 | |
| | Rock | 1 | 7 |
| | Passenger | 3 | 3 |
| Train | Pedestrian | 2 | 2 |
| Farm machinery | | | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | 126 |

Table 8 Injury causes of death 10 to 14 years, Queensland 1992-96

