

Question on Notice

No. 695

Asked on 23 June 2022

MR S ANDREW asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how many deaths in emergency departments there have been for the period from 2018 to 2022 (reported separately by year and triage category)?

ANSWER:

The number of deaths in the emergency departments across Queensland has been between 804 to 900 over the past four financial years, with the data for June 2022 not yet available. The largest contributor being cardiac arrest, accounting for approximately 30 per cent of the deaths recorded.

Category	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	FY21-22 *
Category 1	514	541	539	553
Category 2	214	219	236	254
Category 3	71	72	85	78
Category 4	5	3	8	12
Category 5	0	1	1	3
Total	804	836	869	900

Data Source: Queensland Health Emergency Data Collection

Notes: * FY21-22 is not complete as we do not have full June data available yet.

A primary diagnosis of 'Cardiac Arrest – Unspecified' accounting for approximately 30% of the deaths recorded.

In the 2020/21 financial year there was over 1.8 million presentations to emergency departments across Queensland. The proportion of patients who died in the emergency department in Queensland was 0.041 per cent, compared to 0.055 per cent nationally.

Emergency department care - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (aihw.gov.au)* for 2020-2021 Financial Year.

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT	Total
Died in emergency department	1,994	1,212	771**	506	208	70	59	17	4,837
All Presentations	3,068,572	1,772,359	1,887,381	997,816	580,575	170,287	153,713	177,654	8,808,357
% Died in emergency department	0.065%	0.068%	0.041%	0.051%	0.036%	0.041%	0.038%	0.010%	0.055%

*The My Hospitals website displays data for all Australian states and territories (but only at the disposition level, not disposition and category as provided in the main table).

**The difference between the numbers quoted for deaths in emergency departments between these 2 tables relate to the data source used for collection;

- AIHW reporting is based on the 27 facilities in Qld that meet the definitions and are recognised as formal emergency departments by AIHW.
- Qld Health Emergency Data collection represents all 108 facilities that may provide emergency services in Qld.