

National Indigenous Reform Agreement: P10- Mortality rates (and excess deaths) for children under 5 by leading causes, 2010 QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	396258
Registration status:	Community Services (retired) , Superseded 04/04/2011

Data quality

Institutional environment: These collections are conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see the ABS Institutional Environment.

Timeliness: Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths data are published on an annual basis. Death records, including perinatal deaths, are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in death registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a death. As a result, a small number of deaths occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or later.

Births records are provided electronically to the ABS by individual Registrars on a monthly basis for compilation into aggregate statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. One dimension of timeliness in birth registrations data is the interval between the occurrence and registration of a birth. As a result, some births occurring in one year are not registered until the following year or even later. This can be caused by either a delay by the parent(s) in submitting a completed form to the registry, or a delay by the registry in processing the birth (for example, due to follow up activity due to missing information on the form, or resource limitations).

Preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) data is compiled and published quarterly and is generally made available five to six months after the end of each reference quarter. Every year, the 30 June ERP is further disaggregated by sex and single year of age, and is made available five to six months after end of the reference quarter. Commencing with data for September quarter 2006, revised estimates are released annually and made available 21 months after the end of the reference period for the previous financial year, once more accurate births, deaths and net overseas migration data becomes available. In the case of births and deaths, the revised data is compiled on a date of occurrence basis. In the case of net overseas migration, final data is based on actual traveller behaviour. Final estimates are made available every 5 years after a census and revisions are made to the previous inter-censal period. ERP data is not changed once it has been finalised. Releasing preliminary, revised and final ERP involves a balance between timeliness and accuracy.

Accessibility: Causes of Death data are available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3303.0 product family. Perinatal Deaths data are available on the ABS website under the 3304.0 product number. ERP data is available in a variety of formats on the ABS website under the 3101.0 and 3201.0 product families. Further information on deaths and mortality may be available on request. The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This may restrict access to data at a very detailed level.

Interpretability:

Data for this indicator have been age-standardised, using the indirect method, to account for differences between the age structures of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Indirect age-standardisation to the 2001 total Australian population was used. Age-standardised results provide a measure of relative difference only between populations. The ABS cautions against use of crude rates for making comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, as results may be misleading.

National rates only for this indicator are considered reliable; data does not support finer levels of disaggregation, for example by jurisdiction. Data are presented in five-year groupings due to volatility of the small numbers involved.

Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from Explanatory Notes in *Causes of Death, Australia* (3303.0).

Relevance:

The ABS Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections include all deaths that occurred and were registered in Australia, including deaths of persons whose usual residence is overseas. Deaths of Australian residents that occurred outside Australia may be registered by individual Registrars, but are not included in ABS deaths or causes of death statistics. Data in the Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths collections includes demographic items, as well as Causes of Death information, which is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). ICD is the international standard classification for epidemiological purposes and is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of cause of death statistics. The classification is used to classify diseases and causes of disease or injury as recorded on many types of medical records as well as death records. The ICD has been revised periodically to incorporate changes in the medical field. The 10th revision of ICD (ICD-10) has been used since 1997.

Accuracy:

Information on Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths is obtained from a complete enumeration of deaths registered during a specified period and is not subject to sampling error. However, deaths data sources are subject to non-sampling error which can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased. Forms are often not subject to the same best practice design principles as statistical questionnaires, and respondent and/or interviewer understanding is rarely tested. Over-precise analysis of Indigenous deaths and mortality should be avoided.

All estimated resident population (ERP) data sources are subject to non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can arise from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. In the case of Census and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) data every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. The ABS does not have control over any non sampling error associated with births, deaths and migration data.

For more information see the *Demography Working Paper 1998/2 - Quarterly birth and death estimates, 1998* (cat. no. 3114.0) and *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

Causes of Death and Perinatal Deaths data for 2007 are subject to revision.

All coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2007 will be subject to a revision process. This is a change from previous years where all ABS processing of causes of death data for a particular reference period was finalised approximately 13 months after the end of the reference period. Where insufficient information was available to code a cause of death (e.g. a coroner certified death was yet to be finalised by the Coroner), less specific ICD codes were assigned as required by the ICD coding rules. The revision process will enable the use of additional information relating to coroner certified deaths as it becomes available over time. This will result in increased specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes. Causes of death data for 2007 coroner certified deaths will be updated as more information becomes available to the ABS. Revisions will only impact on coroner certified deaths, as further information becomes available to the ABS about the causes of these deaths. See *Causes of Death, 2007* (3303.0).

Causes listed are selected causes of death at the ICD-10 chapter level for all deaths registered.

Non-Indigenous estimates are available for census years only. In the intervening years, Indigenous population figures are derived from assumptions about past and future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. In the absence of non-Indigenous population figures for these years, it is possible to derive denominators for calculating non-Indigenous rates by subtracting the Indigenous population from the total population. Such figures have a degree of uncertainty and should be used with caution, particularly as the time from the base year of the projection series increases. Some rates are unreliable due to small numbers of deaths over the reference period. Resultant rates could be misleading for example where the non-Indigenous mortality rate is higher than the Indigenous mortality rate for some causes. All rates in this indicator must be used with caution. There are differing views on the appropriateness of having an "Australian" total due to the uncertainty of the quality of identification and the small number of deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

Coherence:

The methods used to construct the indicator are consistent and comparable with other collections and with international practice.

Relational attributes**Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement:**

[National Indigenous Reform Agreement: P10-Mortality rates \(and excess deaths\) for children under 5 by leading causes, 2010](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 04/04/2011

