

## Indicator 47. Children's hearing loss

**Indicator:** The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders at school entry having >25 db hearing loss at either 1 or 4 KHz in either ear.

### Purpose

The indicator gives information on the prevalence of hearing deficit in children at school entry. It predicts the occurrence of learning difficulties and behavioural problems in children and young people.

### Data

Hearing loss among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is widespread. It can be the result of repeated bouts of otitis media, and is thought to be more severe among Indigenous children due to crowded housing conditions and lack of access to primary health care.

Hearing loss often leads to increased learning difficulties and behavioural problems in school, adding to existing social disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people.

The Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and Western Australia reported that there were no data available.

South Australia reported that while there were no specific data available for this indicator, the South Australia Education Department advised that 'in 2003, the prevalence of otitis media leading to hearing loss and contributing to communication problems and long-term disability was 11.1% for Aboriginal children compared to 4.7% for the general community'.

Victoria reported that children are screened for hearing through two universal programs – Maternal and Child Health, and School Nursing. Maternal and Child Health screens at 2 weeks and 8 months and refers children to audiology services. School Nursing screens most children in Prep school (5-6 years). Screening relies on a consent form being completed by the parent. The form is still valid if Indigenous status is not completed and the data is not cross-matched routinely with other records. All Indigenous children are screened for hearing loss at 500 Hz at 30 dB and 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz at 20 dB. There is no systematic surveillance and follow-up of hearing loss. School Nursing has made efforts to improve the quality of the data but the level of accurate identification is uncertain.

Tasmanian enrolment cards are completed by parents or nurses; asking for Indigenous status is compulsory but responding is voluntary. Children whose hearing loss has been detected and who attend the Australian Hearing Service have their Indigenous status collected.

# Indicator 48. Stillbirths to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers

**Indicator:** The proportion of all births to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women that are stillborn.

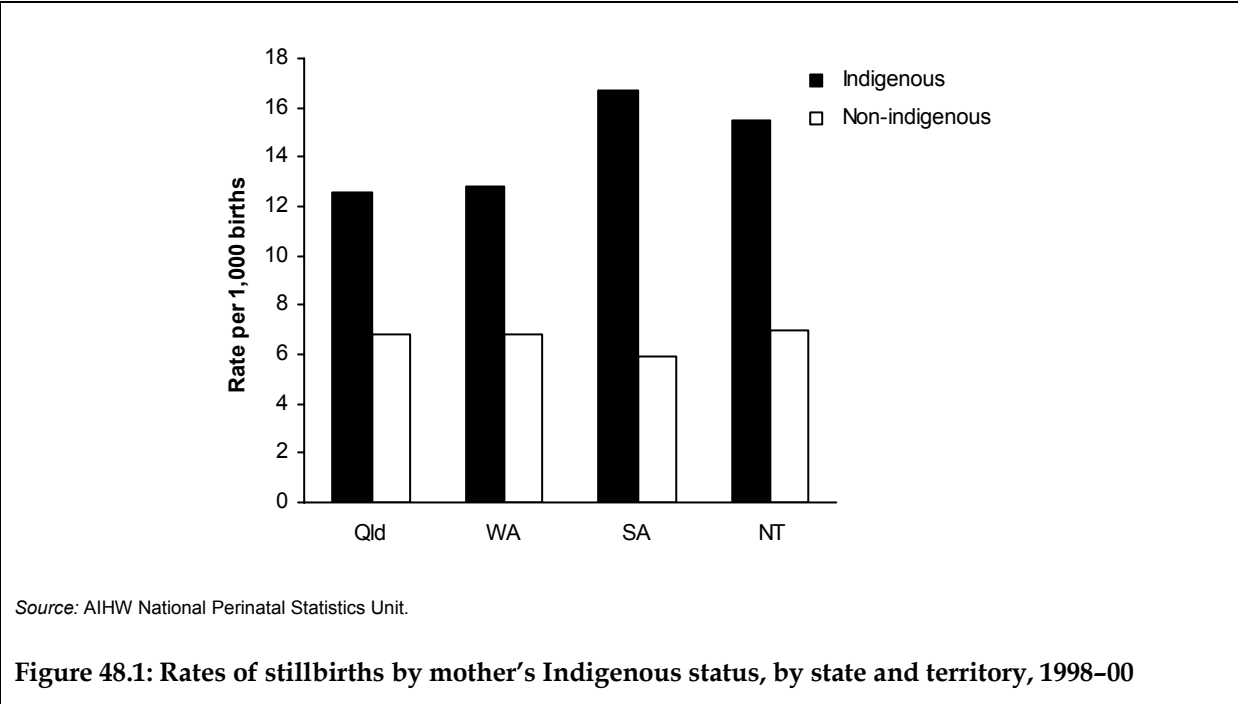
## Purpose

The indicator reflects the health of pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, their access to and utilisation of antenatal care, and the quality of antenatal care.

## Data

The data on stillbirths comes from the AIHW National Perinatal Statistics Unit (Midwives' Collection). While the data is likely to capture most stillbirths, it is likely to underestimate the number of stillbirths to Indigenous mothers because Indigenous status is not always recorded. In addition, the Indigenous status of the father is not recorded in the Midwives' data collection and therefore it is not possible to report information on stillbirths of babies born to Indigenous fathers and non-Indigenous mothers.

Three years of data were combined in the following figure in order to smooth out yearly fluctuations in the number of stillbirths to Indigenous mothers, which can cause volatility in rates.



- The rate of stillbirths to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers was around twice the rate for non-Indigenous mothers in Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and almost three times the rate in South Australia.
- The rate of stillbirths for Indigenous mothers ranged from 12.6 per 1,000 in Queensland to 16.7 per 1,000 in South Australia.

## Indicator 49. Early adult death

**Indicator:** The probability of person aged 20–24 years dying before reaching the age of 55 years in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the all-Australian population, by sex.

### Purpose

This indicator is designed to capture early adult mortality. If linked to adult mortality data it can be used to identify the causes of death that should be a priority area for prevention.

### Data

Data for this indicator were provided by the ABS. Data is presented only for the four states and territories where the coverage of deaths is considered more complete. Given the problems experienced in accurately measuring life expectancy and the death rates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, early adult mortality indicators are difficult to calculate and should be interpreted with care.

**Table 49.1: Experimental estimates of the probability of a person aged 20 years dying before age 55 years, for the Indigenous and total Australian populations, by sex, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
Indigenous males	0.36	0.37	0.40	0.39
All Australian males	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.14
Indigenous females	0.22	0.22	0.27	0.24
All Australian females	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.08

*Note:* Table excludes states and territories with less complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.

*Source:* Tables 6.30 and 6.31 for the Australian life table and Table 6.44 for the experimental life table of Indigenous people, ABS *Deaths Australia 2002*.

- Based on estimates over the period 1999–01, an Indigenous male had between 36% and 40% chance of dying before the age of 55. The comparable percentages for the all-Australian males were between 7% and 14%.
- The early adult mortality estimates reported in Table 49.1 are based on experimental population estimates based on the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. The Preston-Hill method was used by the ABS to construct an experimental model life table for the Indigenous population which gives an estimation of the probability of a person aged 20 years dying before aged 55 years. The ABS is currently reviewing the appropriateness of this method and the assumptions involved.
- Indigenous females had between a 22% and a 27% chance of dying before the age of 55 years. The comparable percentages for the all-Australian females were between 4% and 8%.
- The probability of a person aged 20 dying before age 55 was similar in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia for both males and females.

## **Indicator 50. Age- and sex- specific all cause death rates and ratios**

**Indicator:** Age- and sex- specific death rates from all causes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Indigenous to non-Indigenous rate ratios.

### **Purpose**

The indicator provides a measure of mortality for different age and sex groups for the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Groups where there are major differences in death rates between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations can be identified.

### **Data**

The data provided comes from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths is presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (refer to Introduction – Outcomes for people).

### **Number of deaths**

- Over the three-year period 1999–01, the number of deaths among people who identified as Indigenous was 1,350 in New South Wales, 1,646 in Queensland, 1,086 in Western Australia, 426 in South Australia and 1,238 in the Northern Territory. In all these states and territories the highest proportion of deaths was among those aged 45–64 and 65 years and over (Table 50.1).
- Over the three-year period 1999–01, the number of deaths for which Indigenous status was not recorded was 5,873 in New South Wales, 433 in Queensland, 444 in Western Australia, 872 in South Australia and 35 in the Northern Territory. The proportion of deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated was 4.4 in New South Wales, 2.5 in South Australia, 1.4 in Western Australia, 1.4 in the Northern Territory and 0.6 in Queensland.

### **Age- and sex- specific rates and rate ratios**

- In all four states and territories, the death rates for Indigenous males and females were considerably higher than for other Australian males and females for all age groups (Table 50.2).
- In the four states and territories, the highest death rates were among those aged 45–64 years and 65 years and over, whereas the highest death rate among the non-Indigenous population was among those aged 65 years and over.

Table 50.1: Number of deaths by age and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	Males		Females		Total		Not stated	Total deaths	Proportion not stated (%)
	Indig.	Non-indig.	Indig.	Non-indig.	Indig.	Non-indig.			
<b>New South Wales</b>									
0–4 yrs	56	774	51	606	107	1,380	140	1,627	8.6
5–24	39	1,251	24	519	63	1,770	109	1,942	5.6
25–44	181	3,817	83	1,658	264	5,475	307	6,046	5.1
45–64	255	11,039	180	6,293	435	17,332	833	18,600	4.5
65+	238	49,163	243	51,644	481	100,807	4,484	105,772	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>66,044</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>60,720</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>126,764</b>	<b>5,873</b>	<b>133,987</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Queensland</b>									
0–4 yrs	81	484	52	400	133	884	9	1,026	0.9
5–24	83	809	35	312	118	1,121	5	1,244	0.4
25–44	194	2,109	117	1,035	311	3,144	20	3,475	0.6
45–64	300	6,427	232	3,461	532	9,888	59	10,479	0.6
65+	275	25,865	277	25,718	552	51,583	340	52,475	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>35,694</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>30,926</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>66,620</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>68,699</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>									
0–4 yrs	53	214	45	119	98	333	19	450	4.2
5–24	57	433	24	154	81	587	31	699	4.4
25–44	168	1,065	85	524	253	1,589	72	1,914	3.8
45–64	201	2,754	135	1,598	336	4,352	98	4,786	2.0
65+	170	11,878	148	12,071	318	23,949	224	24,491	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>16,344</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>14,466</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>30,810</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>32,340</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>South Australia</b>									
0–4 yrs	16	157	9	111	25	268	6	299	2.0
5–24	19	281	13	106	32	387	23	422	5.5
25–44	69	913	47	450	116	1,363	69	1,548	4.5
45–64	86	2,571	68	1,600	154	4,171	107	4,432	2.4
65+	44	13,486	55	14,161	99	27,647	667	28,413	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>17,408</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>16,428</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>33,836</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>35,134</b>	<b>2.5</b>

(continued)

Table 50.1 continued: Number of deaths by age and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	Males		Females		Total		Not stated	Total deaths	Proportion not stated (%)
	Indig.	Non-indig.	Indig.	Non-indig.	Indig.	Non-indig.			
<b>Northern Territory</b>									
0–4 yrs	51	29	46	9	97	38	—	135	0
5–24	67	53	31	16	98	69	—	167	0
25–44	224	148	110	35	334	183	8	525	1.5
45–64	215	281	164	117	379	398	8	785	1.0
65+	148	381	182	237	330	618	19	967	2.0
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>705</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2,579</b>	<b>1.4</b>

(a) Total does not include deaths where Indigenous status was not stated.

Note: Table includes deaths data from states and territories where coverage of Indigenous status is more complete.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

Table 50.2: Age- and sex- specific death rates per 1,000 and rate ratios for all causes, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	Males			Females		
	Indigenous	Non-indig.	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-indig.	Rate ratio
<b>Queensland</b>						
0–4 yrs	3.1	1.4	2.3	2.0	1.2	1.7
5–24	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.4	0.2	1.9
25–44	3.9	1.4	2.9	2.1	0.7	3.2
45–64	15.0	5.1	2.9	10.2	2.8	3.6
65+	59.6	45.4	1.3	48.1	37.5	1.3
<b>Western Australia</b>						
0–4 yrs	4.4	1.2	3.6	3.6	0.7	5.2
5–24	1.3	0.5	2.3	0.6	0.2	2.8
25–44	6.1	1.3	4.9	3.0	0.6	4.7
45–64	18.4	4.2	4.4	11.3	2.5	4.5
65+	64.8	42.8	1.5	43.4	35.1	1.2
<b>South Australia</b>						
0–4 yrs	3.4	1.2	2.9	1.8	0.9	2.2
5–24	1.1	0.5	2.4	0.8	0.2	4.2
25–44	6.4	1.4	4.6	4.2	0.7	5.9
45–64	19.8	4.8	4.1	14.4	2.9	4.9
65+	49.7	46.9	1.1	44.3	38.0	1.2

(continued)

**Table 50.2 continued: Age- and sex- specific death rates per 1,000 and rate ratios for all causes, for selected states and territories, 1999-01**

	Males			Females		
	Indigenous	Non-indig.	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-indig.	Rate ratio
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
0-4 yrs	4.9	1.8	2.8	4.5	0.6	7.9
5-24	1.7	0.9	2.0	0.9	0.3	3.0
25-44	9.0	1.8	5.0	4.2	0.5	9.1
45-64	23.0	5.2	4.4	16.0	2.8	5.8
65+	73.9	39.5	1.9	63.9	30.8	2.1

*Notes*

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Rate ratio is the mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.
3. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

## Indicator 51. Standardised mortality ratios for all causes

**Indicator:** Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from all causes in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population.

### Purpose

The indicator provides a comparative measure of overall mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females with rates for other Australians, taking into account differences in the age structure of the populations. It provides a summary measure of the differences between the two populations.

### Data

The data provided comes from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Data on numbers of deaths is presented by five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (refer to Introduction – Outcomes for people).

**Table 51.1: Number of deaths among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	769	933	649	234	705	3,290
Females	581	713	437	192	533	2,456
Persons	1,350	1,646	1,086	426	1,238	5,746
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	66,044	35,694	16,344	17,408	892	136,382
Females	60,720	30,926	14,466	16,428	414	122,954
Persons	126,764	66,620	30,810	33,836	1,306	259,336
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>128,114</b>	<b>68,266</b>	<b>31,896</b>	<b>34,262</b>	<b>2,544</b>	<b>265,082</b>
Not stated	5,870	433	444	872	40	7,659
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,984</b>	<b>68,699</b>	<b>32,340</b>	<b>35,134</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>272,741</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	4.4	0.6	1.4	2.5	1.5	2.8

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01, in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory there was a total of 265,082 deaths among people aged 0–74 years where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these deaths, 5,746 (2.2%) were of Indigenous people.
- For 7,659 deaths (2.8%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from 0.6% in Queensland to 4.4% in New South Wales.
- Of all Indigenous deaths, 57% were males compared with 53% of deaths among non-Indigenous people.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 51.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999-01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	1,589.9	1,999.6	1,987.2	2,668.2
Non-Indigenous males	755.6	695.6	761.9	789.8
Indigenous females	1,042.5	1,151.7	1,341.6	1,657.8
Non-Indigenous females	569.6	526.8	582.9	449.3
Indigenous persons	1,295.3	1,542.6	1,633.1	2,113.6
Non-Indigenous persons	656.1	604.7	663.0	636.8
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	2.1	2.9	2.6	3.4
Females	1.8	2.2	2.3	3.7
Persons	2.0	2.6	2.5	3.3

### Notes

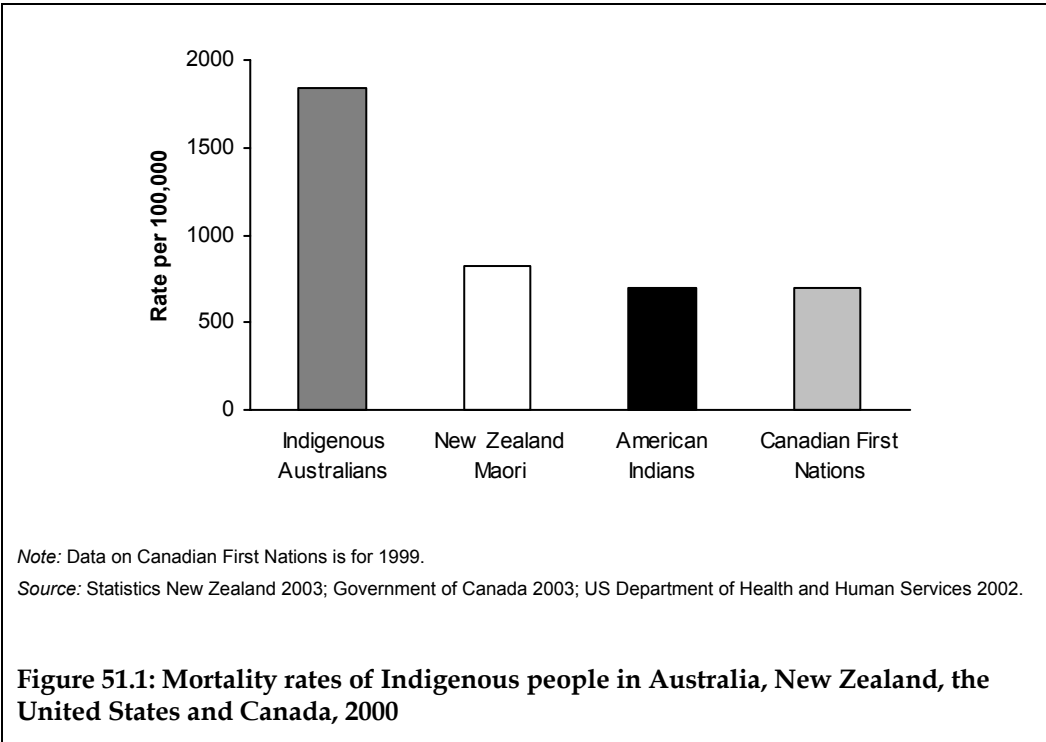
1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.
3. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999-01 in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, death rates ranged from 449 in the Northern Territory to 583 in South Australia.
- The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous deaths ranged from 2.0 in Queensland to 3.3 in the Northern Territory.

**International comparisons**

- The overall age-standardised death rates in 2000 for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the four states and territories with reliable data were 1,845 per 100,000. (The three-year average death rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for 1999-01 was 1,751 per 100,000.)
- Death rates among Indigenous Australians were more than twice the rate in New Zealand Maori, Indian Americans and Canadian First Nations.
- In 2000 the age-standardised death rate was 821 per 100,000, 697 per 100,000 and 662 per 100,000 (in 1999) for New Zealand Maoris, American Indians and First Nations in Canada respectively (Statistics New Zealand 2003; Government of Canada 2003; US Department of Health and Human Services 2002).
- Although some methodological differences – such as variation in the method used for standardisation and the age structure or death rates of the population used for standardisation – have probably influenced the observed death rates, these are unlikely to account for the differences observed in the death rates between Indigenous Australians and the other Indigenous groups.



## **Indicator 52. Standardised mortality ratios for circulatory diseases**

### **Indicator:**

- (a) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from circulatory diseases as the underlying cause of death in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (b) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from coronary heart disease as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (c) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from rheumatic heart disease as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.

### **Purpose**

Circulatory diseases are a significant leading cause of death in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Many deaths from circulatory disease are preventable. It is therefore important to monitor changes in the rates of death from circulatory diseases in the Indigenous population with that of the non-Indigenous population.

### **Data**

The data provided comes from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (refer to Introduction – Outcomes for people).

The data provided is for deaths from all circulatory diseases, as well as for the subgroups of circulatory diseases – coronary heart disease, and rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.

## Circulatory diseases

Table 52.1: Number of deaths from circulatory disease among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	237	218	133	56	166	810
Females	129	163	88	38	99	517
Persons	366	381	221	94	265	1,327
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	9,366	4,862	2,018	2,296	176	18,718
Females	4,280	2,263	904	1,060	44	8,551
Persons	13,646	7,125	2,922	3,356	220	27,269
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14,012</b>	<b>7,506</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>28,596</b>
Not stated	665	43	58	78	8	852
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,677</b>	<b>7,549</b>	<b>3,201</b>	<b>3,528</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>29,448</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	4.5	0.6	1.8	2.2	1.6	2.9

Note: ICD-10 codes I00–I99.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 28,596 deaths due to circulatory disease where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 1,327 or 4.6% were deaths of Indigenous people.
- For 852 deaths (2.9%), the Indigenous status was not recorded. The proportion of 'not stated' varied by jurisdiction and ranged from 0.6% of all deaths in Queensland to 4.5% of all deaths in New South Wales.
- Males made up 61% of the Indigenous deaths from circulatory disease, compared with 69% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 52.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from circulatory diseases, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	368.1	412.6	446.3	616.2
Non-Indigenous males	100.4	82.4	102.0	124.5
Indigenous females	235.2	235.2	253.5	305.2
Non-Indigenous females	46.3	36.3	44.3	42.7
Indigenous persons	296.5	317.3	341.4	446.3
Non-Indigenous persons	73.2	59.1	72.3	90.1
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	3.7	5.0	4.4	4.9
Females	5.1	6.5	5.7	7.1
Persons	4.1	5.4	4.7	5.0

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete than other states and territories, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 297 per 100,000 in Queensland to 446 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The age-standardised mortality rates for deaths caused by circulatory diseases were between 4 and 5 times higher in the Indigenous population than in the non-Indigenous population.
- The standardised mortality ratios were higher for females than for males in all four states and territories.

## Coronary heart disease

Table 52.3: Number of deaths from coronary heart disease among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	172	156	78	37	101	544
Females	72	94	44	21	43	274
Persons	244	250	122	58	144	818
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	6,180	3,363	1,379	1,520	133	12,575
Females	2,165	1,245	456	538	21	4,425
Persons	8,345	4,608	1,835	2,058	154	17,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,589</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>17,818</b>
Not stated	403	30	42	46	3	524
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,992</b>	<b>4,888</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>18,342</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	4.5	0.6	2.1	2.1	1.0	2.9

Note: ICD-10 codes I20–I25.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory there were 17,818 deaths from coronary heart disease where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these deaths, 818 or 4.6% were of Indigenous people.
- For 524 deaths (2.9%), Indigenous status was not stated. The proportion of 'not stated' varied by jurisdiction and ranged from 0.6% all deaths in Queensland to 4.5% of all deaths in New South Wales.
- Females made up 33% of Indigenous deaths from coronary heart disease, compared to only 26% of non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 52.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from coronary heart disease, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	273.4	251.1	305.8	390.3
Non-Indigenous males	69.3	56.3	67.4	94.5
Indigenous females	140.1	121.2	144.2	136.6
Non-Indigenous females	25.5	18.3	22.5	20.7
Indigenous persons	201.4	181.1	217.5	251.0
Non-Indigenous persons	47.3	37.1	44.3	63.5
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.1
Females	5.5	6.6	6.4	6.6
Persons	4.3	4.9	4.9	4.0

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete than other states and territories, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 181 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 251 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths caused by coronary heart disease were between 4 and 5 times higher in the Indigenous population than in the non-Indigenous population.
- The standardised mortality ratios were higher for females in all states and territories.

## Rheumatic heart disease

**Table 52.5: Number of deaths from rheumatic heart disease among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous persons	6	19	5	n.p.	23	55
Non-Indigenous persons	103	60	28	31	n.p.	224
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>279</b>
Not stated	10	—	—	1	—	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>290</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	8.4	—	—	2.9	—	3.8

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

### Notes

1. Numbers for males and females were not published because of low numbers.
2. ICD-10 codes I00–I09.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 279 deaths recorded as being caused by rheumatic heart disease. Of these 55 or 19.7% of these were deaths of Indigenous people.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 52.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from rheumatic heart disease, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous persons	11.9	5.8	n.p.	30.8
Non-Indigenous persons	0.6	0.6	0.7	n.p.
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Persons	19.4	10.4	n.p.	n.p.

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- Death rates from rheumatic heart disease should be interpreted with care because of low numbers of deaths.
- The standardised mortality ratio was 19 in Queensland and 10 in Western Australia.

## Indicator 53. Standardised mortality ratios for injury and poisoning

### Indicator:

- (a) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from injury and poisoning as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (b) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from road vehicle-related injury as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (c) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from other accidents as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (d) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from suicide as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 15–24 years.
- (e) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from assault as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.

### Purpose

Injury is a significant cause of death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The indicators provide a measure of the rate of deaths for all injuries, as well as the main causes of injury for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared to non-Indigenous people.

### Data

The data provided comes from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (refer to Introduction – Outcomes for people).

The data provided were for the category all injuries and poisoning, as well as for the four major injury subgroups – road vehicle accidents, other accidents, self-harm and assault.

## Injury and poisoning

**Table 53.1: Number of deaths from injury and poisoning among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	126	169	140	52	121	608
Females	62	57	55	25	53	252
Persons	188	226	195	77	174	860
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	4,196	2,735	1,308	997	186	9,422
Females	1,324	827	411	316	37	2,915
Persons	5,520	3,562	1,719	1,313	223	12,337
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,708</b>	<b>3,788</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>13,197</b>
Not stated	308	21	94	86	6	515
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,016</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>13,712</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	5.1	0.6	4.7	5.8	1.5	3.8

Note: ICD-10 codes V01–Y09.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999 to 2001 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 13,197 deaths due to all types of injury and poisoning where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 860 or 6.5% were Indigenous people.
- Indigenous status was not stated for 515 deaths (3.8%). This ranged from 0.6% of all deaths in Queensland to 5.8% of all deaths in South Australia.
- Males made up 71% of the Indigenous deaths from injury and poisoning, compared with 76% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 53.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from injury and poisoning, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	110.6	168.4	160.5	160.1
Non-Indigenous males	55.1	49.5	47.8	82.0
Indigenous females	34.1	64.0	74.4	68.7
Non-Indigenous females	16.7	15.8	15.2	18.7
Indigenous persons	70.6	115.3	116.6	113.9
Non-Indigenous persons	35.9	32.8	31.5	52.5
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	2.0	3.4	3.4	2.0
Females	2.0	4.0	4.9	3.7
Persons	2.0	3.5	3.7	2.2

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 71 per 100,000 in Queensland to 117 per 100,000 in South Australia.
- Indigenous people died from injury and poisoning at between 2 and 4 times the rate for non-Indigenous people.
- The mortality rate ratios from injury and poisoning between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people were greatest in South Australia and Western Australia.

## Road vehicle accidents

This category includes injuries caused by accidents involving cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians.

**Table 53.3: Number of deaths from road vehicle accidents among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	37	26	37	17	34	151
Females	11	9	18	6	16	60
Persons	48	35	55	23	50	211
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	1,044	656	342	264	58	2,364
Females	391	224	101	103	20	839
Persons	1,435	880	443	367	78	3,203
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>3,414</b>
Not stated	84	6	30	34	4	158
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>3,572</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	5.4	0.7	5.7	8.0	3.0	4.4

Note: ICD-10 codes V01–V79.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 3,414 deaths due to road vehicle accidents where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 211 or 6.2% were Indigenous people.
- For 158 deaths (4.4%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from 0.7% of all deaths in Queensland to 8% of all deaths in South Australia.
- Males made up 72% of the Indigenous deaths from motor vehicle accidents, and 74% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 53.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from road vehicle accidents, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	15.3	40.2	47.4	40.5
Non-Indigenous males	13.2	12.9	12.7	26.0
Indigenous females	4.9	19.2	16.4	18.9
Non-Indigenous females	4.5	3.9	5.0	10.2
Indigenous persons	9.9	29.6	31.7	29.7
Non-Indigenous persons	8.9	8.4	8.9	18.7
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	1.2	3.1	3.7	1.6
Females	1.1	4.9	3.3	1.8
Persons	1.1	3.5	3.6	1.6

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 10 per 100,000 in Queensland to 32 per 100,000 in South Australia.
- Indigenous people died from road vehicle accidents at between 1 and 4 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people died.
- The mortality ratios for Indigenous to non-Indigenous people for road accidents were greatest in South Australia (3.6) and Western Australia (3.5). In Queensland they were very similar (1.1).

## Other accidents

This category includes other land transport accidents, water transport accidents, falls, drowning, poisoning etc.

**Table 53.5: Number of deaths from other accidents among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	40	54	49	20	26	189
Females	29	18	22	13	14	96
Persons	69	72	71	33	40	285
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	1,314	910	411	265	58	2,958
Females	413	282	153	91	7	946
Persons	1,727	1,192	564	356	65	3,904
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>4,189</b>
Not stated	99	9	30	16	1	155
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>4,344</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	5.2	0.7	4.5	4.0	0.9	3.6

Note: ICD-10 codes V80–X59.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 4,189 deaths caused by other accidents where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 285 or 6.8% were Indigenous people.
- Indigenous status was not stated for 155 deaths (3.6%). This ranged from 0.7% of all deaths in Queensland to 5.2% of all deaths in New South Wales.
- Males made up 66% of the Indigenous deaths from other accidents, compared to 76% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 53.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from other accidents, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	35.6	59.6	62.8	35.2
Non-Indigenous males	18.4	15.7	12.7	26.0
Indigenous females	10.9	25.9	39.2	18.6
Non-Indigenous females	5.7	5.9	4.4	3.6
Indigenous persons	22.7	42.5	50.7	26.8
Non-Indigenous persons	12.0	10.8	8.5	15.6
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	1.9	3.8	5.0	1.4
Females	1.9	4.4	9.0	5.2
Persons	1.9	3.9	6.0	1.7

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 23 per 100,000 in Queensland to 51 per 100,000 in South Australia.
- Indigenous people died from other accidents at between 2 and 6 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people died.
- The rate ratios were higher in females compared to males, largely reflecting the very low death rates from other accidents among non-Indigenous women.

## Self-harm

**Table 53.7: Number of deaths from self-harm among those aged 15–24 years, by Indigenous status, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous persons	6	37	17	7	19	86
Non-Indigenous persons	294	205	115	69	11	694
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>780</b>
Not stated	19	1	2	2	—	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>804</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	6.0	0.4	1.5	2.6	—	3.0

### Notes

1. Numbers for males and females were not published because of low numbers.
2. ICD-10 codes X60–X84.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999 to 2001 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 780 deaths caused by self-harm where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 86 or 11% were Indigenous people.
- For 24 deaths (3%), Indigenous status was not stated. The proportions not stated varied by jurisdiction and ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 6% of all deaths in New South Wales.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 53.8: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from self-harm, by Indigenous status, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous persons	55.1	48.2	51.2	56.1
Non-Indigenous persons	14.1	14.9	11.9	18.2
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Persons	3.9	3.2	4.3	3.1

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 48 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 56 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- Indigenous people die from self-harm at between 3 and 4 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The rate ratios were highest in South Australia (4.3) and Queensland (3.9).

## Assault

**Table 53.9: Number of deaths from assault among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	20	12	15	n.p.	21	72
Females	12	16	9	n.p.	17	55
Persons	32	28	24	5	38	127
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	191	97	36	41	8	373
Females	89	53	19	17	n.p.	180
Persons	280	150	55	58	10	553
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>680</b>
Not stated	11	1	7	6	—	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>705</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	3.4	0.6	8.1	8.7	—	3.5

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

Note: ICD-10 codes X85–Y09.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory there were 680 deaths caused by assault where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 127 or 19% were Indigenous people.
- For 25 deaths (3.5%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 8.7% of all deaths in South Australia.
- Females made up 43% of the Indigenous deaths from assault, compared with only 33% of non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 53.10: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from assault, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	7.2	16.7	n.p.	26.0
Non-Indigenous males	2.0	1.4	2.0	3.4
Indigenous females	8.9	9.8	n.p.	20.8
Non-Indigenous females	1.1	0.7	0.8	n.p.
Indigenous persons	8.1	13.2	7.1	23.4
Non-Indigenous persons	1.5	1.0	1.4	2.3
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	3.7	12.3	n.p.	7.6
Females	8.3	13.3	n.p.	n.p.
Persons	5.4	12.6	5.0	10.3

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 7 per 100,000 in South Australia to 23 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratios show that Indigenous people died from assault between 5 and 13 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people died.

## **Indicator 54. Standardised mortality ratios for respiratory diseases and lung cancer**

### **Indicator:**

- (a) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from respiratory diseases as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (b) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from pneumonia as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (c) Standardised mortality ratio for deaths from cancer of the lung, trachea and bronchus as the underlying cause in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.

### **Purpose**

The indicators provide a measure of the rate of deaths from respiratory disease and lung cancer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared to non-Indigenous people.

### **Data**

The data provided comes from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (refer to Introduction – Outcomes for people).

Data are presented for the category of all respiratory diseases as well as two of the sub-groups – pneumonia and lung cancer.

## Respiratory diseases

Table 54.1: Number of deaths from respiratory disease among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	48	60	36	19	53	216
Females	34	47	20	15	31	147
Persons	82	107	56	34	84	363
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	2,001	1,022	423	443	37	3,926
Females	1,292	634	255	299	15	2,495
Persons	3,293	1,656	678	742	52	6,421
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>6,784</b>
Not stated	184	8	14	26	4	236
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>7,020</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	5.2	0.5	1.9	3.2	2.9	3.4

Note: ICD-10 codes J00–J99.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 6,784 deaths caused by respiratory diseases where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 363 or 5.4% were Indigenous people.
- There were a total of 236 deaths (3.4%) for which Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from 0.5% in Queensland to 5.2% in New South Wales.
- Males made up 60% of the Indigenous deaths from respiratory disease, and 61% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 54.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from respiratory diseases, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	100.3	111.0	151.9	196.7
Non-Indigenous males	21.2	17.4	19.6	27.9
Indigenous females	67.6	53.3	99.9	95.5
Non-Indigenous females	13.0	10.3	12.4	15.7
Indigenous persons	82.7	80.0	123.5	141.4
Non-Indigenous persons	17.1	13.8	15.9	22.8
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	4.7	6.4	7.7	7.0
Females	5.2	5.2	8.0	6.1
Persons	4.8	5.8	7.8	6.2

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 80 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 141 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratios indicate that Indigenous people die from respiratory diseases at between 5 and 8 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.

## Pneumonia

**Table 54.3: Number of deaths from pneumonia among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	7	20	15	8	13	63
Females	7	12	8	n.p.	8	38
Persons	14	32	23	11	21	101
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	244	120	60	62	6	492
Females	161	79	39	39	n.p.	319
Persons	405	199	99	101	7	811
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>912</b>
Not stated	19	1	5	3	1	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>941</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	4.3	0.4	3.9	2.6	3.4	3.1

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

Note: ICD-10 codes J10–J18.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 912 deaths caused by pneumonia where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 101 or 11.1% were Indigenous people.
- For 29 deaths due to pneumonia, Indigenous status was not stated (3.1%). This ranged from 0.4% in Queensland to 4.3% in New South Wales.
- Males made up 62% of the Indigenous deaths from pneumonia, and 61% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 54.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from pneumonia, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	25.5	35.6	49.3	36.8
Non-Indigenous males	2.5	2.4	2.8	4.0
Indigenous females	13.6	17.2	n.p.	20.0
Non-Indigenous females	1.6	1.6	1.7	n.p.
Indigenous persons	19.2	25.9	31.6	27.9
Non-Indigenous persons	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.7
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	10.3	14.6	17.7	9.1
Females	8.4	11.0	n.p.	n.p.
Persons	9.4	13.0	14.3	10.4

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 19 per 100,000 in Queensland to 32 per 100,000 in South Australia.
- The standardised mortality ratios for pneumonia indicate that Indigenous people die from pneumonia at between 9 and 14 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The rate ratios were highest in South Australia (14.3) followed by Western Australia (13.0).

## Lung cancer

**Table 54.5: Number of deaths from lung cancer among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	26	55	11	5	20	117
Females	26	25	6	6	10	73
Persons	52	80	17	11	30	190
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	2,757	1,671	754	686	54	5,922
Females	1,284	727	356	302	20	2,689
Persons	4,041	2,398	1,110	988	74	8,611
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>8,801</b>
Not stated	190	15	10	18	1	234
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,283</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>9,035</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	4.4	0.6	0.9	1.8	1.0	2.6

Note: ICD-10 codes C33–C34.9.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 8,801 deaths caused by lung cancer where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these 190 or 2.2% were Indigenous people.
- There were a total of 234 deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated (2.6%). This ranged from 0.6% in Queensland to 4.4% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 38% of the Indigenous deaths from lung cancer, compared with 31% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rate and rate ratios

**Table 54.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from lung cancer, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	98.3	36.2	42.4	79.0
Non-Indigenous males	34.2	30.6	30.4	38.1
Indigenous females	37.9	16.8	42.0	32.2
Non-Indigenous females	14.9	14.3	12.7	19.9
Indigenous persons	65.6	25.7	42.1	53.2
Non-Indigenous persons	24.5	22.4	21.3	30.5
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	2.9	1.2	1.4	2.1
Females	2.5	1.2	3.3	1.6
Persons	2.7	1.1	2.0	1.7

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 26 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 66 per 100,000 in Queensland.
- The standardised mortality ratios for lung cancer indicate that Indigenous people die from lung cancer at between 1 and 3 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The rate ratios of Indigenous to non-Indigenous persons were highest in Queensland (2.7) followed by South Australia (2.0).

## **Indicator 55. Standardised mortality ratios for diabetes**

### **Indicator:**

- (a) Standardised mortality ratio for diabetes as the underlying cause of death in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (b) Standardised mortality ratio for diabetes as a multiple but not underlying cause of death in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.
- (c) Standardised mortality ratio for diabetes as the underlying or as a multiple cause of death in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to the non-Indigenous population, by sex, for those aged 0–74 years.

### **Purpose**

Diabetes is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The indicator provides a measure of the rate of death from diabetes in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared to the non-Indigenous population.

Diabetes is often reported as a multiple cause of death, in particular in association with death with a primary cause of coronary heart disease, stroke and kidney disease. To assess the impact of diabetes on the Indigenous population, diabetes as both an underlying and a multiple cause needs to be considered.

### **Data**

The data provided comes from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (refer to Introduction – Outcomes for people).

Data were presented for deaths where diabetes was an underlying cause, where diabetes was a multiple cause and the total of these two categories, where diabetes was either an underlying or a multiple cause of death.

## Diabetes as an underlying cause

Table 55.1: Number of deaths from diabetes as an underlying cause among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	26	55	42	11	35	169
Females	20	69	53	16	46	204
Persons	46	124	95	27	81	373
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	599	375	195	180	12	1,361
Females	327	181	85	121	8	722
Persons	926	556	280	301	20	2,083
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>2,456</b>
Not stated	35	4	4	2	—	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>2,501</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	3.5	0.6	1.1	0.6	—	1.8

Note: ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period from 1999 to 2001 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 2,456 deaths caused by diabetes where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 373 or 15.2% were Indigenous people.
- There were a total of 45 deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated (1.8%). This ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 3.5% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 55% the Indigenous deaths from diabetes as an underlying cause, compared with only 35% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 55.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from diabetes as an underlying cause, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	94.1	132.2	89.0	131.6
Non-Indigenous males	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.4
Indigenous females	100.7	143.1	107.9	142.9
Non-Indigenous females	3.7	3.4	5.1	7.8
Indigenous persons	97.7	138.1	99.3	137.8
Non-Indigenous persons	5.7	5.7	6.5	8.1
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	12.2	16.7	11.1	15.6
Females	27.2	42.0	21.3	18.4
Persons	17.1	24.4	15.3	16.9

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 98 per 100,000 in Queensland to 138 per 100,000 in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratio for diabetes as an underlying cause indicates that Indigenous people die from diabetes at between 15 and 24 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The rate ratio for Indigenous females compared with non-Indigenous females was higher than for Indigenous males compared with non-Indigenous males in all four states and territories.

## Diabetes as a multiple cause

Table 55.3: The number of deaths from diabetes as a multiple cause for people aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	53	82	39	25	41	240
Females	49	89	41	22	34	235
Persons	102	171	80	47	75	475
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	1,942	843	360	499	42	3,686
Females	1,026	398	182	287	9	1,902
Persons	2,968	1,241	542	786	51	5,588
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,070</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>6,063</b>
Not stated	125	15	9	13	—	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,195</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>6,225</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	3.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	—	2.6

Note: ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999–01 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 6,063 deaths caused by diabetes as a multiple cause where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 475 or 7.8% were Indigenous people.
- Indigenous status was not stated for 162 deaths (2.6%) caused by diabetes. This ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 3.9% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 49% of the Indigenous deaths from diabetes as a multiple cause, compared with only 34% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 55.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for diabetes as a multiple cause, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	150.9	131.9	218.3	166.9
Non-Indigenous males	17.4	14.8	22.1	31.4
Indigenous females	138.5	117.3	156.8	111.9
Non-Indigenous females	8.2	7.3	11.9	9.5
Indigenous persons	144.2	124.0	184.4	136.5
Non-Indigenous persons	12.8	11.0	16.8	22.3
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	8.7	8.9	9.9	5.3
Females	17.0	16.0	13.2	11.8
Persons	11.3	11.2	11.0	6.1

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for diabetes as a multiple cause for the Indigenous population ranged from 124 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 184 per 100,000 in South Australia.
- The standardised mortality ratio for diabetes as a multiple cause indicates that Indigenous people die from diabetes at between 6 and 11 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The rate ratios were similar in Queensland (11.3), Western Australia (11.2) and South Australia (11.0), but in the Northern Territory the rate ratio was much lower (6.1).
- The rate ratio for females was higher than for males in all four states and territories.

## Diabetes as an underlying or as a multiple cause

Table 55.5: The number of deaths from diabetes as an underlying or a multiple cause for people aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>						
Males	79	137	81	36	76	409
Females	69	158	94	38	80	439
Persons	148	295	175	74	156	848
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>						
Males	2,541	1,218	555	679	54	5,047
Females	1,353	579	267	408	17	2,624
Persons	3,894	1,797	822	1,087	71	7,671
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,042</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>8,519</b>
Not stated	160	19	13	15	—	207
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,202</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>8,726</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	3.8	0.9	1.3	1.3	—	2.4

Note: ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 1999 to 2001 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 8,519 deaths caused by diabetes as an underlying or a multiple cause where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 848 or 10% were Indigenous people.
- For 207 deaths (2.4%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 3.8% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 52% of the Indigenous deaths from diabetes as an underlying or multiple cause, compared with only 34% of non-Indigenous deaths.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 55.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for diabetes as an underlying or a multiple cause, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous males	246.3	267.7	306.7	301.5
Non-Indigenous males	25.1	22.7	30.1	39.5
Indigenous females	240.8	264.0	266.1	258.5
Non-Indigenous females	11.9	10.7	17.0	17.5
Indigenous persons	243.3	265.7	284.4	277.8
Non-Indigenous persons	18.5	16.7	23.3	30.3
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Males	9.8	11.8	10.2	7.6
Females	20.3	24.6	15.7	14.8
Persons	13.2	15.9	12.2	9.2

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 1999–01 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 243 per 100,000 in Queensland to 284 per 100,000 in South Australia.
- The standardised mortality ratios indicate that Indigenous people die from diabetes at between 9 and 16 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The rate ratio for females was higher than for males in all four states and territories.

## Indicator 56. Standardised mortality ratios for cervical cancer

**Indicator:** The standardised mortality ratios for deaths from cervical cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and non-Indigenous women, for those aged 0-74 years.

### Purpose

Death from cervical cancer can be prevented through pap-smear screening. The indicator provides a measure of the death rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women from cervical cancer compared to the death rates for non-Indigenous women.

### Data

The data provided comes from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (refer to Introduction – Outcomes for people).

**Table 56.1: Number of deaths from cervical cancer among females aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 1999–01**

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous females	7	15	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29
Non-Indigenous females	158	103	61	37	5	364
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>393</b>
Not stated	9	—	—	—	—	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>402</b>
Proportion not stated (%)	5.2	—	—	—	—	2.2

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

Note: ICD-10 code C53.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period from 1999 to 2001 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 393 deaths caused by cervical cancer where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 29 or 7.4% were Indigenous females.
- There was a total of 9 deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated (2.2%). All of these occurred in New South Wales.

## Age-standardised rates and rate ratios

**Table 56.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from cervical cancer, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 1999–01**

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>			
Indigenous females	22.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Non-Indigenous females	2.9	3.4	2.3	4.7
	<b>Standardised mortality ratio</b>			
Females	7.6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.

n.p. Not publishable where numbers were less than 5.

### Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Standardised mortality ratio is the standardised mortality rate for Indigenous people divided by the standardised mortality rate for non-Indigenous people.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- The standardised mortality ratios for cervical cancer were only provided for Queensland as there were fewer than 5 Indigenous deaths from cervical cancer in the three other states and territories.
- In Queensland the rate ratio for cervical cancer was 8 times the number of Indigenous deaths compared to non-Indigenous deaths.