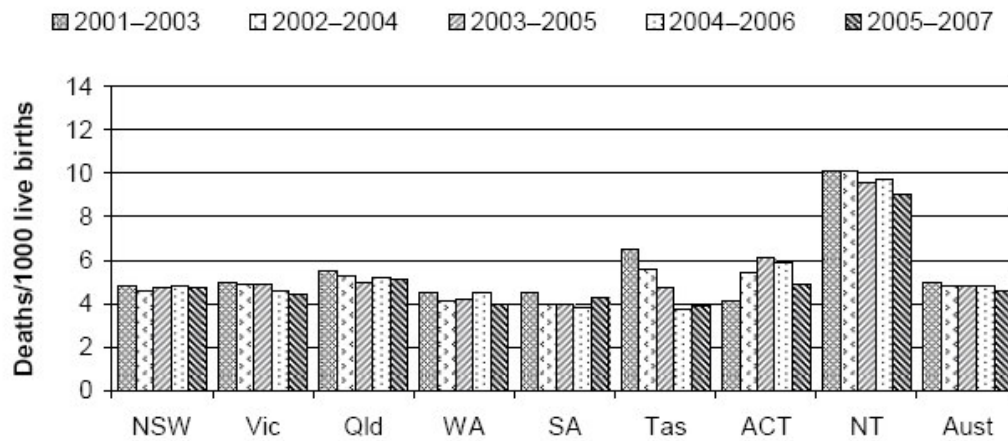


Infant mortality in Australia – Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

The infant mortality rate has declined in Australia from 5.0 deaths per 1000 live births over the period 2001–2003 to an average of 4.6 deaths per 1000 live births over the period 2005–2007 (figure E.15).¹

Figure E.15 Infant mortality rate, three year average^{a, b}



^a Figures for Australia include 'other territories'. ^b Four infant deaths were coded to an incorrect state of usual residence in 2005, which led to the revision of the rate of the ACT.

Source: ABS (2008) *Deaths Australia, 2007, Australia*, Cat. no. 3302.0, Canberra.; table EA.15.

For the period 2005–2007, the average infant mortality rate for Indigenous children in the various States or Territories with data available ranged from 8.9 per 1,000 to 15.7 per 1,000 (tables EA.15 and EA.16). Longer-term trends suggest that the mortality rate for Indigenous infants (WA, SA and the NT) decreased by 47% between 1991 and 2006. Despite this significant improvement in infant mortality for Indigenous children, rates are still markedly higher than for non-Indigenous Australians.

¹ SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2010, Report on Government Services 2010, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

Table EA.15 Infant mortality rate, three year average (per 1000 live births) (a), (b)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust (c)</i>
All Australians									
1996–1998	5.1	4.9	6.2	5.6	4.6	5.5	5.2	12.1	5.4
1997–1999	5.1	5.1	6.0	5.0	4.3	6.6	5.1	12.2	5.3
1998–2000	5.1	4.9	6.1	4.7	4.3	6.4	5.3	11.9	5.3
1999–2001	5.4	5.0	5.9	4.7	4.5	6.5	4.3	11.4	5.4
2000–2002	5.0	4.8	6.0	4.6	4.8	6.1	3.5	11.2	5.2
2001–2003	4.8	5.0	5.5	4.5	4.5	6.5	4.1	10.1	5.0
2002–2004	4.6	4.9	5.3	4.1	4.0	5.6	5.4	10.1	4.8
2003–2005	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.2	4.0	4.7	6.1	9.6	4.8
2004–2006	4.8	4.6	5.2	4.5	3.8	3.7	5.9	9.7	4.8
2005–2007	4.7	4.4	5.1	4.0	4.3	3.9	4.9	9.0	4.6
Indigenous									
2003–2005	8.4	na	10.9	12.8	7.7	na	na	15.6	na
2004–2006	7.5	na	11.1	11.9	6.7	na	na	16.7	na
2005–2007	8.9	na	9.1	10.2	8.9	na	na	15.7	na
Non-Indigenous									
2003–2005	4.4	na	4.5	3.6	3.7	na	na	5.0	na
2004–2006	4.6	na	4.7	3.9	3.6	na	na	4.7	na
2005–2007	4.5	na	4.8	3.4	4.0	na	na	4.2	na

(a) Infant deaths per 1000 live births.

(b) Deaths for whom Indigenous origin was not stated have not been prorated between Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths. As a result, Indigenous and non-Indigenous infant mortality rates may be underestimated.

(c) Figures for Australia include 'Other territories'.

na Not available.

Source: ABS (various years) *Deaths Australia, 2007*, Cat. no. 3302.0, AusInfo, Canberra.

Table EA.16 Indigenous infant mortality rates, three year average (a), (b), (c)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>NT (d)</i>
2001–2003	8.6	11.2	15.9	9.1	14.8
2002–2004	8.5	10.9	14.1	9.4	15.4
2003–2005	8.4	10.9	12.8	7.7	15.6
2004–2006	7.5	11.1	11.9	6.7	16.7
2005–2007	8.9	9.1	10.2	8.9	15.7

(a) Per 1000 live births. The volatility in infant mortality rates is partially due to the relatively small number of infant deaths registered.

(b) Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT are excluded due to poor coverage rates or small numbers.

(c) Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated are excluded. As a result, Indigenous infant mortality rates may be underestimated.

(d) The contribution of Indigenous deaths to total deaths is much larger in the NT than in the other states presented.

Source: ABS (2008) *Deaths Australia, 2007*, Cat. no. 3302.0, AusInfo, Canberra.