
10A Emergency management — attachment

Definitions for the descriptors and indicators in this attachment are in section 10A.4. Unsourced information was obtained from Commonwealth, State or Territory governments. Australian national average data were calculated as the weighted averages of State and Territory data.

The data contained in this attachment may be subject to revision. The web page version of the Report contains the most up-to-date data where changes have occurred. This attachment can be found at www.pc.gov.au/service/gsp/2000/attach10A.pdf. Users without Internet access can contact the Secretariat (details inside front cover of the Report).

10A.1 All jurisdictions' data — fire services

Descriptors

Table 10A.1 Reported fires and other primary incidents, 1998-99 (number)

	<i>NSW^a</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld^b</i>	<i>WA^b</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT^c</i>	<i>NT^d</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fires	30 184	20 511	10 952	10 790	6 010	2 867	1 415	2 387	85 116
Alarm notification not involving fire	40 052	12 954	13 894	6 540	4 857	1 122	na	2 590	82 009 ^e
False reports	17 224	12 632	9 546	1 941	1 995	2 670	na	61	46 069 ^e
Other incidents	24 130	14 106	9 645	2 216	5 777	1 388	na	702	57 964 ^e
Total reports	111 590	60 203	44 037	21 487	18 639	8 047	9 410	5 740	279 153

^a Excludes Rural Fire Service data, but includes NSW Fire Brigades responses to calls outside their designated fire districts. ^b Excludes rural fire service. ^c Reported fires include both the ACT Bushfire Service and the ACT Fire Brigade. Other incidents and false reports include the ACT Fire Brigade only. ^d Data have been extrapolated because industrial bans occurred. ^e Excludes the NT Bush Fires Council. ^e Excludes ACT data. **na** Not available.

Table 10A.2 Source of funding for fire services, 1998-99^a

	<i>State govt</i>	<i>Local govt</i>	<i>Levies in insurance companies</i>	<i>Levies on property owners</i>	<i>User charges</i>	<i>Other^b</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Value</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	\$m
NSW								
– NSW Fire Brigades	14	12	74	0	0	0	100	298
– Rural Fire Service	14	12	74	0	0	0	100	70
Victoria ^c								
– MFESB	10	10	64	0	1	14	100	151
– Country Fire Authority	21	0	69	0	3	6	100	114
Queensland								
– Fire & Rescue Authority	21	0	0	74	4	1	100	195
WA								
– Fire and Rescue Service (Permanent)	13	13	75	0	0	0	100	65
– Fire and Rescue Service (Volunteers)	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	7
– Bush Fire Service ^d	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	8
SA								
– Metropolitan Fire Service	13	13	75	0	0	0	100	55
– Country Fire Service ^e	48	0	49	0	0	3	100	27
Tasmania								
– Fire Service	6	0	20	53	18	3	100	34
ACT								
– Emergency Services Bureau ^f	77	0	0	0	21	2	100	33
NT								
– Fire and Rescue Service	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	17
– Bush Fires Council	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	3

^a Totals may not sum to 100 per cent as a result of rounding. ^b Includes fundraising and donations. ^c The proportions of principal funding contributions from State government, local governments and insurance companies are established in legislation. The actual proportions received may vary as a result of the level of income from user charges and other income sources. ^d Excludes bush fire brigades that are the responsibility of local government. ^e Other income includes \$1 million received from AUSAID for reimbursement of costs of the Indonesian Fire Suppression Exercise. ^f Includes funding sources for four response agencies: the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service.

Effectiveness

Outcomes

Table 10A.3 Fire death rate (per 100 000 persons)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Avg
1997-98 ^a	0.80	0.65	0.50	0.60	0.40	1.10	0.30	0.50	0.65
1998-99 ^b	1.14	0.54	0.49	0.33	0.87	2.75	0.00	0.53	0.78

^a Validated by State Coroners for NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT. ^b Validated by State Coroners for NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and the NT.

Table 10A.4 Fire injury rate (per 100 000 persons)^a

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Avg
1996-97	10.3	7.2	15.9	17.4	13.8	11.4	5.5	23.5	11.6
1997-98	11.1	7.9	9.6	19.6	12.2	8.1	3.2	33.2	11.0

^a Includes admitted patients to public and private hospitals. Excludes emergency department non-admitted casualties.

Sources: AIHW (1998, 1999).

Table 10A.5 Median dollar loss from structural fires (in 1998-99 dollars)^a

	NSW ^b	Vic	Qld ^c	WA ^c	SA ^d	Tas ^e	ACT ^f	NT	Avg
1997-98	4 056	2 028	2 028	2 028	na	5 070	5 070	na	2 924
1998-99 ^g	2 000	1 000	1 000	2 000	3 000	2 200	2 000	1 500	1 646

^a Estimates have not been validated by the insurance industry, or adjusted for interstate valuation differences. ^b 1997-98 data includes both NSW Fire Brigades and the Rural Fire Service. 1998-99 data excludes Rural Fire Service data, but includes responses to calls outside NSW Fire Brigades designated fire districts. ^c Excludes rural fire brigades. ^d 1997-98 data for the SA Metropolitan Fire Service and the SA Country Fire Service could not be combined. ^e Includes the whole State. ^f Includes the whole Territory. There is an inconsistency in the data reported for 1997-98. Industrial bans mean 1998-99 figures are based on extrapolated results for 1998-99. ^g For 1998-99, rates have been adjusted for the population coverage of fire agencies. **na** Not available.

Table 10A.6 Total property loss from structural fires (in 1998-99 dollars per person)^a

	NSW ^b	Vic	Qld ^c	WA ^c	SA	Tas ^d	ACT ^e	NT	Avg
1997-98	27	19	14	19	15	49	10	na	21
1998-99 ^h	27	22	16	19	14	40	21	9	22

^a Estimates have not been validated by the insurance industry, or adjusted for interstate valuation differences. 1997-98 data are not available. ^b 1997-98 data includes both NSW Fire Brigades and the Rural Fire Service. 1998-99 data excludes rural fire service data, but includes responses to calls outside NSW Fire Brigades designated fire districts. ^c Excludes rural fire brigades. ^d Includes the whole State. ^e Includes the whole Territory. Industrial bans mean 1998-99 figures are based on extrapolated results. ^h For 1998-99, rates have been adjusted for the population coverage of fire agencies. **na** Not available.

Table 10A.7 Total fire incidents (per 100 000 persons)^a

	NSW ^b	Vic	Qld ^c	WA ^d	SA	Tas	ACT ^e	NT	Avg
1997-98	751	447	382	627	597	971	570	1 083	587
1998-99	529	440	352	601	404	608	459	1 256	480

^a Population figures used to calculate the rates have been adjusted to represent population coverage by fire agencies. ^b 1997-98 data includes both NSW Fire Brigades and the Rural Fire Service. 1998-99 data excludes rural fire service data, but includes responses to calls outside NSW Fire Brigades designated fire districts. ^c Excludes rural fire service data. ^d Excludes rural fire service data. ^e Includes the whole Territory. Industrial bans mean 1998-99 figures are based on extrapolated results.

Prevention

Table 10A.8 Households with at least one fire safety measure, May 1998 to August 1999^{a, b}

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Estimated households with measure	'000	3 785	3 197	2 128	1 099	1 051	333	194	77	11 868
Per cent	%	81.6	92.7	85.8	81.0	91.2	91.1	88.6	80.4	86.3
Standard error	%	±1.0	±1.6	±1.4	±1.7	±1.5	±1.7	±1.8	±3.2	±0.9
Total households	'000	4 637	3 448	2 481	1 357	1 153	366	219	96	13 760

^a Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size (see section 10A.3). ^b The total number of households with at least one fire safety measure is smaller than the sum of the individual components (table 10A.9) because a number of households have more than one fire safety measure installed or followed.

Source: ABS (1999).

Table 10A.9 Households with a fire safety measure, by fire safety measure installed or followed, May 1998 to August 1999^{a, b}

Fire safety measure	Estimate ('000)	Standard error (%)	Per cent
Smoke alarm/smoke detector	8 914.2	±0.9	64.8
Fire sprinkler system	143.6	±0.9	1.0
Safety switch/circuit breaker	6 954.3	±0.9	50.5
Fire extinguisher	3 335.4	±0.9	24.2
Fire blanket	1 190.5	±0.9	8.7
Fire evacuation plan	1 978.6	±0.9	14.4
External water supply	1 426.9	±0.9	10.4
Removal of external fuel sources	2 332.2	±0.9	16.9
External sprinkler	2 025.5	±0.9	14.7
Other fire safety measure	134.2	±0.9	1.0
Total households	13 760.0		100.0

^a Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size (see section 10A.3). ^b The total number of households with at least one fire safety measure (table 10A.8) is smaller than the sum of the individual components because a number of households have more than one fire safety measure installed or followed.

Source: ABS (1999).

Preparedness

Table 10A.10 **Households with an operational smoke alarm or smoke detector installed, May 1998 to August 1999^a**

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Estimated households with smoke alarm/detector	'000	2 658	3 006	1 267	625	888	287	151	33	8 914
Per cent	%	57.3	87.2	51.1	46.1	77.0	78.6	68.9	34.0	64.8
Standard error	%	±1.8	±1.6	±1.7	±2.6	±1.7	±1.7	±1.8	±7.5	±0.9
Total households	'000	4 637	3 448	2 481	1 357	1 153	366	219	96	13 760

^a Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size (see section 10A.3).

Source: ABS (1999).

Response

Table 10A.11 **Response times (minutes)^a**

	NSW ^b	Vic ^c	Qld ^d	WA ^d	SA ^e	Tas ^f	ACT ^g	NT
50th percentile (minutes)								
1997-98	6.0	5.7	7.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	6.5	6.4
1998-99	7.6	5.1	6.0	7.0	5.6	7.8	7.0	6.2
90th percentile (minutes)								
1997-98	11.0	10.1	16.0	13.0	8.0	19.0	11.7	9.0
1998-99	15.2	7.4	13.0	13.0	9.6	16.2	12.0	14.0

^a Definitions of response times may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Also some agencies use a manual system to calculate response time figures while other services retrieve the data from computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems. ^b Excludes rural fire service data, but includes responses to calls outside NSW Fire Brigades designated Fire Districts. ^c The Country Fire Authority records response time from the time the brigade receives an emergency call. ^d Excludes rural fire brigades. ^e Excludes rural fire service. ^f Includes the whole State. ^g Relevant to urban fires only. Due to industrial bans 1998-99 figures based on extrapolated results.

Table 10A.12 **Proportion of structural fires contained to the object or room of origin (per cent)**

	NSW ^a	Vic ^b	Qld ^c	WA ^c	SA ^d	Tas ^e	ACT ^f	NT ^g	Avg
1997-98	73.0	87.6	64.7	77.9	42.7	72.0	76.2	na	73.2
1998-99	76.9	87.0	66.0	78.3	82.2	55.0	66.6	40.0	76.4

^a 1997-98 data includes both NSW Fire Brigades and the Rural Fire Service. 1998-99 data excludes rural fire service data, but includes responses to calls outside NSW Fire Brigades designated fire districts. ^b Excludes the Country Fire Authority. ^c Excludes rural fire brigades. ^d Excludes rural fire service. ^e Includes the whole Territory. 1997-98 data includes ACT Fire Brigade only and excludes ACT Bush Fire Service. As a result of industrial bans, 1998-99 data are based on extrapolated results. ^g 1997-98 data were not available. **na** Not available.

Efficiency

Table 10A.13 Fire expenditure^{a, b}

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT^c</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1997-98									
Total (\$ million)	343	259	178	76	71	35	31	19	1 012
Population (m)	6.272	4.605	3.39	1.797	1.479	0.473	0.308	0.186	18.521
\$ per person	54	56	52	42	47	74	99	99	55
1998-99									
Total (\$ million)	369	265	195	80	82	34	33	20	1 078
Population (m) ^d	5.707	4.660	3.110	1.794	1.487	0.471	0.308	0.189	17.731
\$ per person	65	57	63	45	55	72	106	105	61

^a Totals may not add as a result of rounding. ^b Expenditure data have been approximated using revenue data. ^c Total expenditure includes expenditure for all four response agencies: the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service. ^d Population figures used to calculate the 1998-99 data have been adjusted to represent population coverage by fire agencies.

10A.2 All jurisdictions' data — ambulance services

Descriptors

Table 10A.14 Reported ambulance incidents, 1998-99 (per cent)^a

	<i>NSW^b</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Patients transported									
Emergency stretcher ambulance	42	47	44	55	55	58	55	23	46
Non-emergency stretcher ambulance	33	27	44	43	29	21	17	38	34
Clinic/non-stretcher patients	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	21	2
Air ambulance	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Total patients transported	75	82	89	98	84	80	74	82	82
Patients treated, not transported									
Emergency stretcher ambulance	11	9	4	0	11	15	14	0	8
Non-emergency stretcher ambulance	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Clinic/non-stretcher patients	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air ambulance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public events	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Total patients treated, not transported	12	9	5	0	12	17	15	0	9
Ambulance not required									
Total incidents when ambulance was not required	13	9	5	1	4	3	10	18	9
Total cases ('000)	709	415	432	124	147	41	18	21	1 909

^a Totals may not add as a result of rounding. ^b Clinic and non-stretcher patients were not reported separately in NSW.

Table 10A.15 **Source of funds for ambulance services, 1998-99 (per cent)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic^a</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT^b</i>	<i>NT</i>
Transport fees								
– from government hospitals	14	9	8	3	11	4	na	8
– from private citizens	5	10	6	46	0	0	na	9
– from insurance	0	5	1	3	1	6	na	2
– other	5	2	1	2	24	9	na	0
- total	24	20	16	55	36	19	na	17
Subscriptions/levies	0	25	30	1	21	0	na	5
Government contributions	72	52	47	26	39	81	na	51
Other	4	3	7	19	4	0	na	27
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	na	100
Total (\$ million)	234	188	170	45	58	14	na	9

^a Excludes Ambulance Officers Training Centre. ^b The source of funds for the ACT Ambulance Service were included in the ACT Emergency Services Bureau data in table 10A.2 and could not be provided separately. Total source of funds in table 10A.2 included funds for all four response agencies under the Emergency Services Bureau: the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service. **na** Not available.

Effectiveness

Response

Table 10A.16 **Response times (minutes)**

	<i>NSW^a</i>	<i>Vic^b</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA^c</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>
<i>50th percentile</i>								
1997-98	10	9	8	8	7	10	7	8
1998-99	10	9	9	8	7	10	6	na
<i>90th percentile</i>								
1997-98	17	14	16	15	13	22	11	15
1998-99	18	14	17	14	13	22	11	na

^a The introduction of communications and dispatching (CAD) systems in some parts of NSW have resulted in 1998-99 response times being recorded from the time a call is first answered rather than from when a call is completed. ^b Includes Metropolitan Ambulance Service only. The Metropolitan Ambulance Service covers highly populated rural and semi-rural areas. ^c Excludes rural ambulance services. **na** Not available.

Table 10A.17 Satisfaction with ambulance services, May 1998 to August 1999 (per cent)^a

	<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</i>
Persons aged over 18 years who had used an ambulance service in the last 12 months									
Very satisfied	68.9	72.2	73.3	72.4	75.7	78.5	70.4	63.0	71.7
Satisfied	21.1	16.1	21.1	17.8	18.7	14.5	24.2	21.6	19.2
Neither very satisfied nor satisfied	10.0	11.7	5.6	9.7	5.7	7.0	5.4	15.4	9.1
Total persons ('000)	839.6	652.5	508.1	164.6	179.4	58.4	31.6	12.7	2 447.0
Persons aged over 18 years who had not used an ambulance service in the last 12 months									
Very satisfied	33.3	23.0	43.2	38.2	35.5	33.8	30.4	29.1	33.1
Satisfied	37.6	37.7	36.6	37.0	35.1	37.1	35.6	44.9	37.2
Neither very satisfied nor satisfied	29.1	39.3	20.2	24.7	29.4	29.1	34.0	25.9	29.7
Total persons ('000)	6 229.9	4 496.2	3 283.4	1 776.7	1 401.5	458.1	302.0	136.2	18 080.0

^a Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size (see section 10A.3).

Source: ABS (1999).

Efficiency

Table 10A.18 Ambulance expenditure, 1997-98 to 1998-99

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld^a</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas^b</i>	<i>ACT^c</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
1997-98									
Total (\$ million)	228	166	160	45	50	13	na	8	670 ^d
Population (m)	6.272	4.605	3.39	1.797	1.479	0.473	0.308	0.186	18.521
\$ per person	36	36	47	25	34	27	na	43	36 ^d
1998-99									
Total (\$ million)	234	188	170	45	58	14	na	9	718 ^d
Population (m)	6.342	4.660	3.456	1.831	1.487	0.471	0.308	0.189	18.747
\$ per person	37	40	49	25	39	30	na	48	38 ^d

^a Expenditure data provided on an accrual basis and include expenditure on administration of the Subscription Scheme, first aid and clinic transports. A full accrual breakdown of expenditure of emergency services was not available. ^b Expenditure data were provided on a full accrual basis and do not include expenditure on administration of the ambulance subscription scheme, hospital based transport services, independent ambulance services, first aid training or clinic transport services. ^c The expenditure for ACT Ambulance Service was included in the ACT Emergency Services Bureau data in table 10A.13 and could not be provided separately. Total expenditure in table 10A.13 included expenditure for all four response agencies under the Emergency Services Bureau. ^d Excludes ACT. ^{na} Not available.

Table 10A.19 Treatment of assets by emergency management agencies

		NSW	Vic	Qld ^a	WA	SA	Tas ^b	ACT ^c	NT ^d
Revaluation method ^e	Land	Deprival or market	Deprival or market	Deprival	Market	na	Deprival	Market	na
	Buildings	DRC	Deprival or market	Deprival	Market	na	Deprival	Market	na
	Other assets	DRC	Deprival or market	Deprival	..	na	na	Deprival	na
Frequency of revaluations	Land, buildings	every 5 yrs	1-5 yrs	every 5 yrs	every 3 yrs	every 3 yrs	na	every 5 yrs	na
	Other assets	every 5 yrs	1-5 yrs	every 5 yrs	every 3 yrs	every 3 yrs	na	na	na
Useful asset lives ^{f, g}	Buildings	30–40 yrs	12–66 yrs	25–80 yrs	40–50 yrs	20–30 yrs	33–100 yrs	30–40 yrs	40 yrs
	Specialist equip.	9–20 yrs	2–50 yrs	2–20 yrs	4–25 yrs	1–20 yrs	5–16 yrs	10 yrs	5-10 yrs
	IT equip.	3–5 yrs	3-5 yrs	3–5 yrs	2–20 yrs	9–20 yrs	4–25 yrs	4 yrs	na
	Other vehicles	5–15 yrs	2–20 yrs	5–10 yrs	5–15 yrs	6–10 yrs	5–10 yrs	7–15 yrs	5-15 yrs
	Office equip. ^h	10 yrs	2-20 yrs	3–20 yrs	5 to 12 yrs	10 yrs	3–10 yrs	7 yrs	na
	Other equip.	5–20 yrs	3–20 yrs	3–20 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs	3–10 yrs	10 yrs	na
Threshold capitalisation levels (\$)	Buildings	5 000	all	5 000	1 000	na	1 000 to 5 000	2 000	na
	IT equip.	5 000	1 000	5 000	1 000	na	1 000 to 5 000	na	na
	Other assets	5 000	1 000	5 000	1 000	na	1 000 to 5 000	2 000	na

^a Recognition threshold for revaluation of assets is \$500 000. ^b Declining balance method of depreciation used in contrast to the straight-line method of other jurisdictions. ^c Treatment includes all four response agencies: the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service.

^d Services currently report under cash based accounting. Those items reported are for St John Ambulance Service. ^e DRC is the depreciated replacement cost; Market value is the current (net) value market selling price or exchange value; and Deprival value may be either the DRC of an asset of a similar service potential or the stream of its future economic benefits. For some jurisdictions, office equipment includes furniture and fittings. ^f Estimated as (1/depreciation rate). ^g Asset lives for some assets have been grouped with other classifications. For some jurisdictions, Other equipment includes information technology. ^h For some jurisdictions, office equipment includes furniture and fittings. **na** Not available.

Source: Department annual reports.

10A.3 Information on sample data

Some of the results reported are estimates obtained by conducting surveys of samples of the group or population in question. Results are therefore subject to *sampling error*. The data obtained from a sample may be different from the ‘true’ data which would have been obtained from the entire group or population — not just a sample — using the same methods. Consequently, when using survey results, it is necessary to be cautious (see section A.12 of Appendix A for further details).

The *standard error* is a measure of sampling error. It indicates the extent to which the estimate may differ by chance from the ‘true value’ because only a sample was taken. If the survey is performed repeatedly, the difference between the sample estimate and the population value will be less than one standard error about 68 per cent of the time. The difference will be less than two standard errors 95 per cent of the time. It will be less than three standard errors 99 per cent of the time. Another way of expressing this is to say that in 68 (95, 99) of every hundred samples, the estimate obtained from a single survey will be within one (two, three) standard errors of the ‘true’ value.

The chance that an estimate falls within a certain range of the true value is known as the confidence of the estimate. For any particular survey, there is a tradeoff between the confidence of the estimate (68, 95 or 99 per cent) and the acceptable range of error (in terms of standard errors) attached to the estimate. The appropriate level of confidence chosen depends on the purpose of obtaining the estimate.

The *relative standard error* is the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate to which it relates. It indicates the margin of error which should be attached to the estimate. The smaller the estimate, the higher is the relative standard error.

Table 10A.20 presents the relative standard errors associated with Population Survey Monitor estimates by jurisdiction. The Population Survey Monitor estimated, for example, that over the six quarters from May 1998 to August 1999, 82 per cent or 3 784 800 households in NSW installed or followed at least one fire safety measure (table 10A.8). Table 10A.19 shows that the associated relative standard error is 1.0 per cent. There is a 68 per cent probability that the proportion of the population having the device installed is within one relative standard error of the estimated proportion. We can be 68 per cent confident that the true value lies between 82 per cent plus or minus 1.0 per cent of 82 per cent — that is, 81.2 to 82.8 per cent. (Note that this is not equivalent to 82 plus or minus 1.0 per cent.) We can be 95 per cent confident that the true value lies within two relative standard errors

— that is, between 80.4 and 83.6 per cent. The higher the level of confidence, the less precise the estimate is likely to be.

Table 10A.20 Relative standard error of estimates for two quarters of the Population Survey Monitor, by jurisdiction (per cent)^a

<i>Estimate</i>	<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</i>
5 000	60.8	58.0	48.1	39.6	35.4	19.8	17.0	15.6	49.5
10 000	43.0	41.0	34.0	28.0	25.0	14.0	12.0	11.0	35.0
20 000	29.5	27.5	24.0	18.5	17.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	24.5
50 000	17.4	16.2	14.0	11.0	10.0	4.6	4.4	4.6	15.2
100 000	11.7	10.8	9.2	7.2	6.4	2.8	2.9	3.2	10.4
200 000	7.7	7.2	6.1	4.7	4.2	1.7	1.8	2.2	7.0
500 000	4.3	4.0	3.4	2.6	2.3	0.8	..	..	4.0
800 000	3.2	3.0	2.6	1.9	1.7	..	..	..	3.0
1 000 000	3.2	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.5	..	..	..	2.7
1 500 000	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.1	..	..	..	2.0
2 000 000	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.1	0.9	..	..	..	1.7
5 000 000	1.0	0.9	0.8	..	..	..	..	..	0.9

^a The ABS considers that only estimates with relative standard errors of 25 per cent or less are sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates greater than 25 per cent are subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes; they should be treated with caution and viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved. .. Not applicable.

Source: ABS (1999).

10A.4 Definitions

Table 10A.21 Terms

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Alarm notification not involving fire	Fire alarm notification due to the accidental operation of alarm, the failure to notify fire services of an incorrect test by service personnel or a storm induced voltage surge
Emergency ambulance response	An emergency ambulance response to a pre-hospital medical or accident emergency which necessitates the use of ambulance warning devices, and takes priority over the use of ambulance resources
False report	An incident where the fire service has responded and investigated the site and may have restored a detection system
Fire death	A fatality that the reporting officer deems as directly attributable to the incident or the action of handling the fire incident. This excludes fatalities where a fire conceals a death occurring before the fire incident. This information may be verified by coronial information
Fire incident	A fire that is reported to a fire service and requires a response
Fire injury	An injury resulting from a fire or flames requiring admission to a hospital. This excludes emergency department outpatients.

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Table 10A.21 (Continued)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Fire safety measure	Fire safety measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operational smoke alarms or detectors; • fire sprinkler systems; • safety switches or circuit breakers; • fire extinguishers; • fire blankets; • fire evacuation plans; • external water supplies; • the removal of external fuel sources; • external sprinklers; and • other fire safety measures.
Non-structural fire	A fire outside a building or structure including a fire involving mobile properties (such as vehicles), a rubbish fire, a bush or grass fire or an explosion
Other incident	An incident other than fire that is reported to a fire service and requires a response. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overpressure rupture (for example, steam or gas), explosion or excess heat (no combustion); • rescue (for example, industrial accidents or vehicle accidents); • hazardous condition (for example, escape of hazardous materials); • salvage; and • storm and extreme weather
Paramedic response	A level of emergency care categorised as advanced life support
Response time	The interval between the receipt of the call at the dispatch centre and the arrival of the vehicle at the scene (that is, when the vehicle is stationary and the handbrake is applied)
Structural fire	A fire inside a building or structure, whether or not there was damage to the structure

Table 10A.22 Indicators

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Definition</i>
50th percentile ambulance service response times	The time at which 50 per cent of first ambulance resources actually responded
50th percentile fire service response times	The time at which 50 per cent of first fire resources actually responded
Fire death rate	Number of fire deaths per 100 000 persons in the total population
Fire injury rate	Number of fire injuries per 100 000 persons in the total population
Median dollar loss per structural fire	The median (middle number in a given sequence) of the structural loss in \$'000 per structural fire incident

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Table 10A.22 (Continued)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Definition</i>
90th percentile ambulance service response times	The time at which 90 per cent of first ambulance resources actually responded
Structural fire contained to object or room of origin	A fire where direct fire/flame is contained to the room of origin (that is, excludes wildfires and vehicle fires in unconfined spaces). A room is an enclosed space, regardless of its dimensions or configuration. This category includes fires to residential and non-residential structures.
