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SAFETY IN THE HOME

QUEENSLAND

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NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication summarises the results of a survey on safety in the home. The survey was conducted on selected households throughout Queensland during October 2001 as a supplement to the Monthly Population Survey.

The aim of the survey was to provide data to assist the Queensland Government, in particular Queensland Health, to run targeted awareness campaigns and enable the development of other intervention/prevention strategies and projects.

Information was collected on selected household safety features and potential hazards in the home. Specific attention was given to households where young children or older persons were present. Various safety features such as the presence of smoke detectors and hot water thermostats, prevention strategies such as first aid training, risk factors including pool ownership and playground equipment were investigated. Other demographic data collected includes type of dwelling and home ownership.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ARA	any responsible adult
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
LGA	Local Government Area
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
MSR	Major Statistical Region
RSE	Relative standard error
SE	Standard error
SLA	Statistical Local Area
*	estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
—	nil or rounded to zero
n.a.	not applicable

Brian Doyle
Regional Director
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ALL HOUSEHOLDS	Of the estimated 1,409,900 households in Queensland, (643,400 or 45.6%) were located in the Brisbane Major Statistical Region (MSR) and (766,500 or 54.4%) were located in the Balance of Queensland MSR. In general, results were similar across both regions.
Anti-slip surfaces	Of all households, just over one quarter (26.2% or 369,200) of households had anti-slip surfaces or strips, including rubber mats, used or fitted in the bath or shower.
Internal or external steps or stairs	The majority of households (70.2% or 990,200) had internal or external steps or stairs. Of those households, almost one quarter (24.5% or 243,100) had guards or gates at the top and/or bottom of the steps/stairs.
Smoke alarms or smoke detectors	Nearly seven out of ten households (69.1% or 973,700) had smoke alarms or smoke detectors installed. This represents a significant increase from October 1996 when smoke alarms or smoke detectors were installed in only 38.7% (473,600) of households. In October 2001, of the households with smoke alarms or smoke detectors installed, only 12.9% (125,900) tested them 'more than once a month' with 19.4% (189,200) reporting they never tested their smoke alarms or smoke detectors.
Swimming pools or outdoor spas	One fifth of all households (20.6% or 290,800) had a swimming pool or outdoor spa. Swimming pools were in (277,800 or 95.5%) of those households while (13,000 or 4.5%) had outdoor spas.
Playground equipment	There were 271,300 households (19.2%) with playground equipment. The most popular type of playground equipment amongst these households were swings (188,400 or 69.5%) followed by trampolines (132,400 or 48.8%).
Adjustable hot water thermostat	Nearly half of all households (48.6% or 685,800) had an adjustable hot water thermostat. Just over one quarter (27.0% or 381,100) of households reported they did not know whether the hot water system had an adjustable thermostat.
First aid training	Just under one third of households (466,000 or 33.1%) had at least one resident who had undertaken first aid training in the last three years, which included cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
HOUSEHOLDS WITH YOUNG RESIDENT CHILDREN/YOUNG VISITORS	Of the estimated 1,409,900 households in Queensland, there were 360,500 (25.6%) households with young children and 1,049,400 (74.4%) with no young children. Households with young children were defined as those with at least one usual resident aged four years or less or which had at least one young child visit at least once a week, in the four weeks prior to the survey.
Anti-slip surfaces	Households with young children were more likely to have anti-slip surfaces or strips, including rubber mats, used or fitted in the bath or shower than households with no young children (30.5% or 110,000 compared to 24.7% or 259,200).

Internal or external steps or stairs	Of households with young children, there were 71.0% (256,000) that had internal or external steps or stairs. Of those households, 38.1% (97,500) had guards or gates at the top and/or bottom of the steps/stairs, compared with 24.5% (243,100) in all households.
Smoke alarms or smoke detectors	Households with young children were more likely to have smoke alarms or smoke detectors installed (74.1% or 267,200) than households with no young children (67.3% or 706,600).
Swimming pools or outdoor spas	Nearly a quarter of households with young children (24.2% or 87,100) had a swimming pool or outdoor spa compared to (19.4% or 203,700) of households with no young children. The most common precaution used to safeguard children from drowning was child resistant fencing/self locking gate with 82.0% (238,400) overall. However, households with young children were less likely to use this precaution than households with no young children (71.1% or 62,000 compared to 86.6% or 176,500).
Playground equipment	Households with young children were much more likely to have playground equipment than households with no young children (42.8% or 154,400 compared to 11.1% or 116,900).
Adjustable hot water thermostat	Of the households with young children 53.0% (191,100) had an adjustable hot water thermostat compared to 47.2% (494,800) of households with no young children. Nearly one in four (22.8% or 82,200) of the households with young children did not know whether the hot water system had an adjustable thermostat.
First aid training	Households with young children were more likely to have at least one resident who had undertaken first aid training which included cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) (68.5% or 247,000) compared to households with no young children (58.1% or 609,800).
HOUSEHOLDS WITH OLDER RESIDENTS/OLDER VISITORS	Of the estimated 1,409,900 households in Queensland, there were 521,600 (37.0%) households with older persons and 888,300 (63.0%) with no older persons. Households with older persons were defined as those with at least one usual resident aged 60 years or over or which had at least one older person visit at least once a week, in the four weeks prior to the survey.
Anti-slip surfaces	Households with older persons were more likely to have anti-slip surfaces or strips, including rubber mats, used or fitted in the bath or shower than households with no older persons (33.5% or 174,500 compared to 21.9% or 194,700).
Internal or external steps or stairs	Of households with older persons, there were 70.4% (367,000) that had internal or external steps or stairs.
Smoke alarms or smoke detectors	Smoke alarms or smoke detectors were installed in 73.1% (383,200) households with older persons compared to 66.5% (590,500) of households with no older persons.
Handrails fitted in bathroom or toilet	Only one in four of the households with older persons (26.5% or 138,000) had hand rails fitted in the bathroom or toilet.

Floor rugs or mats	There were 70.0% (365,100) of households with older persons that had floor rugs or mats.
First aid training	Households with older persons were less likely to have at least one resident who had undertaken first aid training which included mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage (CPR) than households with no older persons (45.9% or 239,700 compared to 69.5% or 617,100).

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ALL HOUSEHOLDS, Potential safety hazards and features affecting young children(a)

	Brisbane Major Statistical Region			Balance of Queensland Major Statistical Region			Total Queensland		
	Young children	No young children	Total	Young children	No young children	Total	Young children	No young children	Total
NUMBER ('000)									
Anti-slip surfaces or strips in bath or shower	50.7	117.3	168.1	59.2	141.9	201.1	110.0	259.2	369.2
Internal or external steps or stairs with guards or gates	115.5	350.8	466.4	140.5	383.3	523.8	256.0	734.1	990.2
Smoke alarm or smoke detector	129.0	337.9	466.8	138.2	368.7	506.9	267.2	706.6	973.7
Frequency of testing									
More than once a month	21.0	43.7	64.7	18.2	43.0	61.2	39.2	86.7	125.9
Monthly to less than 3 monthly	28.1	71.1	99.2	39.0	72.9	111.9	67.0	144.0	211.0
3 monthly to less than 6 monthly	12.6	44.5	57.2	14.9	44.4	59.3	27.5	88.9	116.5
6 monthly to less than yearly	14.8	30.1	44.9	13.2	52.5	65.7	28.0	82.6	110.6
Once a year or less	9.7	27.4	37.1	13.2	34.4	47.6	22.9	61.9	84.7
Never, self testing/electric alarm	14.2	38.2	52.4	14.2	37.4	51.6	28.4	75.5	104.0
Never	23.0	71.1	94.2	21.4	73.7	95.1	44.4	144.8	189.2
Don't know	*5.5	11.7	17.2	*4.2	10.4	14.5	9.7	22.1	31.7
Total	129.0	337.9	466.8	138.2	368.7	506.9	267.2	706.6	973.7
Swimming pool or outdoor spa	41.7	93.5	135.2	45.4	110.2	155.6	87.1	203.7	290.8
Playground equipment	66.1	41.2	107.3	88.3	75.6	163.9	154.4	116.9	271.3
Adjustable hot water thermostat									
Yes	87.6	245.8	333.4	103.4	249.0	352.4	191.1	494.8	685.8
No	36.9	110.2	147.1	50.3	145.6	195.9	87.2	255.8	342.9
Don't know	36.3	126.6	162.9	45.9	172.3	218.2	82.2	298.8	381.1
Resident with first aid training & CPR									
During the last 3 years	60.5	144.5	205.0	76.5	184.5	261.0	137.0	329.0	466.0
3 years or more	47.2	127.9	175.1	62.8	152.8	215.6	110.0	280.8	390.8
Total	107.7	272.5	380.1	139.3	337.3	476.7	247.0	609.8	856.8
Total households	160.8	482.5	643.4	199.7	566.8	766.5	360.5	1 049.4	1 409.9
PROPORTION (%)									
Anti-slip surfaces or strips in bath or shower	31.5	24.3	26.1	29.7	25.0	26.2	30.5	24.7	26.2
Internal or external steps or stairs with guards or gates	71.8	72.7	72.5	70.4	67.6	68.3	71.0	70.0	70.2
Smoke alarm or smoke detector	80.2	70.0	72.6	69.2	65.0	66.1	74.1	67.3	69.1
Frequency of testing									
More than once a month	13.1	9.1	10.1	9.1	7.6	8.0	10.9	8.3	8.9
Monthly to less than 3 monthly	17.5	14.7	15.4	19.5	12.9	14.6	18.6	13.7	15.0
3 monthly to less than 6 monthly	7.9	9.2	8.9	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.6	8.5	8.3
6 monthly to less than yearly	9.2	6.2	7.0	6.6	9.3	8.6	7.8	7.9	7.8
Once a year or less	6.0	5.7	5.8	6.6	6.1	6.2	6.3	5.9	6.0
Never, self testing/electric alarm	8.8	7.9	8.1	7.1	6.6	6.7	7.9	7.2	7.4
Never	14.3	14.7	14.6	10.7	13.0	12.4	12.3	13.8	13.4
Don't know	*3.4	2.4	2.7	*2.1	1.8	1.9	2.7	2.1	2.3
Total	80.2	70.0	72.6	69.2	65.0	66.1	74.1	67.3	69.1
Swimming pool or outdoor spa	25.9	19.4	21.0	22.7	19.4	20.3	24.2	19.4	20.6
Playground equipment	41.1	8.5	16.7	44.2	13.3	21.4	42.8	11.1	19.2
Adjustable hot water thermostat									
Yes	54.5	50.9	51.8	51.8	43.9	46.0	53.0	47.2	48.6
No	22.9	22.8	22.9	25.2	25.7	25.6	24.2	24.4	24.3
Don't know	22.6	26.2	25.3	23.0	30.4	28.5	22.8	28.5	27.0
Resident with first aid training & CPR									
During the last 3 years	37.6	29.9	31.9	38.3	32.6	34.1	38.0	31.4	33.1
3 years or more	29.4	26.5	27.2	31.4	27.0	28.1	30.5	26.8	27.7
Total	66.9	56.5	59.1	69.8	59.5	62.2	68.5	58.1	60.8
Total households	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Young children are aged 4 years or less and are usual residents of the household or visitors who visit once a week or more often.

2

ALL HOUSEHOLDS, Potential safety hazards and features affecting older persons(a)

	Brisbane Major Statistical Region			Balance of Queensland Major Statistical Region			Total Queensland		
	Older persons	No older persons	Total	Older persons	No older persons	Total	Older persons	No older persons	Total
NUMBER ('000)									
Anti-slip surfaces or strips in bath or shower	77.4	90.7	168.1	97.1	104.0	201.1	174.5	194.7	369.2
Internal or external steps or stairs with guards or gates	164.0	302.3	466.4	203.0	320.8	523.8	367.0	623.1	990.2
Smoke alarm or smoke detector	172.2	294.6	466.8	210.9	295.9	506.9	383.2	590.5	973.7
Frequency of testing									
More than once a month	24.8	39.9	64.7	28.1	33.1	61.2	52.9	73.1	125.9
Monthly to less than 3 monthly	35.1	64.1	99.2	49.1	62.8	111.9	84.1	126.9	211.0
3 monthly to less than 6 monthly	24.4	32.8	57.2	25.2	34.1	59.3	49.6	66.9	116.5
6 monthly to less than yearly	18.4	26.5	44.9	25.8	39.9	65.7	44.2	66.4	110.6
Once a year or less	13.7	23.4	37.1	20.8	26.9	47.6	34.5	50.3	84.7
Never, self testing/electric alarm	16.2	36.2	52.4	20.1	31.5	51.6	36.3	67.7	104.0
Never	30.2	64.0	94.2	36.2	58.9	95.1	66.4	122.9	189.2
Don't know	9.5	*7.7	17.2	*5.7	8.8	14.5	15.2	16.5	31.7
Total	172.2	294.6	466.8	210.9	295.9	506.9	383.2	590.5	973.7
Handrails fitted in bathroom or toilet	63.4	n.a.	63.4	74.7	n.a.	74.7	138.1	n.a.	138.1
Floor rugs or mats	157.0	n.a.	157.0	208.1	n.a.	208.1	365.1	n.a.	365.1
Adjustable hot water thermostat									
Yes	117.4	216.0	333.4	140.5	211.9	352.4	257.9	427.9	685.8
No	50.6	96.5	147.1	78.5	117.4	195.9	129.0	213.9	342.9
Don't know	55.8	107.1	162.9	78.8	139.4	218.2	134.6	246.4	381.1
Resident with first aid training & CPR									
During the last 3 years	43.8	161.2	205.0	63.6	197.4	261.0	107.4	358.6	466.0
3 years or more	54.4	120.7	175.1	77.8	137.8	215.6	132.3	258.5	390.8
Total	98.2	281.9	380.1	141.4	335.2	476.7	239.7	617.1	856.8
Total households	223.8	419.5	643.4	297.8	468.7	766.5	521.6	888.3	1 409.9
PROPORTION (%)									
Anti-slip surfaces or strips in bath or shower	34.6	21.6	26.1	32.6	22.2	26.2	33.5	21.9	26.2
Internal or external steps or stairs with guards or gates	73.3	72.1	72.5	68.2	68.4	68.3	70.4	70.1	70.2
Smoke alarm or smoke detector	18.8	16.9	17.6	16.1	17.5	16.9	17.3	17.2	17.2
Smoke alarm or smoke detector	77.0	70.2	72.6	70.8	63.1	66.1	73.5	66.5	69.1
Frequency of testing									
More than once a month	11.1	9.5	10.1	9.4	7.1	8.0	10.1	8.2	8.9
Monthly to less than 3 monthly	15.7	15.3	15.4	16.5	13.4	14.6	16.1	14.3	15.0
3 monthly to less than 6 monthly	10.9	7.8	8.9	8.5	7.3	7.7	9.5	7.5	8.3
6 monthly to less than yearly	8.2	6.3	7.0	8.7	8.5	8.6	8.5	7.5	7.8
Once a year or less	6.1	5.6	5.8	7.0	5.7	6.2	6.6	5.7	6.0
Never, self testing/electric alarm	7.2	8.6	8.1	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.4
Never	13.5	15.3	14.6	12.2	12.6	12.4	12.7	13.8	13.4
Don't know	4.2	*1.8	2.7	*1.9	1.9	1.9	2.9	1.9	2.3
Total	77.0	70.2	72.6	70.8	63.1	66.1	73.5	66.5	69.1
Handrails fitted in bathroom or toilet	28.3	n.a.	9.9	25.1	n.a.	9.7	26.5	n.a.	9.8
Floor rugs or mats	70.1	n.a.	24.4	69.9	n.a.	27.2	70.0	n.a.	25.9
Adjustable hot water thermostat									
Yes	52.5	51.5	51.8	47.2	45.2	46.0	49.5	48.2	48.6
No	22.6	23.0	22.9	26.3	25.1	25.6	24.7	24.1	24.3
Don't know	24.9	25.5	25.3	26.5	29.7	28.5	25.8	27.7	27.0
Resident with first aid training & CPR									
During the last 3 years	19.6	38.4	31.9	21.4	42.1	34.1	20.6	40.4	33.1
3 years or more	24.3	28.8	27.2	26.1	29.4	28.1	25.4	29.1	27.7
Total	43.9	67.2	59.1	47.5	71.5	62.2	45.9	69.5	60.8
Total households	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Older persons are aged 60 years or more and are usual residents of the household or visitors who visit once a week or more often.

3

ALL HOUSEHOLDS, Playground equipment and surfaces beneath equipment

	Number			Proportion		
	Young children(a)	No young children	Total households	Young children(a)	No young children	Total households
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Playground equipment						
Swing	121.6	66.9	188.4	33.7	6.4	13.4
Trampoline	64.1	68.3	132.4	17.8	6.5	9.4
Slide	32.7	11.2	43.9	9.1	1.1	3.1
Climbing equipment	20.0	*7.6	27.6	5.5	*0.7	2.0
Other	18.4	*7.7	26.1	5.1	*0.7	1.9
<i>Total(b)</i>	154.4	116.9	271.3	42.8	11.1	19.2
Surface beneath or around playground equipment(c)						
Grass	133.0	102.9	236.0	36.9	9.8	16.7
Earth, sand, tan bark/mulch	20.4	15.6	36.0	5.7	1.5	2.6
Other	13.1	*5.5	18.7	3.6	*0.5	1.3
Total households	360.5	1 049.4	1 409.9	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Young children are aged 4 years or less and are usual residents of the household or visitors who visit once a week or more often.

(b) Multiple equipment items could be stated, therefore the sum of individual equipment items may exceed total households that possessed playground equipment.

(c) Multiple surfaces below playground equipment could be stated, therefore the sum of individual surface types may exceed total households that possessed playground equipment.

4

ALL HOUSEHOLDS, Characteristics of dwellings with selected safety features, 1996 and 2001

	<i>Smoke alarm/detector</i>		<i>Adjustable thermostat</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001
NUMBER ('000)						
Dwelling type						
Separate house	430.9	811.3	499.0	584.1	1 017.6	1 128.2
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, etc.	17.0	77.4	26.7	52.7	67.1	121.4
Flat/unit/apartment/other	25.7	85.0	50.9	49.1	138.8	160.3
Tenure type						
Owned/being purchased	381.4	679.1	419.1	484.7	825.2	925.4
Rented	85.5	280.0	152.1	193.0	382.3	462.6
Other(a)	6.7	14.6	5.4	*8.1	16.0	21.8
Total	473.6	973.7	576.6	685.8	1 223.5	1 409.9
PROPORTION (%)						
Dwelling type						
Separate house	42.3	71.9	49.0	51.8	100.0	100.0
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, etc.	25.3	63.8	39.8	43.4	100.0	100.0
Flat/unit/apartment/other	18.5	53.0	36.7	30.6	100.0	100.0
Tenure type						
Owned/being purchased	46.2	73.4	50.8	52.4	100.0	100.0
Rented	22.4	60.5	39.8	41.7	100.0	100.0
Other(a)	42.2	67.0	33.6	*36.9	100.0	100.0
Total	38.7	69.1	47.1	48.6	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes some 'don't know' responses.

5

HOUSEHOLDS WITH SWIMMING POOLS, Precautions used to safeguard children from drowning

	<i>Number</i>			<i>Proportion</i>		
	<i>Young children(a)</i>	<i>No young children</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Young children(a)</i>	<i>No young children</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Type of pool						
In-ground pool	50.0	166.4	216.4	57.4	81.7	74.4
Above ground pool	20.6	22.6	43.1	23.6	11.1	14.8
Other type of pool	12.5	*5.7	18.3	14.4	*2.8	6.3
Outdoor spa	*4.0	9.0	13.0	*4.6	4.4	4.5
Precautions(b)						
Child resistant fencing/self locking gate	62.0	176.5	238.4	71.1	86.6	82.0
Ensure children are supervised when using pool	43.4	45.7	89.0	49.8	22.4	30.6
Teaching children to swim	16.6	17.8	34.4	19.1	8.7	11.8
Knowledge of resuscitation techniques	8.9	16.6	25.4	10.2	8.1	8.7
Other	28.4	38.4	66.8	32.6	18.8	23.0
None	—	*4.2	*4.2	—	*2.1	*1.4
Total households with swimming pools	87.1	203.7	290.8	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Young children are aged 4 years or less and are usual residents of the household or visitors who visit once a week or more often.

(b) Multiple precautions could be stated, therefore the sum of individual precautions may exceed total households with pools.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication summarises the results of a survey on Safety in the Home. It was conducted throughout Queensland during October 2001, as a supplement to the Australia-wide Monthly Population Survey (MPS). More details are available in *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

MONTHLY POPULATION SURVEY

2 The MPS is based on a multistage sample of private and non-private dwellings. Private dwellings include houses, flats, home units, tents, and any other structures used as private residences at the time of the survey. Non-private dwellings include hotels, caravan parks, hospitals, etc.

3 The sample covers about two-thirds of 1% of the civilian population of Australia and includes about one-half of 1% of Queensland's population. Information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by personal or telephone interviews.

4 The MPS comprises the Labour Force Survey and for most months of the year, an additional supplementary topic. The main emphasis is on the regular collection of specific data on demographic and labour force characteristics of the population and for this reason, this component is usually referred to as the Labour Force Survey. Supplementary surveys are carried out on a wide variety of topics.

5 All persons aged 15 years and over are included in the Labour Force Survey except:

- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas visitors holidaying in Australia;
- members of the permanent defence forces; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY DESIGN

6 The supplementary survey was conducted using the sample of houses, flats and home units in the private dwelling sample in Queensland that were included in the MPS. This provided a sample of approximately 4,700 dwellings where a full response was obtained. Non-private dwellings and private dwellings which were caravans, tents, cabins, houseboats, improvised homes and campers-out were excluded from the supplementary survey. The ARA (any responsible adult) method was used to collect survey information by either personal or telephone interview from an adult in the household who is a usual resident and aged 15 years or over.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

7 Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

8 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

9 Other publications which may be of interest include:

- *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0)
- *Survey of Safety in the Home, Queensland, October 1996* (Cat. no. 4387.3)
- *Fall Risk Factors for Persons Aged 65 Years and Over, New South Wales, October 1995* (Cat. no. 4393.1)
- *Home Safety Devices, Western Australia, October 1996* (Cat. no. 4387.5)
- *Household Safety, Sydney, October 1998* (Cat. no. 4387.1)
- *Household Safety, Sydney, November 1992* (Cat. no. 4387.1)
- *Safety in the Home, Victoria, October 1998* (Cat. no. 4387.2)
- *Safety in the Home, Melbourne, November 1992* (Cat. no. 4387.2)

PREVIOUS STATE SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

10 Previous Queensland State Supplementary Survey publications have included:

- *Population Mobility, Queensland, October 2000* (Cat. no. 3237.3)
- *Working Hours of Wage and Salary Earners, Queensland, October 1999* (Cat. no. 6344.3)
- *Persons Aged Fifty Years and Over, Queensland, October 1998* (Cat. no. 4139.3)
- *Travel to and from Work and Place of Study, Brisbane and Moreton Statistical Divisions, Queensland, October 1997* (Cat. no. 9201.3)
- *Survey of Safety in the Home, Queensland, October 1996* (Cat. no. 4387.3)
- *Knowledge and Use of the Queensland Government Seniors Card, October 1995* (Cat. no. 8178.3)
- *Overseas and Interstate Visitors to Queensland Households and Interstate Trips by Queenslanders, October 1994* (Cat. no. 8633.3)
- *Participation in Sporting and Physical Recreational Activities, Queensland, October 1993* (Cat. no. 4110.3)
- *Housing Intentions, Preferences and Attitudes, Queensland, October 1991* (Cat. no. 8710.3)
- *Consumer Credit, Queensland, October 1990* (Cat. no. 5670.3).

ADDITIONAL DATA

11 Additional data for this current survey (Safety in the Home, Queensland, October 2001) is available subject to confidentiality and data quality restrictions.

12 The data are available on a fee-for-service basis. For further information about this service, please contact Adrian Seabrook ABS Queensland State and Territory Statistical Services on 07 3222 6218.

**APPENDIX: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, DISSEMINATION REGIONS —
EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 2001**

BRISBANE MAJOR STATISTICAL REGION

Brisbane City Inner Ring

Brisbane (C)†

Brisbane City Outer Ring

Brisbane (C)†

North and West BSD Balance

Caboolture (S)††

Ipswich (C)††

Pine Rivers (S)

Redcliffe (C)

South and East BSD Balance

Beaudesert (S)††

Gold Coast (C)††

Logan (C)

Redland (S)

**BALANCE OF QUEENSLAND MAJOR
STATISTICAL REGION**

North and West Moreton

Boonah (S)

Caboolture (S)††

Caloundra (C)

Esk (S)

Gatton (S)

Ipswich (C)††

Kilcoy (S)

Laidley (S)

Maroochy (S)

Noosa (S)

South and East Moreton

Beaudesert (S)††

Gold Coast (C)††

Wide Bay-Burnett

Biggenden (S)

Bundaberg (C)

Burnett (S)

Cooloola (S)

Eidsvold (S)

Gayndah (S)

Hervey Bay (C)

Isis (S)

Kilkivan (S)

Kingaroy (S)

Kolan (S)

Maryborough (C)

Miriam Vale (S)

Monto (S)

Mundubbera (S)

Murgon (S)

Nanango (S)

Perry (S)

Tiaro (S)

Wondai (S)

Woocoo (S)

Darling Downs-South West

Balonne (S)

Bendemere (S)

Booringa (S)

Bulloo (S)

Bungil (S)

Cambooya (S)

Chinchilla (S)

Clifton (S)

Crow's Nest (S)

Dalby (T)

Goondiwindi (T)

Inglewood (S)

Jondaryan (S)

Millmerra (S)

Cloncurry (S)

Murweh (S)

Paroo (S)

Pittsworth (S)

Quilpie (S)

Roma (T)

Rosalie (S)

Stanthorpe (S)

Tara (S)

Taroom (S)

Toowoomba (C)

Waggamba (S)

Wambo (S)

Warroo (S)

Warwick (S)

Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West

Armac (S)
Banana (S)
Barcaldine (S)
Barcoo (S)
Bauhinia (S)
Belyando (S)
Blackall (S)
Boulia (S)
Bowen (S)
Broadsound (S)
Calliope (S)
Diamantina (S)
Duaringa (S)
Emerald (S)
Fitzroy (S)
Gladstone (C)
Ilfracombe (S)
Isisford (S)
Jericho (S)
Livingstone (S)
Longreach (S)
Mackay (C)
Mirani (S)
Mount Morgan (S)
Nebo (S)
Peak Downs (S)
Rockhampton (C)
Sarina (S)
Tambo (S)
Whitsunday (S)
Winton (S)

Northern-North West

Burdekin (S)
Burke (S)
Carpentaria (S)
Charters Towers (C)
Murilla (S)
Dalrymple (S)
Flinders (S)
Hinchinbrook (S)
McKinlay (S)
Mornington (S)
Mount Isa (C)
Richmond (S)
Thuringowa (C)
Townsville (C)

Far North

Atherton (S)
Aurukun (S)
Cairns (C)
Cardwell (S)
Cook (S)
Croydon (S)
Douglas (S)
Eacham (S)
Etheridge (S)
Herberton (S)
Johnstone (S)
Mareeba (S)
Torres (S)

† LGA is split across the Statistical Regions of Brisbane City Inner Ring and Brisbane City Outer Ring.

†† LGA is split across the Major Statistical Regions of Brisbane and Balance of Queensland.

(C) City
(S) Shire
(T) Town

TECHNICAL NOTES

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

1 The figures contained in this publication are estimates based on a sample of approximately 4,700 fully responding private dwellings in Queensland in October 2001 and may be subject to two types of error: sampling and non-sampling error.

SAMPLING ERROR

2 This is the difference which would be expected between the estimate and the corresponding figure that would have been obtained from a survey of the whole population, using the same questionnaires and procedures.

NON-SAMPLING ERROR

3 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing of the data. These errors can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or a complete enumeration. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

4 One measure of the likely difference which would be expected between the estimate based on a sample and the figure that would have been obtained from a complete collection, is the standard error (SE). There are about two chances in three (67%) that the sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure which would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey. There are about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

5 A standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate is known as the 'relative standard error' (RSE). For example, if an estimate of 50,000 persons (from table T1) has a standard error of 4,500 then the estimate has a relative standard error of $4,500/50,000 \times 100 = 9.0\%$. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

6 Table T1 gives approximate SEs for this survey, for general application to estimates of number of households. These figures will not give a precise measure of the SE of a particular estimate, but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

7 The size of the SE increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate, the larger the SE is. However, it should be noted that the larger the sampling estimate, the smaller the SE will be in percentage terms (RSE). Thus, estimates derived from a larger sample will be relatively more reliable than estimates derived from a smaller sample.

8 Estimates derived from very small sample sizes are subject to such high RSEs as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Only estimates with an RSE less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. In this survey, estimates between 8,480 and 2,442 have a RSE between 25% and 50% and have been indicated with the symbol *. Estimates with a RSE greater than 50% have been indicated with the symbol **.

9 The following is an example of the calculation and use of standard errors from table 1. An estimated 110,000 households with young children in Queensland reported having anti-slip surfaces. Using the table of standard errors, this estimate of 110,000 (X_e) is between 100,000 (X_l) and 150,000 (X_u) and so has a SE between 6,050 and 7,100. Using linear interpolation, the estimate has a SE of about 6,260.

10 This standard error of the estimate was determined as follows:

Firstly calculate the interpolation fraction

$$F = \frac{(x_e - x_l)}{(x_u - x_l)} = \frac{(110,000 - 100,000)}{(150,000 - 100,000)} = 0.2$$

Secondly, use this result in the calculation of the standard error $SE(X_e)$

$$SE(X_e) = SE(X_l) + F[SE(X_u) - SE(X_l)] \\ = 6,050 + 0.2[7,100 - 6,050] = 6,260 \text{ (approximately 6,300)}$$

11 Thus the figure of 110,000 from table 1 means there are about 2 chances in 3 (66.7%) that the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey lies between (110,000 - 6,300) and (110,000 + 6,300) i.e. in the range 103,700 to 116,300. There are about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the number lies between (110,000 - 2 x 6,300) and (110,000 + 2 x 6,300) i.e. in the range 97,400 to 122,600.

12 Particular care should be taken when comparing figures. It is not correct to assume that an apparent difference between figures is actually significant. Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates ($x-y$) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x - y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

13 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics of sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

14 Percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates of the same type (such as proportions) are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator (x) and the denominator (y). The formula for the RSE of a percentage is given below.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

T1 SAFETY IN THE HOME, QUEENSLAND, OCTOBER 2001 STANDARD ERRORS

Size of estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error
%	no.	%
1 000	810	81.4
1 500	980	65.3
2 000	1 120	55.8
2 500	1 250	49.4
3 000	1 350	44.6
3 500	1 450	41.0
4 000	1 500	38.1
5 000	1 700	33.6
7 000	1 950	27.8
10 000	2 300	22.8
15 000	2 700	18.1
20 000	3 050	15.4
30 000	3 650	12.2
40 000	4 100	10.3
50 000	4 500	9.0
100 000	6 050	6.0
150 000	7 100	4.7
200 000	8 000	4.0
300 000	9 400	3.1
500 000	11 500	2.3
1 000 000	15 100	1.5
2 000 000	19 700	1.0
5 000 000	27 750	0.6
10 000 000	35 750	0.4

T2 SAFETY IN THE HOME, QUEENSLAND, OCTOBER 1996 STANDARD ERRORS

Size of estimate	Standard error	Relative standard error
no.	no.	%
1 000	410	41.0
1 500	510	34.1
2 000	600	29.8
2 500	650	26.8
3 000	750	24.5
3 500	800	22.8
4 000	850	21.3
5 000	950	19.1
7 000	1 150	16.1
10 000	1 350	13.4
15 000	1 650	10.9
20 000	1 850	9.3
30 000	2 250	7.5
40 000	2 550	6.4
50 000	2 800	5.6
100 000	3 800	3.8
150 000	4 500	3.0
200 000	5 050	2.5
300 000	5 900	2.0
500 000	7 150	1.4
1 000 000	9 200	0.9
2 000 000	11 650	0.6
5 000 000	15 650	0.3

A more detailed explanation of standard errors can be found in the technical notes of *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

GLOSSARY

Adjustable thermostat	A temperature controlling device fitted to a hot water system which can be used to adjust or regulate the temperature of the water provided by the hot water system.
Anti-slip surfaces	Any type of special surface in a bath or shower which will prevent slipping including non-slip rubber mats.
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	A resuscitation technique that combines expired air resuscitation with external cardiac compression (heart massage). Also known as CPR.
Child resistant gate/s	Self-closing and self-latching gate/s attached to fence around the pool.
First aid training	At least one resident in the household had undertaken first aid training.
Home safety features	Includes stairguards, smoke detectors, self-closing and self-latching gate/s attached to fences around swimming pools, adjustable hot water thermostat, hand rails, and first aid training (which included cardiopulmonary resuscitation).
Home safety hazards	Includes swimming pools, playground equipment, surface beneath playground equipment, steps or stairs and floor rugs.
Household	A group of people who live together (in a single dwelling) as a single unit in the sense that they have common housekeeping arrangements, such as common provision for food and other essentials of living.
Major Statistical Region (MSR)	Brisbane MSR equates with Brisbane Statistical Division while Balance of Queensland MSR equates with the balance of Statistical Divisions in Queensland. Further information may be obtained from <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2001</i> (Cat. no. 1216.0).
Older persons	Households with at least one usual resident aged 60 years or over or which had at least one older person visit at least once a week, in the four weeks prior to the survey.
Private dwellings	Includes houses and flats and excludes caravans, tents, cabins, houseboats, improvised homes and campers-out in the private dwelling sample.
Smoke alarm/detector	A smoke alarm/detector is any device which is installed, usually in a fixed location, to detect the presence of smoke, and which will provide some audible indication when smoke is detected.
Stairguards or gates	Includes gates at the top or bottom of the steps or stairs.
Steps or stairs	Includes one or more steps inside the home or attached to the outside of the home. Excludes garden steps.
Swimming pool	Any pool or outdoor spa excluding fish ponds or indoor ponds/spas.

Young children Households with at least one usual resident aged four years or less or which had at least one young child visit at least once a week, in the four weeks prior to the survey.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
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