

2.08 Income

Equivalised gross household and individual income of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, and the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Census of Population and Housing

The ABS Census of Population and Housing is conducted by the ABS at 5-yearly intervals with 2006 the most recent, and is designed to include all Australian households. The Census uses the ABS standard Indigenous status question and it is asked for each household member.

Although the Census data are adjusted for undercounts at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done for statistics used in this measure.

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).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The 2002 NATSISS collected information from 9,400 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice. The 2002 NATSISS is the second national social survey of Indigenous Australians conducted by the ABS. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS). The ABS plans to conduct the NATSISS every 6 years. The next survey is planned for 2008.

Equivalised income

Equivalence scales are used to adjust the actual incomes of households in a way that enables the analysis of the relative economic wellbeing of people living in households of different size and composition. When household income is adjusted according to an equivalence scale, the equivalised income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to each individual in a household. For a lone-person household, it is equal to income received.

In this measure, a 'modified OECD' equivalence scale has been used, the scale widely accepted among Australian analysts of income distribution. This scale allocates 1.0 point for the first adult (aged 15 years or over) in a household; 0.5 for each additional adult; and 0.3 for each child. Equivalised household income is derived by dividing total household income by the sum of the equivalence points allocated to household members.

Equivalised gross household income quintiles are groupings of 20% of the total population of Australia when ranked in ascending order according to equivalised gross household income. The population used for this purpose includes all people living in private dwellings, including children and other persons over the age of 15 years.

Data analyses

Comparisons of NATSIHS, NATSISS and Census data

The NATSIHS, NATSISS and Census all collect information on household and individual income. Information on mean equivalised gross household income is available from the NATSISS and the Census. Information on equivalised gross household income quintiles is available from all three data sources. Information on individual equivalised household income is also available from all three data sources; however, individual income quintiles were unable to be constructed for the 2006 Census data because of difficulties in grouping the data into even quintile groups.

When comparing the **mean equivalised gross household income** of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over from the 2002 NATSISS with data from the 2006 Census, the mean income is lower using estimates from the NATSISS (\$394) than when using estimates from the Census (\$512). This may be explained by the different time periods of the two surveys, because mean income is generally increasing with time.

When comparing **equivalised gross household income quintiles** for Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over with a stated income from the 2004–05 NATSIHS, the 2002 NATSISS and the 2006 Census, the results are very similar. For example, the proportions of Indigenous persons in the lowest income quintile from the NATSIHS, NATSISS and Census were 41%, 42% and 40% respectively, and the proportions of Indigenous persons in the highest income quintile for the three data sources were 6%, 6% and 8% respectively.

When comparing the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over **below the 20th and 50th percentiles for equivalised gross household income** from the three data sources, the estimates are slightly lower from the NATSIHS than from the NATSISS and the Census. The proportions of Indigenous Australians below the 20th percentile were 35%, 42% and 40% for the NATSIHS, NATSISS and Census respectively, and the proportions of Indigenous Australians below the 50th percentile were 64%, 77% and 72% for the three data sources respectively.

This measure presents data included in the 2006 edition of this report for persons aged 15 years and over (2004–05 NATSIHS data) and for persons aged 18 years and over (2002 NATSISS data) and new data from the 2006 Census for persons aged 18 years and over. Data from the NATSIHS and NATSISS are presented first followed by data from the 2006 Census.

NATSIHS/NATSISS data

Household income

Mean equivalised household income

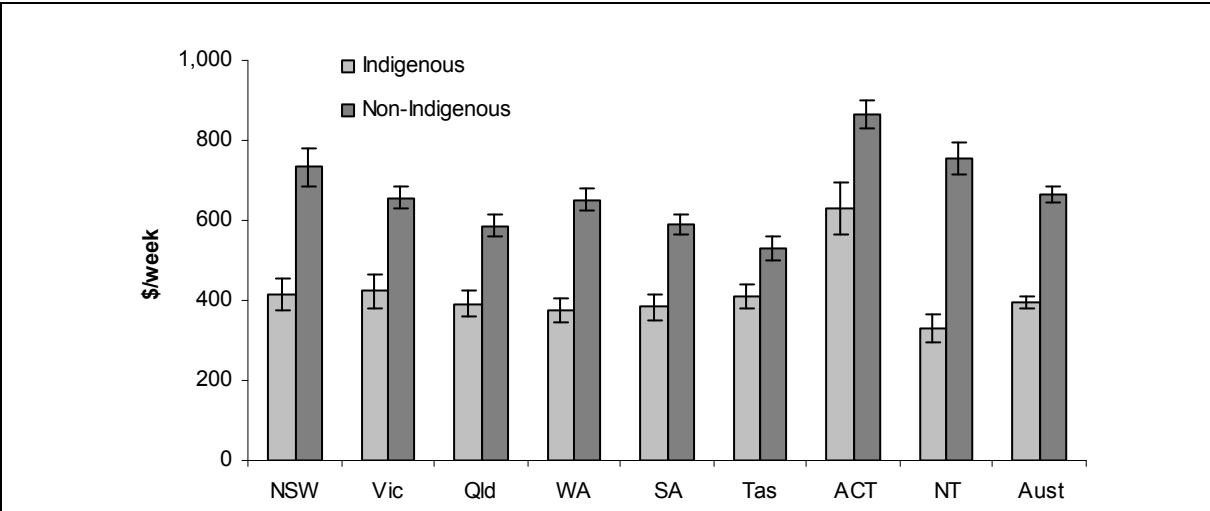
Data on the mean equivalised household income of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are available from the 2002 NATSISS and 2002 GSS.

- The 2002 NATSISS estimated that the mean equivalised gross household income was \$394 per week for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over compared with \$665 per week for non-Indigenous persons (Table 2.08.1).
- The mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons varied by state and territory, ranging from \$329 in the Northern Territory to \$631 in the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 2.08.1).
- There has been little change in the mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons between 1994 and 2002. Nationally, the mean equivalised gross household income was \$374 in 1994, increasing to \$394 in 2002, but this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 2.08.2).
- There was little difference in the mean equivalised gross household income of Indigenous Australians by remoteness (Figure 2.08.3).

Table 2.08.1: Mean equivalised gross household income (\$ per week), by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2002

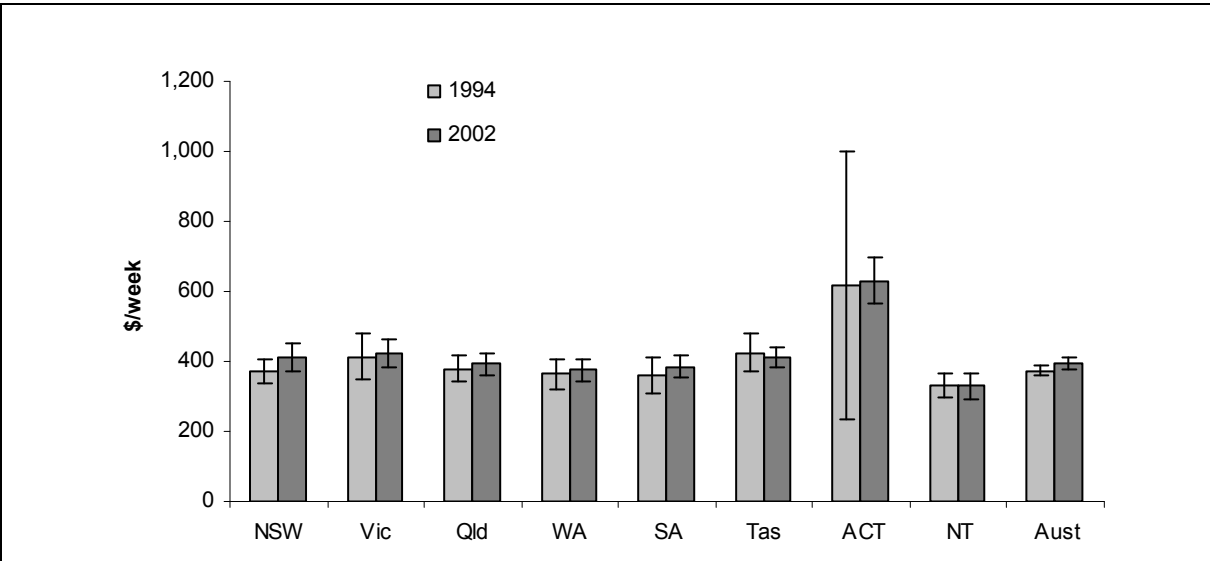
State/territory	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
New South Wales	414	733
Victoria	423	657
Queensland	392	587
Western Australia	376	652
South Australia	384	590
Tasmania	411	531
Australian Capital Territory	631	865
Northern Territory	329	755
Australia	394	665

Source: SCRGSP 2005:



Source: SCRGSP 2005.

Figure 2.08.1: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2002

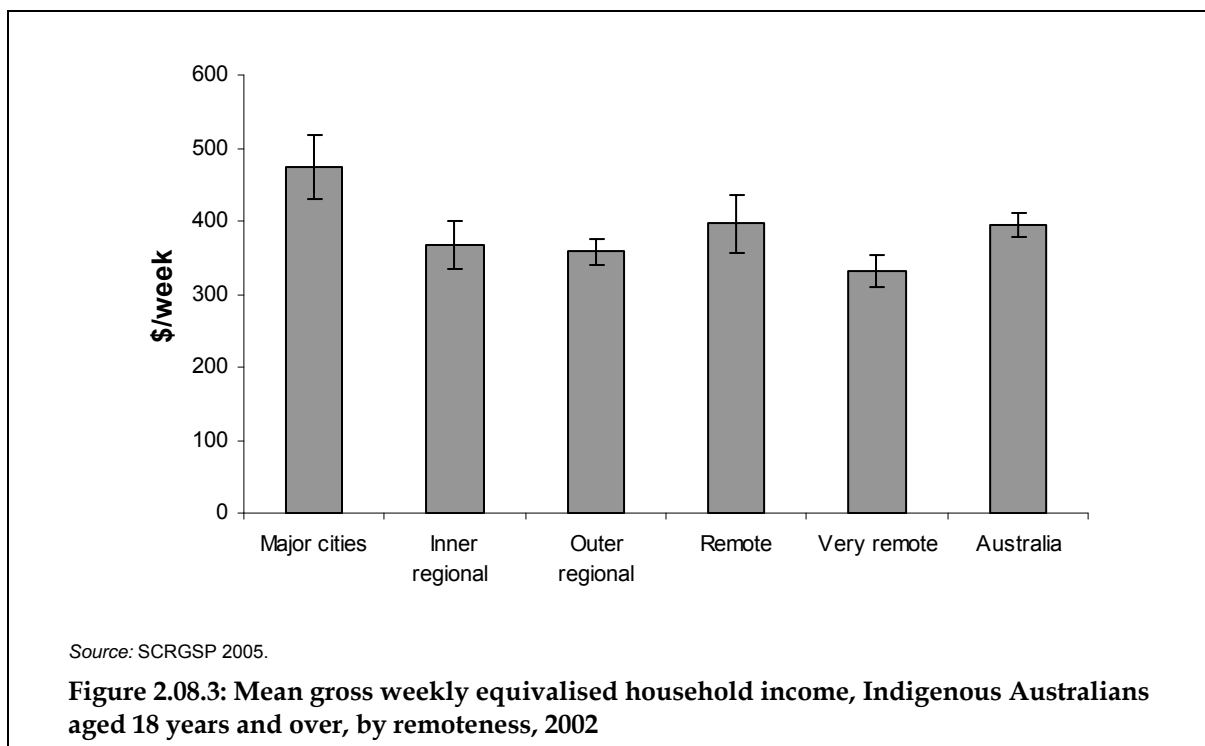


Notes

1. Adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for the June quarter 1994 and the December quarter 2002.
2. The ACT estimate for 1994 has a relative standard error greater than 25% and should be used with caution.

Source: SCRGSP 2005.

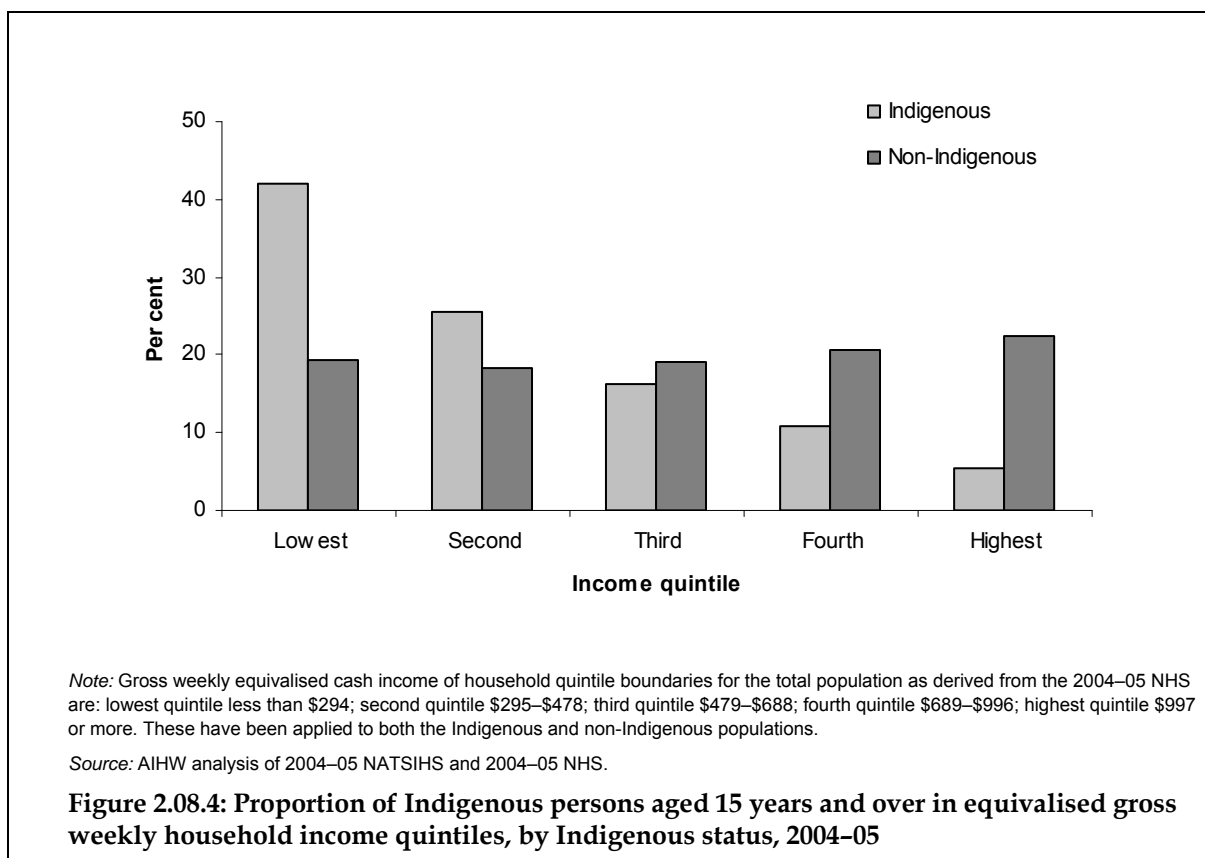
Figure 2.08.2: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by state/territory, 1994 and 2002



Equivalised household income quintiles/percentiles

Data presented below on equivalised household income quintiles and percentiles come from the 2004-05 NATSIHS.

- In 2004-05, of those who stated their household income, approximately 42% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 21% of non-Indigenous Australians. Only 6% of Indigenous Australians were in the highest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 22% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.2; Figure 2.08.4).
- Indigenous Australians were much more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income (42% compared with 19%) and much less likely to be in the highest quintile (6% compared with 22%) (Table 2.08.3).
- Approximately 35% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were below the 20th percentile of household income and 64% were below the 50th percentile of household income (Table 2.08.3).



Equivalised household income quintiles/percentiles by state/territory and remoteness

- The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income (57%) and Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the highest income quintile (8%).
- In 2004–05, approximately 36% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over living in Major Cities were in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 49% of Indigenous Australians in Remote or Very Remote areas. Around 13% and 7% of Indigenous Australians in Major Cities were in the fourth and highest quintiles of income respectively compared with 6% and 4% of Indigenous Australians in Remote/Very Remote areas (Table 2.08.4).

Table 2.08.2: Number and proportion of persons aged 15 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile,^(a) by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2004–05

	Income quintile	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
NSW	1st	28,523	39.6	847,839	19.5
	2nd	16,956	23.5	763,152	17.5
	3rd	12,425	17.2	767,401	17.6
	4th	9,507	13.2	884,691	20.3
	5th	4,658	6.5	1,085,435	25.0
	Total stated ^(b)	72,068	100.0	4,348,518	100.0
	Not known/not stated	12,500	17.3	869,513	20.0
	Total^(c)	84,568	100.0	5,218,031	100.0
Vic	1st	6,252	40.2	645,370	20.5
	2nd	3,380	21.7	582,718	18.5
	3rd	3,355	21.6	628,366	20.0
	4th	1,559	10.0	628,289	20.0
	5th	1,019	6.5	660,939	21.0
	Total stated ^(b)	15,565	100.0	3,145,683	100.0
	Not known/not stated	2,957	19.0	803,475	25.5
	Total^(c)	18,522	100.0	3,949,158	100.0
Qld	1st	25,114	36.7	477,089	19.2
	2nd	18,531	27.1	479,335	19.3
	3rd	13,438	19.7	503,228	20.2
	4th	7,233	10.6	525,798	21.1
	5th	4,045	5.9	504,226	20.3
	Total stated ^(b)	68,362	100.0	2,489,677	100.0
	Not known/not stated	10,860	15.9	456,147	18.3
	Total^(c)	79,222	100.0	2,945,824	100.0
WA	1st	17,326	47.8	224,912	18.0
	2nd	9,995	27.6	239,672	19.2
	3rd	4,649	12.8	246,339	19.8
	4th	2,984	8.2	270,729	21.7
	5th	1,319	3.6	265,314	21.3
	Total stated ^(b)	36,273	100.0	1,246,966	100.0
	Not known/not stated	6,522	18.0	249,959	20.0
	Total^(c)	42,795	100.0	1,496,925	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.08.2 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 15 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile,^(a) by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2004–05

		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
SA	1st	5,978	46.0	203,637	20.7
	2nd	2,972	22.9	195,514	19.9
	3rd	1,509	11.6	190,926	19.4
	4th	1,695	13.0	203,545	20.7
	5th	847	6.5	189,083	19.2
	Total stated ^(b)	13,000	100.0	982,706	100.0
	Not known/not stated	3,582	27.6	222,656	22.7
	Total^(c)	16,582	100.0	1,205,362	100.0
Tas/ACT	1st	4,466	34.7	93,430	16.6
	2nd	3,675	28.5	102,272	18.2
	3rd	2,354	18.3	103,332	18.4
	4th	1,416	11.0	118,309	21.1
	5th	962	7.5	144,601	25.7
	Total stated ^(b)	12,873	100.0	561,944	100.0
	Not known/not stated	982	7.6	57,541	10.2
	Total^(c)	13,856	100.0	619,484	100.0
NT^(d)	1st	16,422	56.7	6,488	n.p.
	2nd	7,660	26.5	7,507	n.p.
	3rd	2,217	7.7	26,260	n.p.
	4th	1,999	6.9	22,234	n.p.
	5th	640	2.2	22,545	n.p.
	Total stated ^(b)	28,937	100.0	85,034	n.p.
	Not known/not stated	8,749	30.2	12,558	n.p.
	Total^(c)	37,686	100.0	97,592	100.0
Australia	1st	104,081	42.1	2,498,767	19.4
	2nd	63,169	25.6	2,370,171	18.4
	3rd	39,947	16.2	2,465,851	19.2
	4th	26,393	10.7	2,653,594	20.6
	5th	13,489	5.5	2,872,144	22.3
	Total stated ^(b)	247,079	100.0	12,860,527	100.0
	Not known/not stated	46,152	18.7	2,671,849	20.8
	Total^(c)	293,231	100.0	15,532,377	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.08.2 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 15 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile,^(a) by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2004–05

n.p. Not available for publication.

- (a) Gross weekly equivalised cash income of household quintile boundaries for the total population as derived from the 2004–05 NHS are: lowest quintile less than \$294; second quintile \$295–\$478; third quintile \$479–\$688; fourth quintile \$689–\$996; highest quintile \$997 or more. These have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.
- (b) Total with household income stated shown as a proportion of the total.
- (c) Excluding cases where the classification of income category is not applicable.
- (d) Sample does not support non-Indigenous estimates for the Northern Territory.

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

Table 2.08.3: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were below the 20th and 50th percentiles of equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles, 2004–05

	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile
New South Wales	34	60
Victoria	34	65
Queensland	32	65
Western Australia	40	70
South Australia	36	57
Tasmania/Australian Capital Territory	32	69
Northern Territory	44	68
Australia	35	64

Notes

1. Equivalised gross weekly household income is not available from the 2001 and 1995 NHS (Indigenous supplement).
2. Excludes those for whom income was unknown or not stated.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.08.4: Proportion of persons aged 15 years and over in each gross weekly household income quintile^(a), by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2004–05

	First quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile	Total stated ^(b)	Not stated ^(c)	Total number
Indigenous								
Major Cities	35.9	23.4	21.0	13.0	6.7	100.0	15.6	89,030
Inner Regional	41.6	24.3	16.4	10.0	7.8	100.0	11.9	58,355
Outer Regional	43.1	23.1	16.5	13.6	3.8	100.0	15.2	65,677
Remote or Very Remote	49.0	31.2	10.1	6.1	3.6	100.0	19.1	80,169
Total	42.1	25.6	16.2	10.7	5.5	100.0	15.7	293,231
Non-Indigenous								
Major Cities	17.7	16.7	18.3	21.7	25.5	100.0	19.0	10,615,977
Inner Regional	21.4	22.6	21.9	18.5	15.6	100.0	14.1	3,090,996
Outer Regional	25.6	21.6	19.6	17.6	15.6	100.0	11.5	1,637,784
Remote or Very Remote ^(d)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	14.9	187,620
Total	19.4	18.4	19.2	20.6	22.3	100.0	17.2	15,532,377

n.p. Not available for publication.

(a) Gross weekly equivalised cash income of household quintile boundaries for the total population as derived from the 2004–05 NHS are: lowest quintile less than \$294; second quintile \$295–\$478; third quintile \$479–\$688; fourth quintile \$689–\$996; highest quintile \$997 or more. These have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

(b) Comprises persons living in households where household income was stated. Note that equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles are calculated as a proportion of households with stated household income.

(c) Total with household income not stated shown as a proportion of the total.

(d) Data for Very Remote areas of Australia were not collected in the 2004–05 National Health Survey.

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

Equivalised household income by summary health and population characteristics

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected data on equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles and selected population characteristics.

- Indigenous Australians with fair/poor health status were more likely to be in the lowest quintile of household income than those with excellent/very good health status.
- Indigenous Australians whose highest year of schooling completed was Year 12 or who had a non-school qualification were more likely to be in the fourth or fifth quintiles of household income than those who reported Year 9 or below as their highest year of schooling or did not have a non-school qualification.
- Indigenous Australians who were employed or homeowners were also more likely to be in the fourth or fifth quintiles of household income than those who were unemployed or renters (Table 2.08.5).

Table 2.08.5: Equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles^(a), by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and older, 2004–05

	Income quintiles						Total
	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Fourth and fifth	
Self-assessed health status							
Excellent/very good	30	21	16	11	5	17	100
Good	36	22	14	9	5	13	100
Fair/poor	45	21	9	5	3	8	100
Financial stress							
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	20	19	20	16	9	25	100
Location							
Remote	40	25	8	5	3	8	100
Non-remote	34	20	16	11	5	16	100
Highest year of school completed							
Year 12	17	21	21	16	10	26	100
Year 11	32	24	15	10	5	15	100
Year 10	35	23	14	8	4	12	100
Year 9 or below	48	19	8	5	2	7	100
Whether has non-school qualification							
Has a non-school qualification	24	20	18	14	8	22	100
Does not have a non-school qualification	41	22	12	7	3	10	100
Employment							
Employed	15	24	22	16	9	24	100
Unemployed	53	20	7	1	1	1	100
Not in the labour force	56	20	5	3	1	4	100
Housing							
Owner	14	18	22	18	11	29	100
Renter	44	23	11	6	2	8	100
Stressors in last 12 months^(b)							
Serious illness or disability	33	21	13	11	7	18	100
Other stressors	37	23	13	7	4	11	100
Total experienced stressors	36	22	13	8	5	14	100
No stressors	31	20	17	11	5	16	100
All persons aged 15+ years							
	35	22	14	9	5	14	100
Total number aged 15+ yrs	104,081	63,169	39,947	26,393	13,489	39,882	293,231

(a) Gross weekly equivalised cash income of household quintile boundaries for the total population as derived from the 2004–05 NHS are: lowest quintile less than \$294; second quintile \$295–\$478; third quintile \$479–\$688; fourth quintile \$689–\$996; highest quintile \$997 or more. These have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

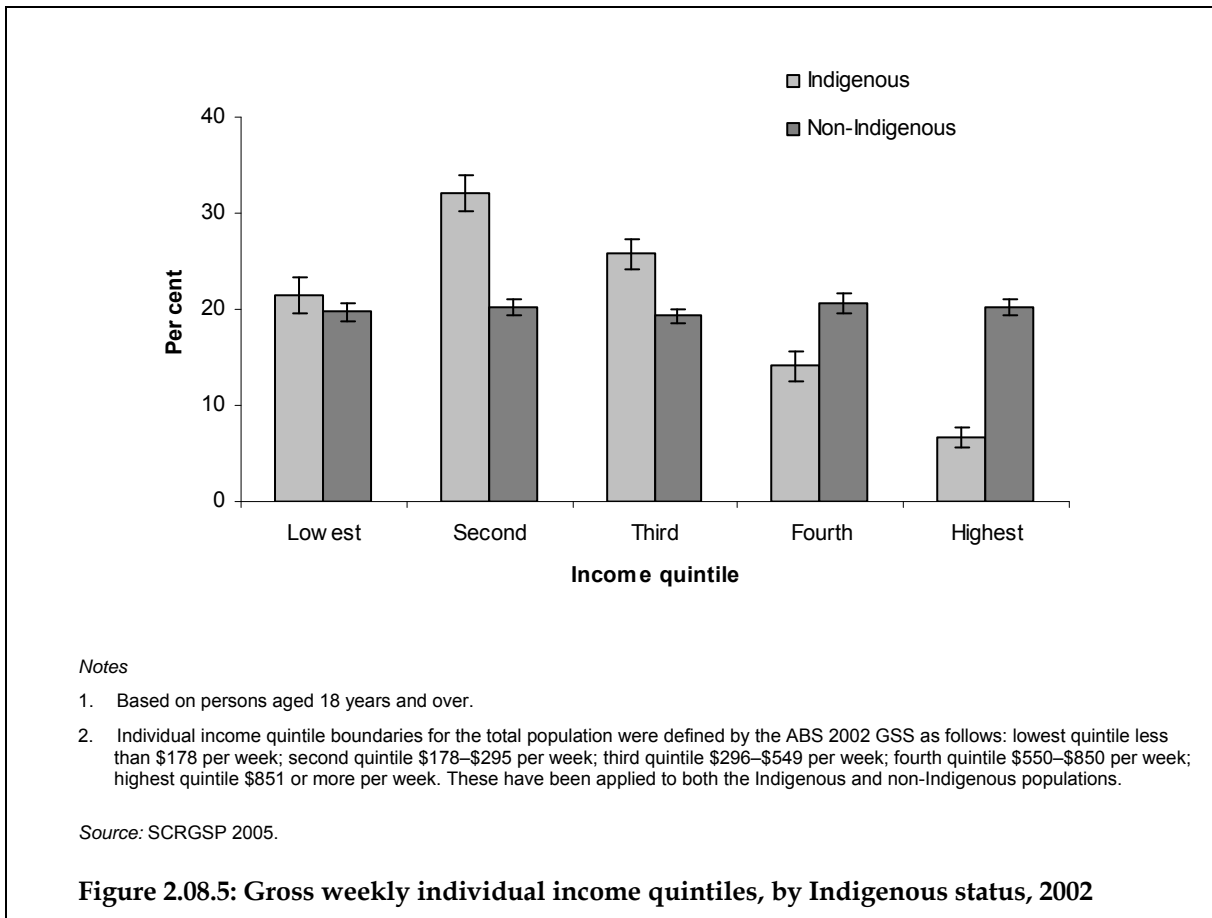
(b) Persons aged 18 years and over

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Individual income

As with the gross weekly equivalised household income, the individual income quintile boundaries are based on the total population as derived from the 2002 GSS and have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

- In 2002, Indigenous people aged 18 years and over were more likely to be in the three lowest individual income quintiles, although the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people for the lowest quintile was not statistically significant. Only 7% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were in the highest individual income quintile compared with 20% of non-Indigenous Australians (Figure 2.08.5).



Census data

Household income

Mean equivalised household income

Data on the mean equivalised household income of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over are available from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

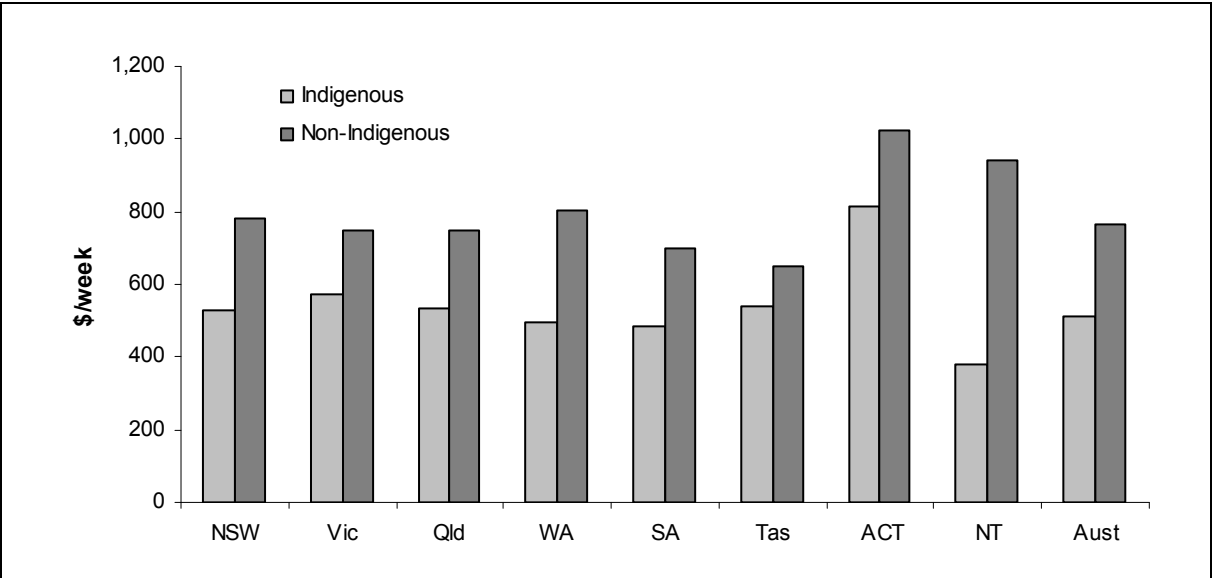
- The mean equivalised gross household income was \$512 per week for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over compared with \$766 per week for non-Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over (Table 2.08.6).
- The mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous males (\$537) was slightly higher than for Indigenous females (\$490) (ABS unpublished data).
- The mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons varied by state and territory, ranging from \$379 in the Northern Territory to \$812 in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.08.6; Figure 2.08.6).
- The mean equivalised gross household income of Indigenous Australians decreased with remoteness, from \$617 per week in Major Cities to \$348 per week in Very Remote areas (Figure 2.08.7).

Table 2.08.6: Mean equivalised gross household income (\$ per week), by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over^(a), 2006

State/territory	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	\$	\$
New South Wales	530	782
Victoria	571	751
Queensland	534	751
Western Australia	496	804
South Australia	482	701
Tasmania	537	651
Australian Capital Territory	812	1,025
Northern Territory	379	940
Australia	512	766

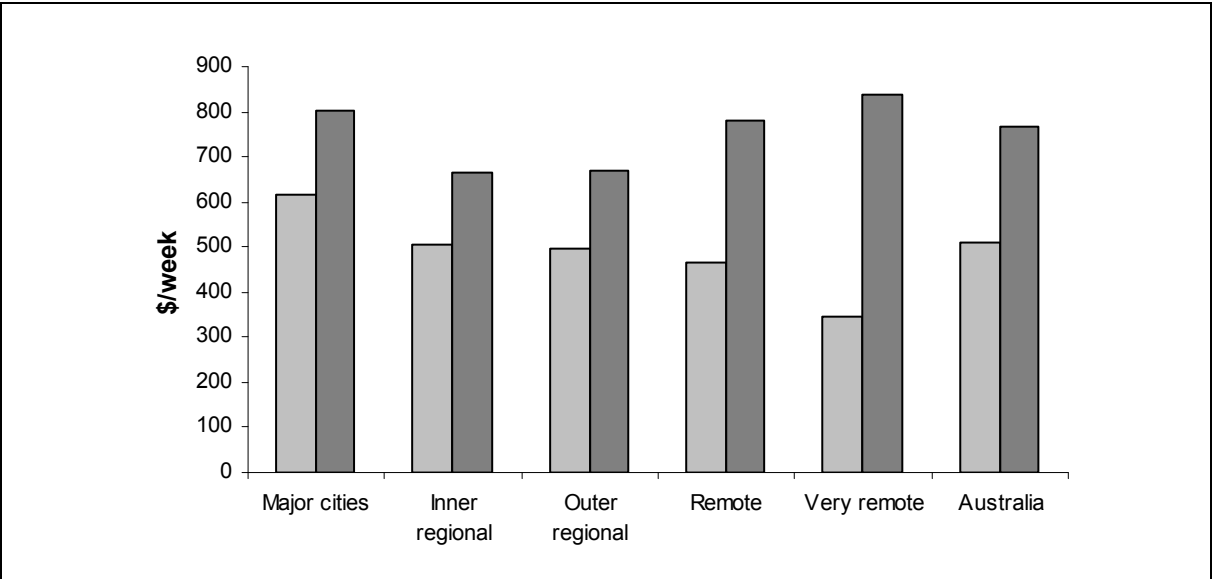
(a) Persons in households aged 18 years and over in which there were no temporarily absent adults and all incomes were fully stated

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.08.6: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

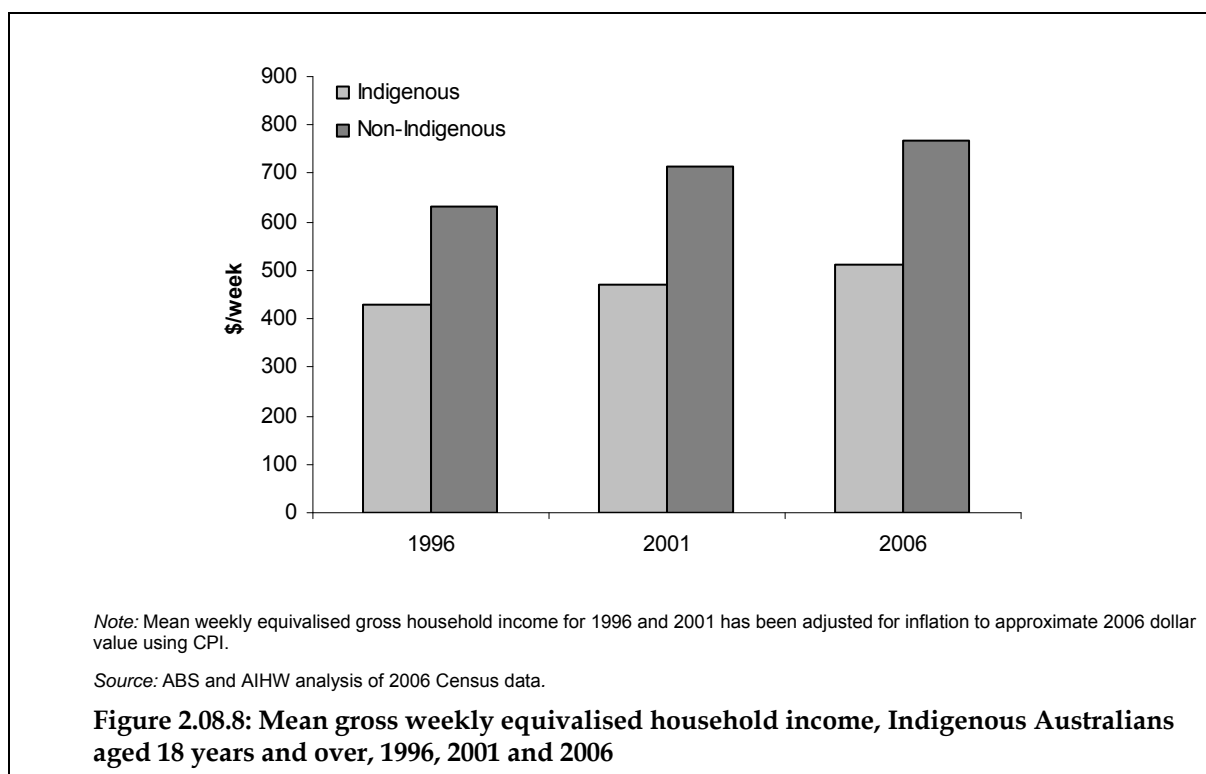


Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.08.7: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

Time series

- There was an increase in the mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over between 1996 and 2001 (\$43; 10% increase) and between 2001 and 2006 (\$41; 9% increase) (Figure 2.08.8).
- There was also an increase in the mean equivalised gross household income for non-Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over between 1996 and 2006 (\$84; 13% increase) and between 2001 and 2006 (\$52; 7% increase) (Figure 2.08.8).



Equivalised household income quintiles/percentiles

Data presented below on equivalised household income quintiles and percentiles come from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

- In 2006, of those who stated their household income, approximately 40% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 20% of non-Indigenous Australians. Only 8% of Indigenous Australians were in the highest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 22% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.7; Figure 2.08.9).
- There was little difference in the proportion of Indigenous males and females in each equivalised household income quintile.

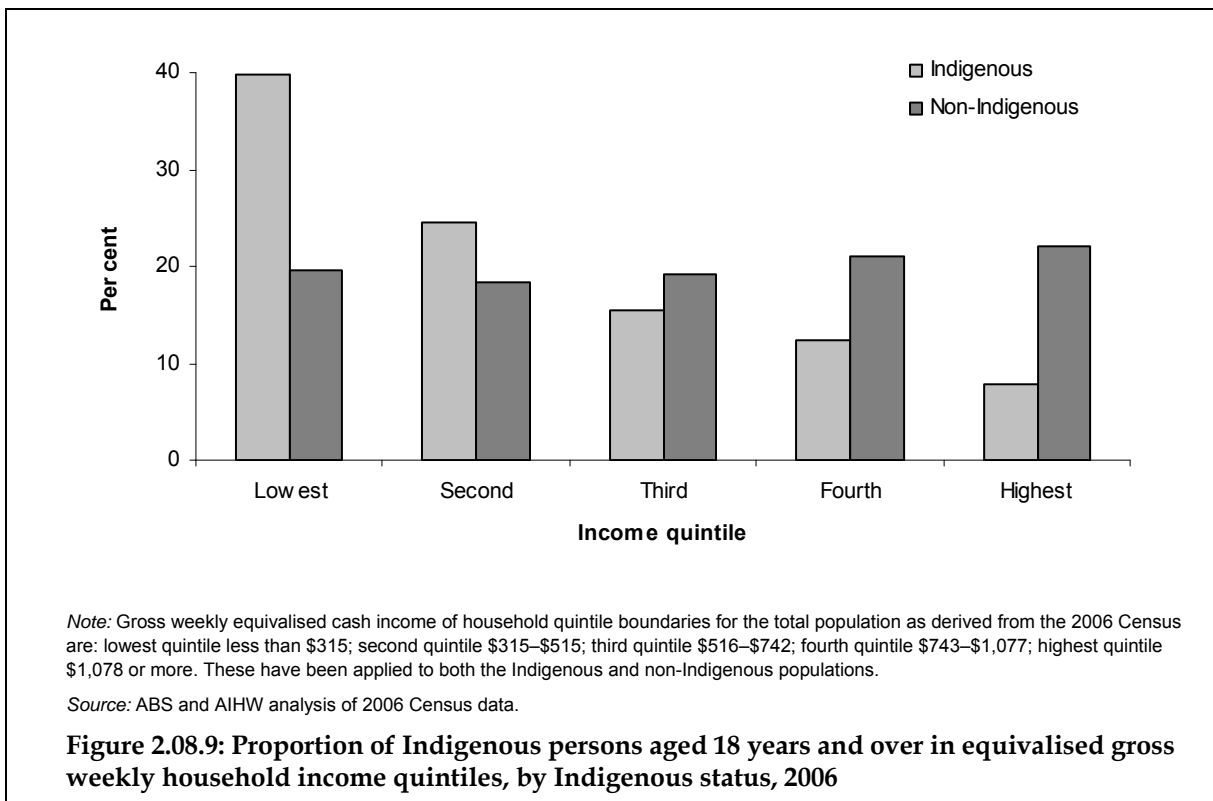
Table 2.08.7: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, 2006

Income quintile		Males		Females		Persons	
		Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
1 st (Lowest)	%	36.6	17.0	42.5	21.9	39.8	19.5
2nd	%	24.7	17.8	24.1	18.6	24.5	18.3
3rd	%	16.3	19.6	14.8	18.8	15.4	19.1
4th	%	13.2	21.3	11.1	19.5	12.4	21.0
5 th (Highest)	%	9.3	24.2	7.4	21.3	7.9	22.0
Total stated^(b)	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not known/not stated	%	16.8	10.2	18.1	10.9	17.5	10.6

(a) Gross weekly equivalised cash income of household quintile boundaries for the total population as derived from the 2006 Census are: lowest quintile less than \$315; second quintile \$315–\$515; third quintile \$516–\$742; fourth quintile \$743–\$1,077; highest quintile \$1,078 or more. These have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

(b) Total with household income stated shown as a proportion of the total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Equivalised household income quintiles by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2006, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income (59%) and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the highest income quintile (29%) (Table 2.08.8).
- In every state and territory, a higher proportion Indigenous Australians were more likely to be in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income and less likely to be in the highest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income than non-Indigenous Australians.
- In 2006 approximately 40% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over were below the 20th percentile of equivalised gross weekly household income and 72% were below the 50th percentile of equivalised gross weekly household income (Table 2.08.9). The Northern Territory had the highest proportions of Indigenous Australians below the 20th and 50th percentiles (59% and 87%).
- There was little difference in the proportion of Indigenous persons age 18 years and over below the 20th and 50th percentiles of equivalised gross weekly household income in 1996, 2001 and 2006.
- In 2006, approximately 30% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over living in Major Cities were in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 60% of Indigenous Australians in Very Remote areas. Around 18% and 13% of Indigenous Australians in Major Cities were in the fourth and fifth quintiles of income respectively compared with 3% and 2% respectively of Indigenous Australians in Very Remote areas (Table 2.08.10).

Table 2.08.8: Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over^(a) in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(b), by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

	Income quintile	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
NSW	1st (lowest)	21,670	38.8	780,472	20.3
	2nd	12,927	23.1	688,440	17.9
	3rd	8,909	16.0	689,952	17.9
	4th	7,382	13.2	767,724	19.9
	5th (highest)	4,958	8.9	922,536	24.0
	Total stated	55,846	100.0	3,849,124	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	11,129	16.6	463,285	10.7
	Total	66,975	100.0	4,312,409	100.0
Vic	1st (lowest)	4,269	34.0	590,821	19.9
	2nd	2,786	22.2	554,241	18.7
	3rd	2,251	17.9	582,092	19.6
	4th	1,940	15.4	618,146	20.8
	5th (highest)	1,312	10.4	621,297	20.9
	Total stated	12,558	100.0	2,966,597	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	2,529	16.8	360,066	10.8
	Total	15,087	100.0	3,326,663	100.0
Qld	1st (lowest)	16,728	33.1	409,910	18.3
	2nd	13,783	27.3	423,681	18.9
	3rd	9,140	18.1	458,234	20.5
	4th	6,980	13.8	501,218	22.4
	5th (highest)	3,861	7.6	446,857	19.9
	Total stated	50,492	100.0	2,239,900	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	10,269	16.9	260,060	10.4
	Total	60,761	100.0	2,499,960	100.0
WA	1st (lowest)	9,668	44.4	190,335	17.2
	2nd	4,931	22.6	184,076	16.7
	3rd	3,056	14.0	209,508	19.0
	4th	2,417	11.1	248,530	22.5
	5th (highest)	1,720	7.9	272,373	24.7
	Total stated	21,792	100.0	1,104,822	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	5,813	21.1	138,006	11.1
	Total	27,605	100.0	1,242,828	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.08.8 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over^(a) in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(b), by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
SA	1st (lowest)	4,487	43.3	207,426	22.3
	2nd	2,510	24.2	186,106	20.0
	3rd	1,500	14.5	185,743	20.0
	4th	1,162	11.2	192,926	20.8
	5th (highest)	708	6.8	156,840	16.9
	Total stated	10,367	100.0	929,041	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	2,246	17.8	95,546	9.3
	Total	12,613	100.0	1,024,587	100.0
Tas	1st (lowest)	2,447	32.0	68,589	24.7
	2nd	2,062	27.0	63,070	22.7
	3rd	1,476	19.3	56,851	20.4
	4th	1,148	15.0	52,667	18.9
	5th (highest)	516	6.7	36,964	13.3
	Total stated	7,649	100.0	278,141	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	1,041	12.0	30,635	9.9
	Total	8,690	100.0	308,776	100.0
ACT	1st (lowest)	392	22.5	18,411	9.4
	2nd	212	12.2	20,059	10.2
	3rd	225	12.9	28,211	14.4
	4th	403	23.1	46,197	23.5
	5th (highest)	509	29.2	83,391	42.5
	Total stated	1,741	100.0	196,269	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	240	12.1	19,870	9.2
	Total	1,981	100.0	216,139	100.0
NT	1st (lowest)	12,957	58.6	6,848	9.4
	2nd	5,546	25.1	8,092	11.1
	3rd	1,502	6.8	12,635	17.4
	4th	1,224	5.5	19,868	27.3
	5th (highest)	885	4.0	25,205	34.7
	Total stated	22,114	100.0	72,648	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	5,421	19.7	9,449	11.5
	Total	27,535	100.0	82,097	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.08.8 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over^(a) in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(b), by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
Australia	1st (lowest)	72,662	39.8	2,272,946	19.5
	2nd	44,795	24.5	2,127,948	18.3
	3rd	28,087	15.4	2,223,472	19.1
	4th	22,672	12.4	2,447,521	21.0
	5th (highest)	14,469	7.9	2,565,718	22.0
	Total stated	182,685	100.0	11,637,605	100.0
	Not known/not stated ^(c)	38,695	17.5	1,377,098	10.6
Total	221,380	100.0	13,014,703	100.0	

(a) Persons in households aged 18 years and over in which there were no temporarily absent adults and all incomes were fully stated

(b) Gross weekly equivalised cash income of household quintile boundaries for the total population as derived from the 2006 Census are: lowest quintile less than \$315; second quintile \$315–\$515; third quintile \$516–\$742; fourth quintile \$743–\$1,077; highest quintile \$1,078 or more. These have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

(c) Total with household income not stated shown as a proportion of the total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.08.9: Percentage of Indigenous persons^(a) age 18 years and over who were below the 20th and 50th percentiles of equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles, 1996, 2001 and 2006

	1996		2001		2006	
	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile
	%	%	%	%	%	%
NSW	34.8	68.7	35.5	69.1	38.8	70.2
Vic	29.6	63.1	30.2	63.2	34.0	65.3
Qld	32.2	72.2	34.2	73.7	33.1	70.0
WA	37.7	76.6	42.9	78.2	44.4	74.4
SA	38.9	72.9	40.5	77.0	43.3	75.0
Tas	30.5	66.0	33.6	69.9	32.0	69.3
ACT	23.6	44.6	19.4	42.0	22.5	40.5
NT	46.9	87.4	57.5	89.3	58.6	87.2
Australia	35.7	72.8	38.9	74.1	39.8	72.3

(a) Persons in households aged 18 years and over in which there were no temporarily absent adults and all incomes were fully stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.08.10: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(b), by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2006

	First quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile	Total stated ^(b)	Not stated ^(c)	Total number
Indigenous								
Major Cities	29.9	20.9	18.4	17.8	13.0	100.0	16.2	73,653
Inner Regional	37.6	25.9	17.3	12.7	6.5	100.0	16.7	45,939
Outer Regional	39.6	25.4	16.7	12.0	6.3	100.0	19.5	46,285
Remote	46.1	25.0	12.5	9.5	6.8	100.0	22.3	19,342
Very Remote	59.6	28.7	6.7	3.0	2.0	100.0	15.9	36,164
Total	39.8	24.5	15.4	12.4	7.9	100.0	17.5	221,383
Non-Indigenous								
Major Cities	17.8	16.8	18.6	21.8	25.0	100.0	10.6	9,163,828
Inner Regional	23.5	22.2	20.7	19.3	14.3	100.0	10.3	2,502,197
Outer Regional	24.6	21.7	19.8	18.9	15.0	100.0	11.0	1,146,330
Remote	20.4	17.3	17.9	20.2	24.1	100.0	12.1	154,249
Very Remote	17.8	15.9	17.0	21.2	28.2	100.0	12.7	48,098
Total	19.5	18.3	19.1	21.0	22.0	100.0	10.6	13,014,702

(a) Gross weekly equivalised cash income of household quintile boundaries for the total population as derived from the 2006 Census are: lowest quintile less than \$315; second quintile \$315–\$515; third quintile \$516–\$742; fourth quintile \$743–\$1,077; highest quintile \$1,078 or more. These have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

(b) Comprises persons living in households where household income was stated. Note that equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles are calculated as a proportion of households with stated household income.

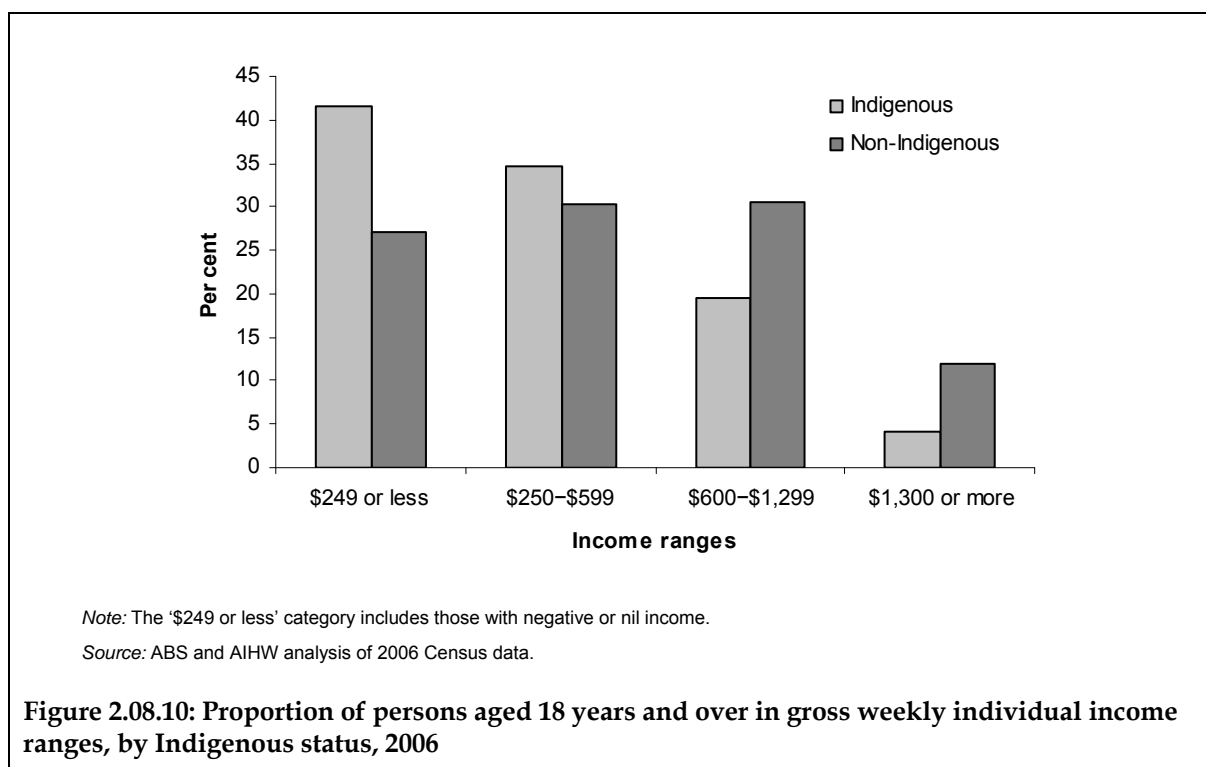
(c) Total with household income not stated shown as a proportion of the total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Individual income

Individual income quintiles were unable to be constructed for the 2006 Census data because of the difficulty in grouping the data in even 20% groups owing to the proportions in each income range. Instead, a break-down into income ranges is presented in Figure 2.08.10.

- In 2006 the median gross weekly individual income for Indigenous Australians was \$318 compared with \$504 for non-Indigenous Australians.
- In 2006, Indigenous people aged 18 years and over were more likely than non-Indigenous people of the same age to have a gross weekly individual income of \$249 or less (42% compared with 27%). Only 4% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over had a gross weekly individual income of \$1,300 or more compared with 12% of non-Indigenous Australians (Figure 2.08.10).



Additional information

Financial stress

The 2004-05 NATSIHS collected information on whether Indigenous households could raise \$2,000 within an emergency, and whether the household had days without money for basic living expenses in the 2 weeks before the survey and in the 12 months before the survey.

- In 2004-05, approximately 46% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were living in households which reported they could not raise \$2,000 within a week in a time of crisis. Indigenous people in remote areas were more likely to report that they could not raise \$2,000 within a week than Indigenous people in non-remote areas (67% compared with 41% respectively).
- Around one-quarter of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reported they had days without money for basic living expenses in the 2 weeks before the survey and 37%

reported having days without money for basic living expenses in the 12 months before the survey.

- Indigenous Australians who reported they were unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important or had days without money for basic living expenses in the 2 weeks or 12 months before the survey were more likely to be in the lowest quintile of household income than in the higher income quintiles.

Data quality issues

Census of Population and Housing

The Census uses the National health data dictionary standard Indigenous status question and it is asked for each household member. Measures that are drawn from Census data are subject to broad data concerns relating to the unexplainable growth in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population since the 1991 Census, and limitations of self-identification. Other Census data issues relate to the accuracy of the Census count itself, for example, whether people are counted more than once or are undercounted (ABS 1996).

For the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey it was estimated that there were 165,700 Indigenous households compared with 144,700 enumerated in the 2001 Census. Although the Census data are adjusted for undercounts at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done at the household level. This affects the accuracy of the person counts at the household level to provide adjusted household estimates.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSIHS and NATSISS both use the standard Indigenous status question. The survey samples were 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 and NATSISS are 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 these surveys 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) and the 2002 General Social Survey. The NHS was conducted in Major Cities and regional 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 and the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

In remote communities there were some modifications to the NATSIHS and NATSISS 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 and NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2002 NATSISS publications (ABS 2006, 2004).

References

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