National Coronial Information System

NCIS

What is the NCIS?

The best source of mortality data you've never heard about...

- History
- Coronial death data
- What we do
- Collection, quality and access
- Research
- Outcomes

What is the NCIS?

The world's first national database of information on deaths reported to a coroner

- Prior to 2000, mostly paper-based
- Established to enable coroners to share information across jurisdictions
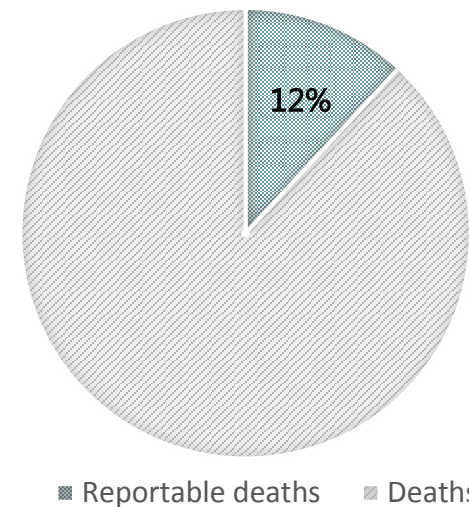- Grown to be an evidence base for research into preventable death

Coronial data

Coroners identify lessons learned that can help prevent similar deaths

Reportable deaths are:

- unexpected or unexplained
- result of accident or injury
- healthcare related
- occurred in care or custody
- identity is unknown

160,000 deaths in Australia in 2017

NCIS holds data on 12% of annual deaths

12%

Reportable deaths   Deaths

NCIS data set

Data collected:

- Demographic details of the deceased
- Contextual details on the circumstances
- Cause and manner of death
- Searchable medico-legal reports

390k cases

20k new cases a year

What we do

The NCIS team of 10 staff:

- **Collect** comprehensive coronial data
- **Quality** assure and manage data
- **Develop** coding standards
- **Manage** access
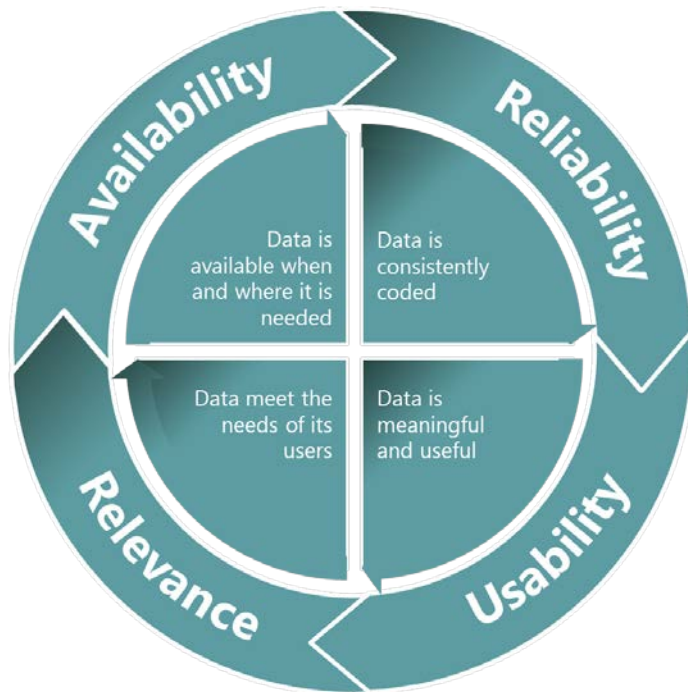- **Provide** high-quality statistics

Quality

Access

Research

Quality

Quality assurance framework

Availability — Data is available when and where it is needed

Reliability — Data is consistently coded

Relevance — Data meet the needs of its users

Usability — Data is meaningful and useful

NCIS role

Quality review

- Manage data quality
- Review closed cases
- Restrict editing

Coding structure

- Administer classification structure
- NCIS Data Dictionary
- Monitor global classifications

Coder training and feedback

- Deliver training and support
- Coding Manual
- Online training modules
- Collaborate with coders

Access

Death investigators

Who

Individuals with responsibilities to assist in coronial investigation such as Coroners, Registrars, Court Staff, Police

Approval

Must be provided by the jurisdictional Coroner

Access

Identifying access to their jurisdiction's data in addition to level 1 access rights to other states

Third party researchers

Who

Researchers with an ethically approved research project

Approval

Required to enter into an Access Agreement that governs the use of NCIS data

Access

Provided with one of two types of access:

- **Level 1:** Access to all data related to closed cases – including case reports where available – and non-identifying access to open cases

- **Level 2:** Access to non-identifying data for closed cases only

Access

Application process

NCIS initial review

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Finalise application

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NCIS Research Committee review

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Justice Human Research Ethics Committee review

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Prepare agreement

NCIS role

Governance

- Agreement drafting and management
- New Zealand application management
- Publication review

Security and user management

- User set-up and support
- Training services
- Usage auditing

Services

- Data on provision
- Data extraction

Research

Research objectives

Utilise and showcase the unique data collected in the NCIS

Enhance organisations' capacity to pursue death and injury prevention

Increase public understanding and awareness of mortality risks

Activity streams

Reporting services

Reports provided based on agreements and requests from external parties

Publications

Research generated by the NCIS and its users

Tools

Tools that provide online open access to data

Research

Reporting services

Department of Health mortality reports

Three reports covering injury, drug-related and intentional self-harm mortality data provided to the Commonwealth Department of Health.

This is an annual service.

Coronial reports

Statistical reports prepared at the request of coroners and their staff to assist in death investigation.

Data reports

De-identified, statistical reports prepared at the request of organisations with a bona fide interest in death and injury prevention.

Request a data report

Publications

Fact sheets

Publicly available documents about certain categories of death produced in response to community interest and safety concerns. Fact sheets contain de-identified, statistical information outlining mortality trends, raising awareness of mortality risks and informing death and injury prevention strategies. Outcomes will include both new fact sheets and updates to existing fact sheets.

View NCIS fact sheets

External reports and publications

NCIS data is provided to experts who investigate mortality and develop death and injury prevention strategies.

Authorised access to NCIS data is provided for ethically approved research projects by external organisations.

Explore external annual reports and research publications

Tools

Fatal Facts Search tool

An electronic database containing case summaries and coronial recommendations from closed cases. The tool can be searched by category and is intended as a way to share information about the outcomes of coronial investigations.

The database is updated with new case summaries and coronial recommendations regularly.

Explore Fatal Facts Search

Data visualisation tools

NCIS database access is available to approved users however others may have a genuine interest or need for data. Data visualisation tools will allow other users access to controlled data sets via the website. This may include access to statistical data about the NCIS database and approved coronial data.

Outcomes

NCIS data is used to support health policy development and death prevention initiatives

- Blind or curtain cords

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- Working safely under vehicles

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- Self-extinguishing cigarettes

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- Real-time prescription monitoring

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- Working safely under vehicles
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- Real-time prescription monitoring
- Helium gas aversion

This is how we achieve our vision:

Saving lives through the power of data

Thank you

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NCIS