

The Rest

Relationship Statistics

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- In June 2006, there were 4 million children aged under 15 years in Australia, representing one-fifth (19%) of the total population.
- In 2004-05, 41% of children aged under 15 years had a long-term health condition compared with 44% in 2001.
- The most common such long term health conditions were diseases of the respiratory system (19% of children under 15) with main conditions being asthma (12%), hay fever and allergic rhinitis (8%) and chronic sinusitis (3%).
- In 2004-05, less than 0.2% of children aged under 15 years were reported as having diabetes as a long term health condition. However, the incidence appears to be increasing with 24.6 new cases of Type 1 diabetes per 100,000 population for children aged under 15 years in 2004 compared to only 12.3 per 100,000 population in 1983.
- In 2004-05, 7% of children aged under 15 years were reported to have some form of mental or behavioural problem as a long-term health condition.
- The 1998 Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing reported that 14% of young people aged 4-17 years had a mental health problem. The same survey found that rates of mental health problems among children and adolescents were higher in lower socio-economic families and in step/blended and sole parent families.
- Death rates for Australian children aged 1-14 years have declined rapidly from 30 per 100,000 population in 1984 to 15 per 100,000 population in 2003.
- In 2005, the death rate for neonatal deaths (deaths within the first four weeks of life) was 3.6 per 1,000 live births and 1.4 per 1,000 live births for post-neonatal infant deaths (deaths after 28 days and before one year of life). In 2002-04, there was an average of 1,200 infant deaths per year in Australia.
- Of children aged up to three years in 2004-05, 88% had at some stage obtained nutrition from breast milk, and of infants aged up to three months, 67% were currently being breastfed while for infants aged 4-6 months 52% were currently being breastfed.
- The 2004 NSW Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS) showed that 26% of boys and 24% of girls in NSW aged approximately 5-16 years were overweight or obese, compared with 11% of all young people aged 7-16 years in 1985.
- Health conditions for Indigenous children were considerably worse on many measures than the Australian average. For instance, 1999-2003, the death rate for Indigenous children aged 1-14 years was 39 per 100,000 children compared to 16 deaths per 100,000 among other Australian children.

SOURCE:

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007). Health of Children in Australia: A Snapshot, 2004-05. ABS Catalogue No.4829.0.55.001. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.