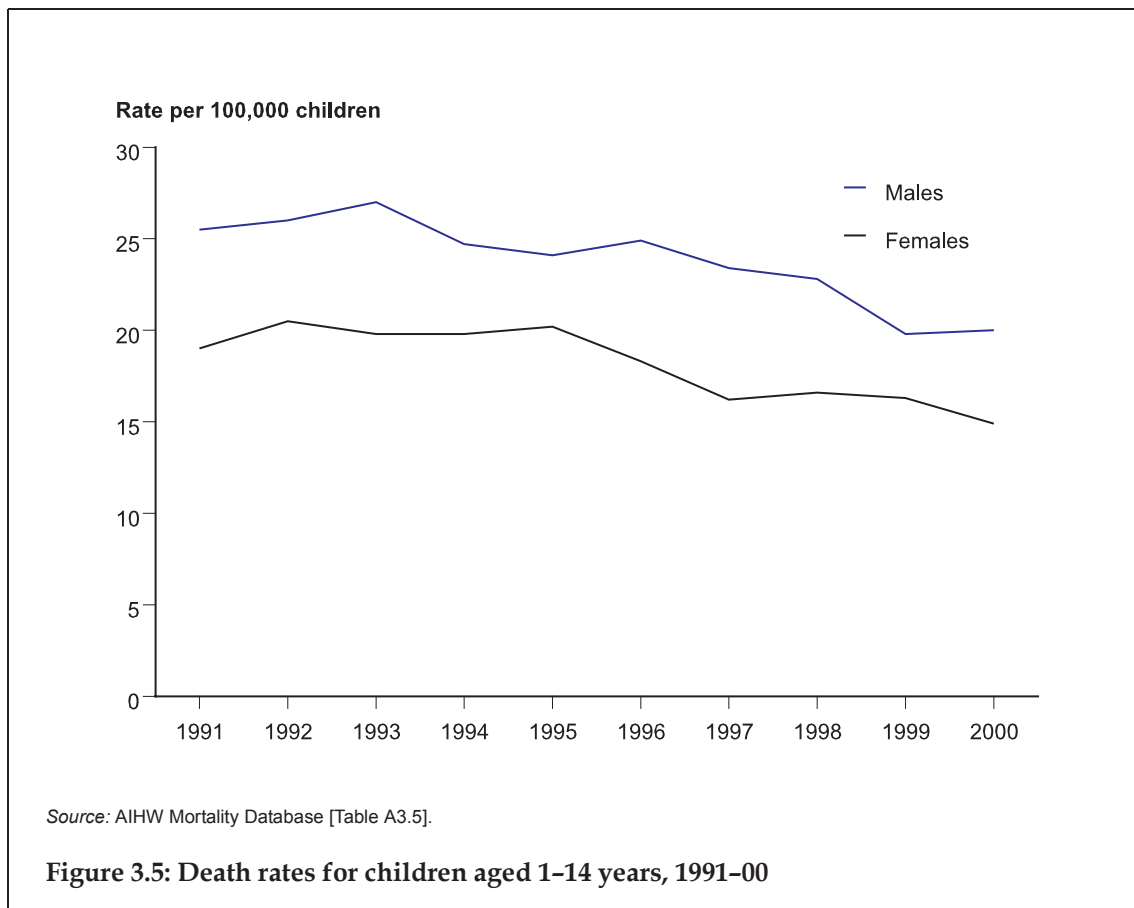


Mortality among children aged 1–14 years

The indicator for deaths among children aged 1–14 years is the number of deaths of children aged 1–14 years in a given year as a rate per 100,000 children.



- In 2000, a total of 641 children aged 1–14 years died in Australia. Of these, 59% were boys and 41% were girls. This represents 33% of all deaths of children aged 0–14 years.
- Between 1991 and 2000, there was a downward trend in rates for both boys and girls. In 2000, there were 20.1 deaths per 100,000 boys, compared with 25.5 in 1991. In 2000, there were 14.9 deaths per 100,000 girls, while in 1991 there were 19.0.
- Death rates for boys have remained consistently higher than death rates for girls.

Causes of death in children aged 1–14 years

Table 3.4: Causes of deaths of children aged 1–14 years, 2000

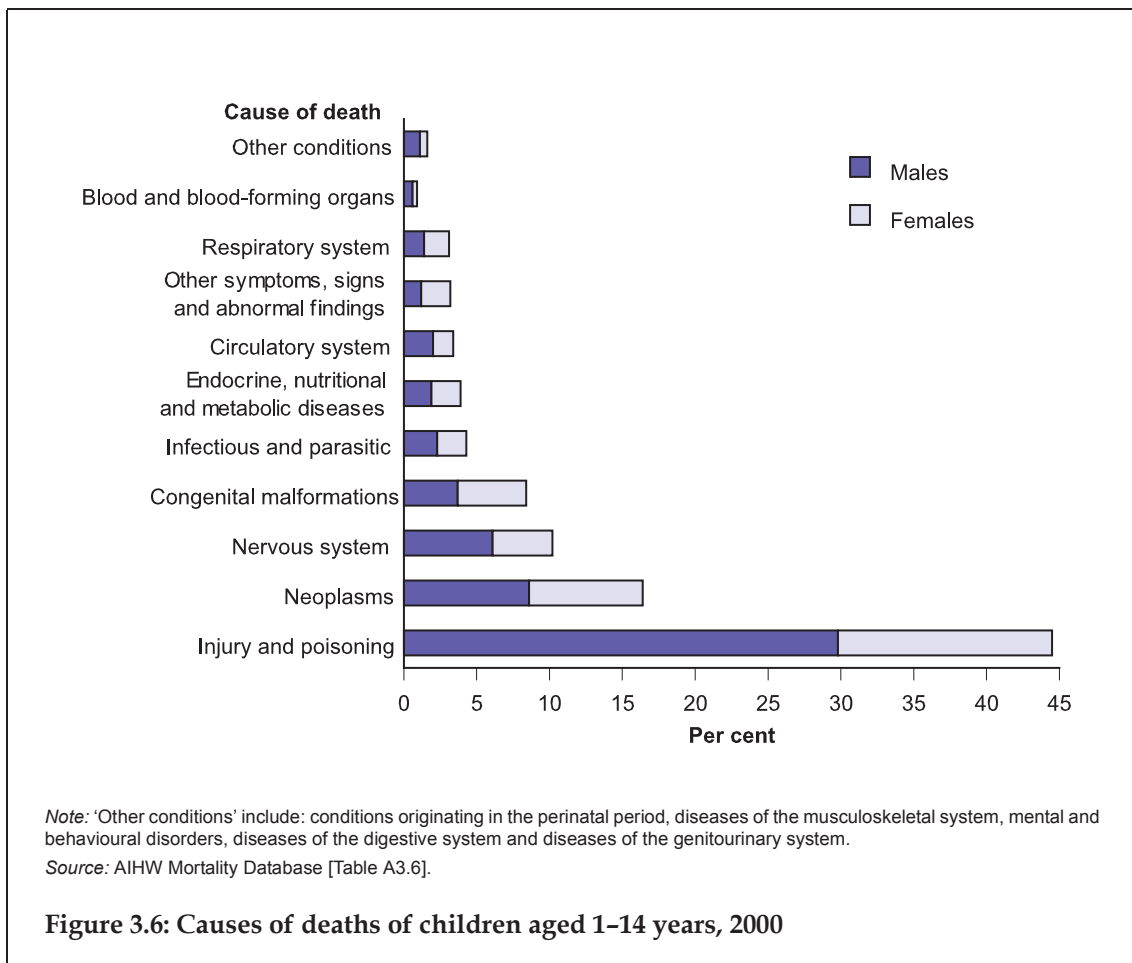
Cause of death	Number			Rate per 100,000 children		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Injury and poisoning	191	94	285	10.2	5.3	7.8
Neoplasms	55	50	105	2.9	2.8	2.9
Nervous system	39	26	65	2.1	1.5	1.8
Congenital malformations	24	30	54	1.3	1.7	1.5
Infectious and parasitic diseases	15	13	28	0.8	0.7	0.8
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	12	13	25	0.6	0.7	0.7
Circulatory system	13	9	22	0.7	0.5	0.6
Other symptoms, signs and abnormal findings	8	13	21	0.4	0.7	0.6
Respiratory system	9	11	20	0.5	0.6	0.5
Other conditions ^(a)	11	5	16	0.6	0.3	0.4
Total	377	264	641	20.1	14.9	17.6

(a) 'Other conditions' include: conditions originating in the perinatal period, diseases of the musculoskeletal system, mental and behavioural disorders, diseases of the digestive system and diseases of the genitourinary system.

Source: AIHW Mortality Database.

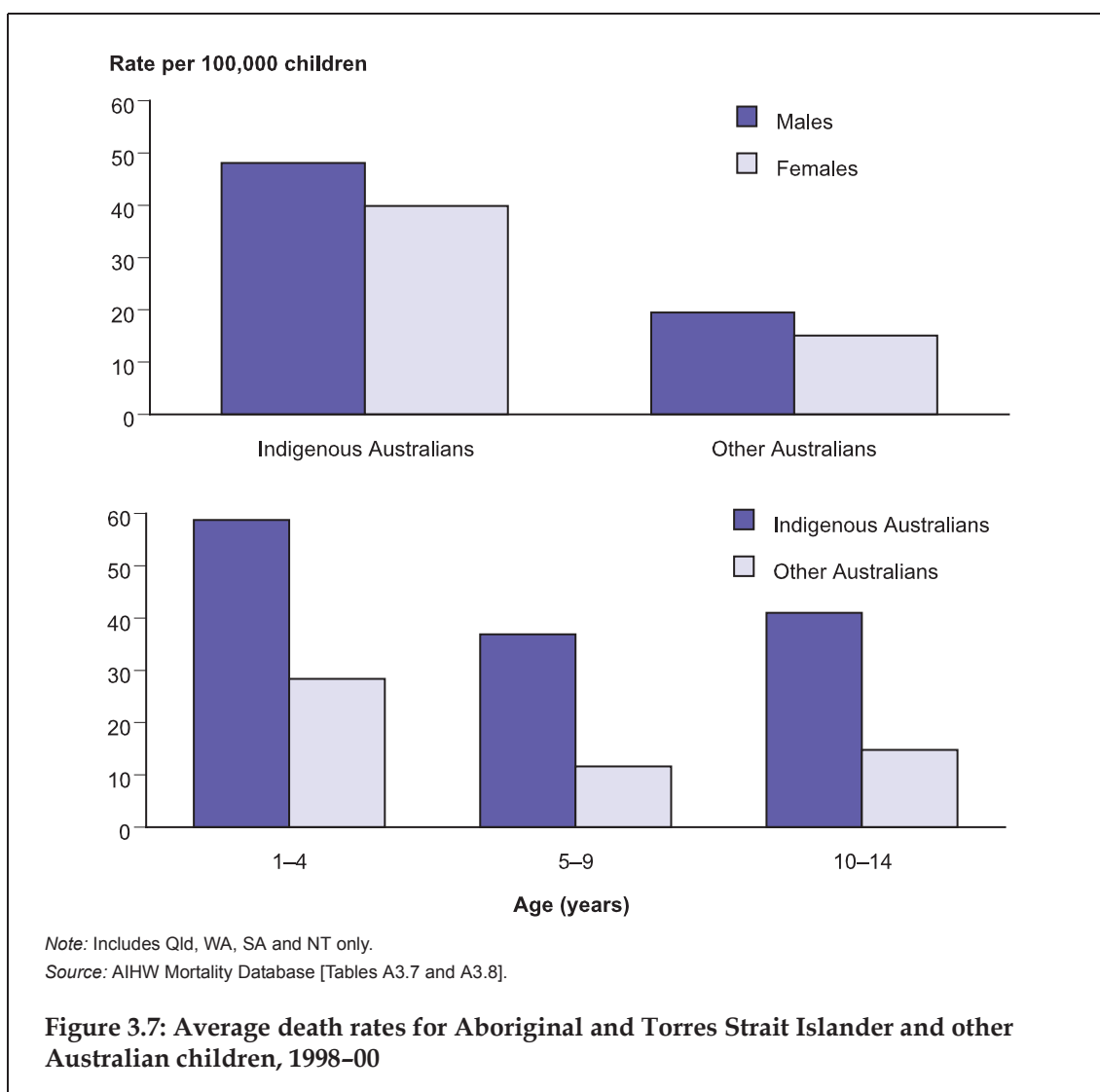
- Among children aged 1–14 years, injury and poisoning were the most common causes of death in 2000, responsible for 285 deaths (7.8 per 100,000 children).
- Other common causes were neoplasms including cancers (105 deaths, or 2.9), diseases of the nervous system including cerebral palsy and epilepsy (65 deaths, or 1.8) and congenital malformations (54 deaths, or 1.5).

Deaths of children aged 1–14 years as a proportion of all deaths of children aged 1–14 years, by cause of death according to ICD-10 chapters, are presented in Figure 3.6.



- In 2000, the highest proportion of deaths among children aged 1-14 years was caused by injury or poisoning, which accounted for 45%.
- Neoplasms including cancers were responsible for 16%. Diseases of the nervous system, including cerebral palsy and epilepsy, accounted for 10% of deaths, while congenital malformations accounted for 8%.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



- Between 1998 and 2000 in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, 122 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 1-14 years died. Of these deaths, 68 (56%) were of boys and 54 (46%) were of girls. This represents 29% of all deaths of Indigenous children aged 0-14 years in these States/Territories.
- The average rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was 2.5 times that for other Australian children. Indigenous boys died at a rate of 48.1 per 100,000, compared with 19.5 per 100,000 other Australian boys. Indigenous girls died at a rate of 39.9 per 100,000, while the rate for other Australian girls was 15.1.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 1-4 years had a death rate 2.1 times that of other Australian children aged 1-4 years. Among children aged 5-9 years, the difference increased to 3.2 times. Indigenous children aged 10-14 years had a death rate 2.8 times that of other Australian children.

Table 3.5: Causes of deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 1–14 years, 1998–00

Cause of death	Total number		Average rate per 100,000 children		Rate ratio
	Indigenous Australians	Other Australians	Indigenous Australians	Other Australians	
Injury and poisoning	59	298	21.3	7.6	2.8
Infectious and parasitic	10	23	3.5	0.6	6.0
Nervous system	9	66	3.2	1.7	1.9
Congenital malformations	9	54	3.2	1.4	2.3
Neoplasms	7	119	2.6	3.0	0.8
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	5	29	1.9	0.7	2.5
Other conditions ^(a)	23	92	8.3	2.3	3.6
Total	122	681	44.1	17.4	2.5

(a) 'Other conditions' include: diseases of the respiratory system, diseases of the circulatory system, symptoms, signs and abnormal findings, diseases of blood and blood-forming organs, diseases of the digestive system, mental and behavioural disorders, conditions originating in the perinatal period, diseases of the ear and diseases of the musculoskeletal system.

Notes

1. Includes Qld, WA, SA and NT only.

2. This total excludes 15 children aged 1–14 years for whom Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status was unknown or missing.

Source: AIHW Mortality Database.

- Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 1–14 years in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, injury and poisoning were the most common causes of death in 2000, responsible for 59 deaths (21.3 per 100,000 children).
- Other causes were infectious and other parasitic diseases (10 deaths, or 3.5 per 100,000 children), nervous system conditions (9 deaths, or 3.2), congenital malformations (9 deaths, or 3.2), and neoplasms (7 deaths, or 2.6 deaths).

Table 3.6: Causes of deaths of children aged 1–14 years in metropolitan, rural and remote areas, 1998–00

Cause of death	Total number			Average rate per 100,000 children		
	Metropolitan	Rural	Remote	Metropolitan	Rural	Remote
Injury and poisoning	458	283	75	6.1	9.4	18.4
Neoplasms	269	86	8	3.6	2.8	2.0
Nervous system	132	51	11	1.8	1.7	2.7
Congenital malformations	95	60	11	1.3	2.0	2.7
Endocrine, metabolic and nutritional diseases	57	32	3	0.8	1.0	0.7
Infectious and parasitic	51	20	10	0.7	0.8	0.5
Respiratory system	54	24	2	0.7	0.7	2.4
Circulatory system	50	19	6	0.7	0.6	1.5
Other symptoms, signs and abnormal findings	42	14	5	0.6	0.5	1.3
Other conditions ^(a)	42	25	3	0.6	0.8	0.7
Total	1,250	614	134	16.7	20.2	32.8

(a) 'Other conditions' include: conditions originating in the perinatal period, mental and behavioural disorders, diseases of the musculoskeletal system, diseases of the ear, diseases of the genitourinary system, diseases of the skin, diseases of the digestive system and diseases of the blood and blood-forming cells.

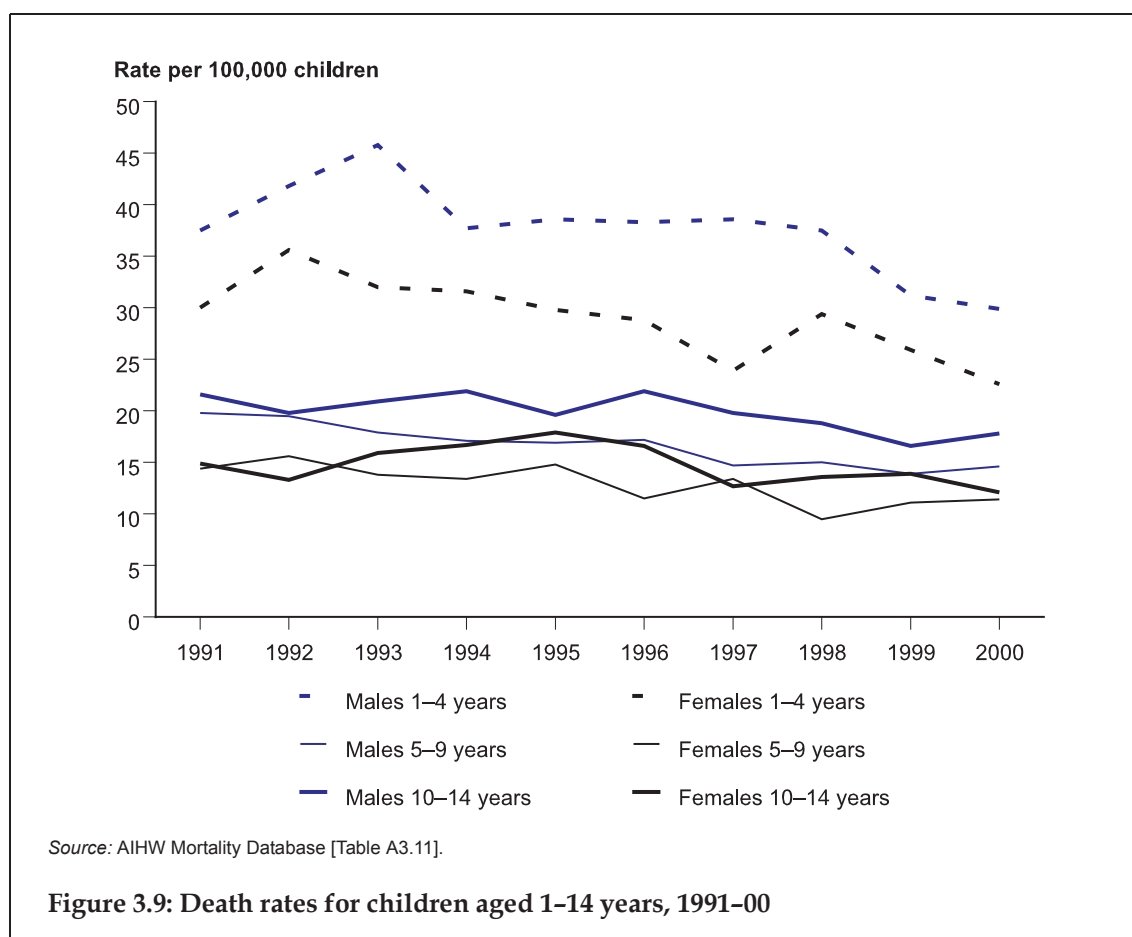
Note: This total excludes 27 children aged 1–14 years for whom area of residence was unknown or missing.

Source: AIHW Mortality Database.

- Overall, the death rate for children living in remote areas was 1.6 times higher than the rate for children in rural areas and almost twice the rate observed in metropolitan areas. For most causes of death, the rate for children in remote areas was higher than that for children in rural and metropolitan areas.

Age-specific death rates for children aged 1–14 years

The indicator for age-specific death rates is the number of deaths of children aged 1–4, 5–9 or 10–14 years in a given year as a rate per 100,000 children in each age group.



- Between 1991 and 2000, death rates for children aged 1–4 years were considerably higher than for any other age group.
- Rates declined over this period for all age groups. The greatest decrease occurred among boys aged 5–9 years, where rates decreased by 1.4 times.
- In 2000, death rates were highest for children aged 1–4 years (29.9 per 100,000 boys and 22.6 per 100,000 girls) and were lowest for children aged 5–9 (14.6 for boys and 11.4 for girls).
- In all age groups, boys had higher death rates than girls.

Specific causes of death of children aged 0–14 years are presented in Table 3.7.

Table 3.7: Selected specific causes of death of children aged 0–14 years, 2000

Age (years)	Cause of death	Number	Rate per 100,000 children
<1	Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)	129	51.9
	Foetus and newborn affected by complications of placental separation and haemorrhage	60	24.1
	Foetus and newborn affected by chorioamnionitis	53	21.3
	Foetus and newborn affected by multiple pregnancy	43	17.3
	Respiratory distress syndrome of newborn	39	15.7
1–4	Pedestrian injured in collision with a car, pick-up truck or van (traffic accident)	16	6.4
	Drowning and submersion following fall into swimming-pool	13	5.2
	Instantaneous death	9	3.6
	Unspecified drowning and submersion	9	3.6
	Drowning and submersion following fall into natural water	8	3.2
5–9	Pedestrian injured in collision with a car, pick-up truck or van (traffic accident)	11	0.8
	Predominantly allergic asthma	8	0.6
	Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	7	0.5
	Epilepsy, unspecified	7	0.5
	Brain cancer, unspecified	7	0.5
10–14	Pedestrian injured in collision with a car, pick-up truck or van (traffic accident)	9	0.7
	Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	8	0.6
	Car occupant injured in collision with car, pick-up truck or van (passenger)	7	0.5
	Intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation and suffocation	7	0.5
	Car occupant injured in non-collision transport accident (passenger)	6	0.5

Note: ICD-10 codes R95, P02.1, P02.7, P01.5, P22.0, V03.1, W68, R96.0, W74, W70, V03.1, J45.0, C91.0, G40.9, C71.9, V03.1, C91.0, V43.6, X70, V48.6.

Source: AIHW Mortality Database.

- In 2000 among infants, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) was the most frequent specific cause of death. Deaths from SIDS continued to decline over the last decade (see Chapter 8). Conditions originating in the perinatal period were also common causes of death in this age group.
- For children aged 1–4 years, traffic accidents where a pedestrian was injured were the most frequent specific cause of death. Drowning deaths were also common in this age group.
- For children aged 5–9 years, traffic accidents where a pedestrian was injured were also the most common specific cause of death. Other frequent causes were allergic asthma, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, epilepsy (unspecified) and brain cancer (unspecified).
- For children aged 10–14 years, traffic accidents where a pedestrian was injured were again the most common specific cause of death. Other types of injuries also featured in the most common causes of death in this age group.