

## 2.03 Environmental tobacco smoke

**The number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–14 years who live in households with regular smokers and number and proportion of households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years in which there were regular smokers**

### Data sources

Data for this indicator come from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS).

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information from 10,439 Indigenous Australians of all ages. This sample was considerably larger than the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys. The survey was conducted in remote and non-remote areas of Australia and collected a range of information from Indigenous Australians about health-related issues including health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next NATSIHS to be conducted in 2010–11. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

### Data analyses

#### Children living in households with smokers

- In 2004–05, there were around 119,000 Indigenous children aged 0–14 years living in households with a regular smoker. This represented 66% of all Indigenous children aged 0–14 years. In comparison, 35% of non-Indigenous children aged 0–14 years lived in households with a regular smoker (Table 2.03.1).
- In 2004–05, there were around 62,000 households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years in which there were regular smokers. This represented 65% of all households with Indigenous children.
- Approximately 28% of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years were living in households with a regular smoker who smoked at home indoors compared with 9% of non-Indigenous children of the same age (Table 2.03.1; Figure 2.03.1).

**Table 2.03.1: Children aged 0–14 years and households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years: smoking status, by Indigenous status of children, 2004–05**

	Indig. children aged 0–14	Non-Indig. children aged 0–14	Households with Indig. children 0–17
	Per cent		
<b>Regular smoker in household</b>			
No	*31	*65	31
Yes	*66	*35	65
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	*3	*0	4
<b>Regular smokers smoke at home indoors</b>			
No	*38	*26	36
Yes	*28	*9	29
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	*34	*65	35
<b>Total households</b>	..	..	<b>95,829</b>
<b>Total number of children</b>	<b>180,669</b>	<b>3,760,010</b>	..

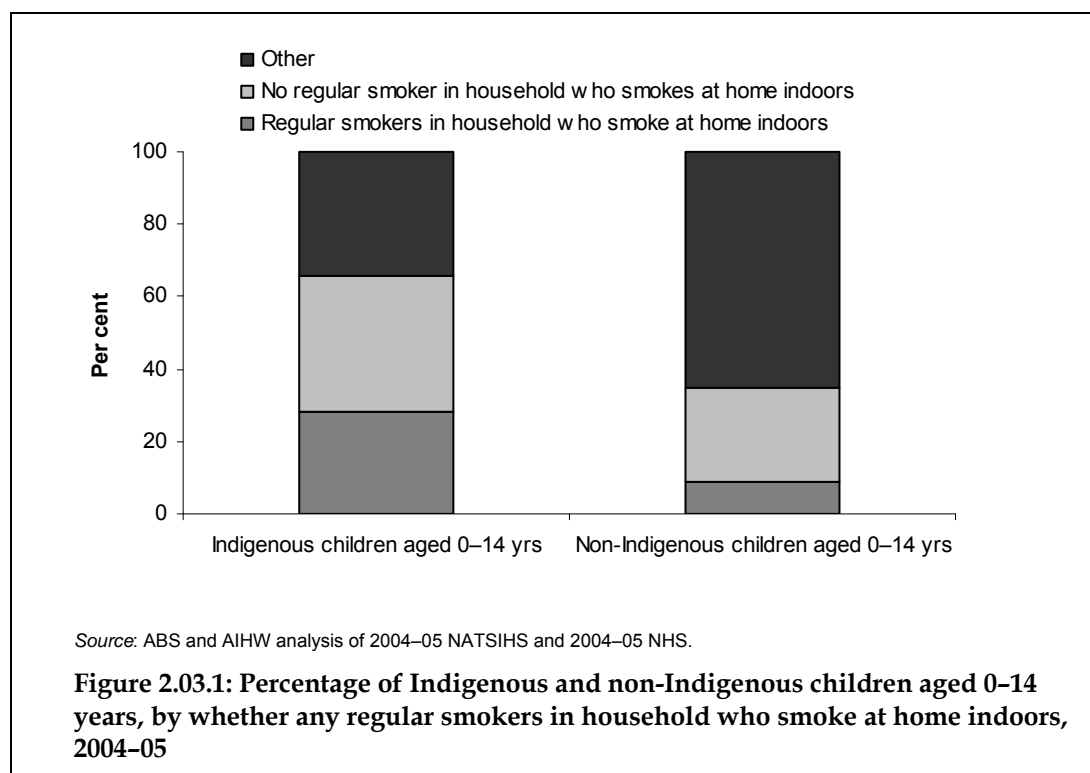
\* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Includes not applicable, not stated, not known.

(b) Includes not applicable, not asked (single-person household), not stated, not known.

Note: Data for households with non-Indigenous children are not available.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.



### **Children living in households with smokers by state/territory**

- The proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years who lived in households with regular smokers ranged from 53% in Victoria to 82% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.03.2).
- The proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years who lived in households with a regular smoker who smoked at home indoors ranged from 24% in Queensland and Western Australia to 45% in the Northern Territory. The proportion of households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years in which there were regular smokers who smoked at home indoors ranged from 23% in Western Australia to 39% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.03.3).
- In Queensland and Tasmania, Indigenous children were twice as likely as non-Indigenous children to live in households with a regular smoker who smoked at home indoors. In New South Wales and Victoria, Indigenous children were three times as likely, in Western Australia and South Australia, four times as likely and in the Australian Capital Territory six times as likely as non-Indigenous children to live in households with a regular smoker who smoked at home indoors.

**Table 2.03.2: Children aged 0–14 years living in households with smokers, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2004–05**

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Proportion of children with regular smoker in household</b>	Indigenous	%	63	53	67	64	63	70	58	82	66
	Non-Indigenous	%	36	35	37	29	37	43	23	n.a.	35
	Rate ratio		1.8*	1.5	1.8*	2.2*	1.7*	1.6*	2.5*	..	1.9*
<b>Proportion of children with regular smoker who smokes at home indoors in household</b>	Indigenous	%	28	28	24	24	32	29	30	45	28
	Non-Indigenous	%	10	9	10	6	9	13	5	n.a.	9
	Rate ratio		2.9*	3.0*	2.4*	3.8*	3.6*	2.2*	6.4*	..	3.1*
<b>Total number of children</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>54,144</b>	<b>10,842</b>	<b>51,505</b>	<b>25,505</b>	<b>9,857</b>	<b>6,816</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>20,434</b>	<b>180,669</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>1,263,735</b>	<b>940,021</b>	<b>737,688</b>	<b>364,806</b>	<b>272,771</b>	<b>89,756</b>	<b>62,392</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>3,760,010</b>

\* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

**Table 2.03.3: Households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years: smoking status by state/territory, 2004–05**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
	Per cent							
Households with regular smoker in household	63	59	66	63	63	71	52	77
Households with regular smoker who smokes at home indoors in household	30	28	27	23	32	32	27	39
<b>Total households<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>31,891</b>	<b>6,368</b>	<b>25,816</b>	<b>11,790</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>4,937</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>8,292</b>

(a) Includes not applicable, not asked (single-person household), not stated, not known, and households with no regular smokers/households with no regular smokers who smoke indoors.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

### Children living in households with smokers by remoteness

- A higher proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years in Very Remote areas lived in households with a regular smoker (80%) and in households with a regular smoker who smoked at home indoors (41%) than Indigenous children in Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional or Remote areas (Table 2.03.4). The same pattern was evident for Indigenous households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years (Table 2.03.5).
- Indigenous children in Major Cities and regional areas were four and two times as likely respectively to live in households with a regular smoker who smoked at home indoors than non-Indigenous children in Major Cities and regional areas.

Table 2.03.4: Children aged 0–14 years living in households with smokers, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2004–05

	Major Cities			Inner Regional			Outer Regional			Remote			Very Remote			Australia		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%		
Proportion of children with regular smoker in household	63	33	1.9*	63	40	1.6*	65	44	1.5*	61	n.a.	..	80	n.a.	..	66	35	1.9*
Proportion of children with regular smoker who smokes at home indoors in household	28	8	3.6*	29	12	2.4*	24	13	1.8*	20	n.a.	..	41	n.a.	..	28	9	3.1*
<b>Total children</b>	<b>54,807</b>	<b>2,479,384</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>37,237</b>	<b>813,364</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>42,849</b>	<b>423,977</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>16,850</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>28,926</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>180,669</b>	<b>3,760,010</b>	<b>..</b>

\* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

**Table 2.03.5: Households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years: smoking status by remoteness, 2004–05**

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
<b>Per cent</b>						
Households with regular smoker in household	65	62	63	63	77	65
Households with regular smoker who smokes at home indoors in household	27	32	26	26	40	29
<b>Total households<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>32,421</b>	<b>21,903</b>	<b>23,465</b>	<b>7,174</b>	<b>10,865</b>	<b>95,829</b>

(a) Includes not applicable, not asked (single-person household), not stated, not known, and households with no regular smokers/households with no regular smokers who smoke indoors.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

### Time series

- A higher proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years lived in households with regular smokers in 2001 than in 2004–05 (70% compared with 66%). This was true in both non-remote and remote areas.
- Indigenous children aged 0–14 years were twice as likely as non-Indigenous children of the same age to live in households with regular smokers in 2001 and 2004–05 (Table 2.03.6).

**Table 2.03.6: Proportion of children aged 0–14 years who live in households with regular smokers, by remoteness and Indigenous status, 2001 and 2004–05**

	Non-remote			Remote			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
2001	65.4	n.a.	n.a.	81.0	n.a.	n.a.	69.7	35.8	1.9
2004–05	63.7	35.4	1.8	72.9	37.5	1.9	66.0	35.4	1.9

Note: Data on non-Indigenous Australians by remoteness classification are not available from the 2001 NHS (Indigenous supplement).

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS, 2004–05 NHS and 2001 NHS (Indigenous supplement).

## **Data quality concerns**

### **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)**

*The NATSIHS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSIHS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and thus overcome the problem inherent in most national surveys with small and unrepresentative Indigenous samples. As with other surveys, the NATSIHS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Calculations of standard errors and significance testing help to establish the accuracy of the estimates and differences.*

*Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents. The ABS makes every effort to collect accurate information from respondents, particularly through careful questionnaire design, pre-testing of questionnaires, use of trained interviewers and assistance from Indigenous facilitators. Nevertheless, some responses may be affected by imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions.*

*Non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the National Health Survey (NHS). The NHS was conducted in Major Cities, Inner and Outer Regional areas and Remote areas, but Very Remote areas were excluded from the sample. Time series comparisons are available through the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys.*

*In remote communities there were some modifications to the NATSIHS content in order to accommodate language and cultural appropriateness in traditional communities and help respondents understand the concepts. Some questions were excluded and some reworded. Also, paper forms were used in communities in remote areas and computer-assisted interview (CAI) instruments were used in non-remote areas. The CAI process included built-in edit checks and sequencing.*

*Further information on NATSIHS data quality issues can be found in the 2004–05 NATSIHS publication (ABS 2006).*

## **References**

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2006. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2004–05. Canberra: ABS.