

# Fast facts 2026

red  
nose  
saving little lives

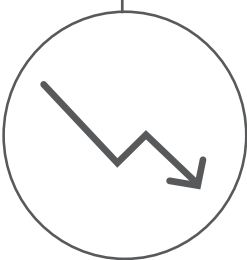
We are making significant progress towards our goal of zero preventable deaths of babies and children during pregnancy, infancy and early childhood.



**12,992**  
babies saved<sup>(2)</sup>



**\$20 million**  
invested in research  
to date



**80%**  
reduction in  
sudden infant  
deaths since 1989\*

Every day  
in Australia,  
around 6 babies  
are stillborn and a  
further 2 die within  
28 days of birth<sup>(6)</sup>

## Types of infant loss

**Neonatal Death:** death occurring after live birth to 28 days post-delivery.

**Infant death:** death occurring after live birth up to 1 year of age.

**Perinatal death:** all neonatal deaths plus all stillbirths.

**Stillbirth:** death occurring from 20 weeks gestation or with a birth weight of 400g or more. Stillbirth may also include late term abortion after 20 weeks gestation.

- In 2024, there were **292,318** babies born to **288,179** mothers in Australia<sup>(1)</sup>
- There were **2,952** perinatal deaths<sup>(3)</sup> (less than 1% of babies born)
- Of these deaths, just over **76%** were stillbirths (2,233) and almost **24%** (719) were neonatal deaths<sup>(3)</sup>
- In 2024, there were **957** infant deaths<sup>(4)</sup>

## Sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) across Australia

### What is SUDI & how is it different to SIDS?

SUDI is a broad term used to describe the sudden and unexpected death of an infant for which the cause is not immediately obvious.

SUDI includes deaths from SIDS as well as deaths from other unexpected causes, such as, fatal sleep accidents, drownings and other accidental deaths.

**In 2024, there were 100 SUDI deaths across Australia<sup>(3)</sup>.**

- **QLD** - 21
- **NSW** - 31
- **VIC** - 19
- **WA** - 18
- **SA** - 3
- **ACT, TAS, NT** - 7

\* Estimate uses ABS Causes of Death 2024 data to determine the difference in expected and actual deaths due to Sudden and Unexpected deaths in Infants (SUDI) if the death rate had remained the same as when the campaign was introduced in 1989.

\*\* SUDI and SIDS mortality counts reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) include both open and closed coronial cases. Data are provisional and may change as outstanding investigations are completed or classifications are updated.

# Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)

SIDS is defined as the sudden and unexpected death of an infant under one year of age with an onset of

a fatal episode occurring during sleep, that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation.

Depending on the state or territory, SIDS is identified by the certifying doctor or coroner as either SIDS or an unknown cause of death. The figures below include both types of data.

**In 2024, 93 infant deaths were attributed to either SIDS (15) or an unknown cause of death (78) in Australia<sup>(4)\*\*</sup>.**

- **QLD** - 20
- **Vic** - 18
- **SA** - 4
- **NSW** - 31
- **WA** - 17
- **Other** - 3

*Data is not presented for other states or territories due to small counts. Due to differences in certification between states and territories, SIDS deaths include both SIDS and unspecified causes of death. This is different to previous Fast Facts issues which included only SIDS deaths.*

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander infants

In 2024, Indigenous Australian women were almost two times more likely to experience perinatal death than non-Indigenous women<sup>(5)</sup>.

Since 2010, there has been a 23% reduction in the overall infant mortality rate for Indigenous Australian infants.

## References

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024, *Births, Australia*, ABS, viewed 11 June 2026, <<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release>>.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2026, *Causes of death: customised data extract for Red Nose Australia, 1989–2024* (Table 1: SUDI deaths in persons under 1 year – comparison of actual and estimated deaths if the 1989 death rate had remained constant, 1989–2024), customised report prepared for Red Nose Australia, released 14 November 2025, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2026, *Causes of death: customised data extract for Red Nose Australia, 2000–2024* (Table 3: Selected causes of perinatal deaths, Australia, 2000–2024), customised report prepared for Red Nose Australia, released 14 November 2025, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.
4. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2026, *Causes of death: customised data extract for Red Nose Australia, 1997–2024* (Table 2a: Selected causes of death in persons under 1 year, Australia, States and Territories, 1997–2024), customised report prepared for Red Nose Australia, released 14 November 2025, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.
5. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & National Indigenous Australians Agency (2024) *Measure 1.21 Perinatal mortality, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework, AIHW*, Australian Government, accessed 11 June 2026.
6. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2026, *Australia's mothers and babies: Stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Australia*, viewed 1 October 2025, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mothers-babies/australias-mothers-babies/contents/stillbirths-neonatal-deaths/stillbirths-and-neonatal-deaths-in-australia>