

1.4 Deaths

1.4.1 Overall mortality

Summary of findings

Males and females from regional and remote areas had higher rates of death than those from Major Cities.

Death rates for males in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas were 1.1, 1.1, 1.2 and 1.5 times those in Major Cities, and for females from these areas rates were 1.05, 1.05, 1.1 and 1.5 times those in Major Cities.

High rates in remote areas, especially, were influenced by high overall death rates for Indigenous people – rates that were 3 times those for their non-Indigenous counterparts from Major Cities.

Rates for non-Indigenous people in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas were 1.05, 1.1, 1.05 and 1.00 times those in Major Cities, and rates for non-Indigenous females were 1.05, 1.05, 1.00 and 0.9 times those in Major Cities. This pattern is similar to that for the total population (i.e. slightly elevated rates in regional areas), except for remote areas, where rates tended to be similar to those in Major Cities.

These relatively low overall rates in remote areas are influenced by low rates for older people, rates that are at odds with the relatively high rates for younger people from these areas. It is possible that lower rates for older people in remote areas may be a consequence of the migration of older people in poor health to larger, less remote centres, leaving healthier individuals whose death rates are lower (AIHW 2003a). Death rates for non-Indigenous people under 65 years of age from regional and remote areas were 1.1–1.2 times those in Major Cities.

Death rates for almost all individual age groups were significantly higher for both males and females outside Major Cities than inside. The greatest inter-regional differences were evident in the 15–24-year-age group. These inter-regional differences were smaller for non-Indigenous people, and in many age groups they were not significant. The greatest inter-regional differences, again, were for those aged 15–24 years.

Death rates for Indigenous people generally were between 3 and 6 times as high as for non-Indigenous people in most age groups, and 1.3 times as high for those aged 75 years and over.

Background

Mortality, the rate of death, is possibly the best ultimate measure of health. Although it does not measure the quality of life or the average day-to-day health of people, as a measure it has a number of advantages over other indicators.

Although some personal characteristics recorded (such as Indigenous status) are less than accurate, all deaths are recorded and, as such, it is a complete collection of the deaths of people in Australia. Also, the rate of death is a reflection of the health of individual people in the population during their lifetime.

In reporting mortality in each of the five ASGC Remoteness Areas, it is important to report for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It is known that Indigenous people have

death rates that are three times higher than for non-Indigenous people, for a number of socioeconomic, lifestyle, social and (possibly) genetic reasons (ABS & AIHW 2003). Indigenous people also constitute a large proportion of the population in regional, Remote and especially Very Remote areas (see Section 2.3.1, page 160). Higher overall death rates in regional and remote areas may be a reflection of the proportionally greater numbers of Indigenous people living there, rather than any effect of remoteness per se.

The high death rate for Indigenous people is obviously an average; death rates would be expected to be lower for those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have experienced average Australian levels of income, employment, education, housing and access to health and other services throughout their lives.

So as to differentiate between the effects of 'Indigenous' and 'rural' issues on the health of people living in regional and remote areas, this indicator reports on mortality for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people separately.

Poor identification of Indigenous people in the mortality database and almost certain better identification in regional and remote areas (although the absolute accuracies in each region are unknown) prevent the inter-regional comparison of Indigenous mortality, but allow the cautious inter-regional comparison of non-Indigenous mortality, especially in remote areas (AIHW 2003a).

Indigenous mortality is reported for the four states (Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland) for which Indigenous identification is most accurate.

The statistics reported here are standardised mortality ratios (SMRs). These are the ratio of the observed number of deaths in the period to the number that would be expected if age-specific death rates for Major Cities during this period were experienced in all areas.

Detailed results

In 1997–99, males in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote, Very Remote areas were, respectively, 1.07, 1.11, 1.17 and 1.49 times as likely to die during this period as their counterparts in Major Cities; females were, respectively, 1.04, 1.07, 1.09 and 1.51 times as likely (Table 1.4.1.1).

For people living in Very Remote areas the SMR dropped sharply in the older age groups (65–74 years and 75 years and over). It is likely that this is a result of people in this age group (particularly those with a health condition) migrating to less remote areas.

Mortality of non-Indigenous persons

In 1997–1999, non-Indigenous males in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote, Very Remote areas were, respectively, 1.07, 1.10, 1.07 and 1.00 times as likely to die during this period as their counterparts in Major Cities, and non-Indigenous females were, respectively 1.03, 1.06, 0.98 and 0.87 times as likely (Table 1.4.1.2).

In remote areas, the death rates of those who were 75 years and over were lower than for their counterparts in Major Cities, substantially so in Very Remote areas.

For non-Indigenous people under 65 years, death rates for males in Inner Regional areas, and females in Inner and Outer Regional areas were about 1.1 times those in Major Cities, and those for males from Outer Regional and remote areas were about 1.2 times those in Major Cities. Rates for females in remote areas were not significantly higher than for their counterparts in Major Cities.

Table 1.4.1.1: The ratio of observed deaths to those expected if Major Cities rates applied in each area, males and females, 1997–99

Age group (years)	Male					Female				
	MC rate	IR	OR	R	VR	MC rate	IR	OR	R	VR
		Standardised mortality ratio					Standardised mortality ratio			
0–4	132	*1.09	*1.29	*1.38	*2.59	110	1.01	1.05	*1.35	*2.94
5–14	15	1.10	1.17	*1.89	*3.68	11	1.06	*1.30	1.55	*4.28
15–24	90	*1.34	*1.45	*2.09	*2.66	35	*1.23	*1.21	*2.16	*2.67
25–44	142	*1.10	*1.20	*1.55	*2.61	66	*1.10	*1.14	*1.55	*3.14
45–64	519	*1.11	*1.22	*1.33	*2.15	312	*1.09	*1.19	*1.40	*2.65
65–74	2552	*1.06	*1.13	*1.19	*1.42	1413	1.02	*1.11	*1.26	*1.68
75+	8470	*1.05	*1.03	*0.93	*0.71	6734	*1.04	*1.04	*0.91	*0.80
Total	..	*1.07	*1.11	*1.17	*1.49	..	*1.04	*1.07	*1.09	*1.51

* Significantly different from 1 (that is, rates are significantly different from those in Major Cities).

Notes

1. Caution should be used when making inferences about ratios that are not significantly different from 1.
2. 'MC rates' (i.e. Major Cities rates) are expressed as deaths per 100,000 population per year. Total (crude) Major Cities rate is largely meaningless and is not included.
3. Although the table allows comparison of deaths between areas for each sex, it does not allow comparison between the sexes or age groups.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

Mortality of Indigenous persons

In 1997–99, average death rates for Indigenous males and females in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland were 3.1 times as high as for their non-Indigenous counterparts in Australian Major Cities.

Age-specific mortality

Tables 1.4.1.1 and 1.4.1.2 describe age-specific mortality.

Death rates for males and females in all age groups (except those over 75 years) were higher in regional and remote areas than in Major Cities. There was a strong tendency for rates to become progressively higher with remoteness, with rates for people under 45 years from Very Remote areas about 2.5–3.5 times as high as those in Major Cities. Males and females in regional areas who were 15–24 years old had rates of death that were, respectively, about 1.4 and 1.2 times those in Major Cities; similar-aged people in Remote and Very Remote areas had death rates that were about 2.1 and 2.7 times as high as those in Major Cities.

Death rates for non-Indigenous people in most age groups tended to increase with remoteness. Rates tended to be highest in remote areas, except in people 75 years and over, whose rates were lower than in Major Cities.

Death rates for 15–24-year-old non-Indigenous males in regional and Remote areas were, respectively, about 1.4 and 1.7 times those for males from Major Cities, showing a similar pattern to the total male population. Rates for non-Indigenous females of this age were 1.25 times those in Inner Regional areas, and although higher in Outer Regional and remote areas, not significantly so.

Age-specific mortality for Indigenous males and females was substantially greater than for non-Indigenous people from any area. Rates for males and females aged 0–24 years,

25–64 years, 65–74 years and 75 years and over were, respectively, about 3, 5–6, 3 and 1.3 times those for non-Indigenous people in those age groups in Major Cities.

Table 1.4.1.2: The ratio of observed deaths to those expected if Major Cities non-Indigenous rates applied to the non-Indigenous population in each area and to the Indigenous population, 1997–99

Age group (years)	Male						Female					
	MC rate	Non-Indigenous				Indigenous	MC rate	Non-Indigenous				Indigenous
		IR	OR	R	VR			IR	OR	R	VR	
		Standardised mortality ratio						Standardised mortality ratio				
0–4	130	1.08	*1.15	1.14	1.17	*3.0	109	1.00	0.96	1.01	0.86	*2.8
5–14	15	1.12	1.13	1.48	*2.62	*2.9	11	1.09	1.24	1.20	1.92	*3.6
15–24	89	*1.34	*1.39	*1.74	1.46	*3.5	34	*1.25	1.10	1.39	1.53	*3.3
25–44	139	*1.10	*1.12	1.09	1.11	*5.3	65	*1.10	1.03	0.88	0.89	*6.0
45–64	517	*1.11	*1.18	*1.14	*1.24	*4.8	309	*1.08	*1.12	1.10	*1.27	*5.3
65–74	2,550	*1.06	*1.12	*1.15	*1.17	*2.4	1,410	1.02	*1.09	*1.13	0.99	*3.3
75+	8,468	*1.04	*1.05	0.95	*0.70	*1.2	6,732	*1.02	*1.04	*0.91	*0.72	*1.4
Total	..	*1.07	*1.10	*1.07	1.00	*3.1	..	*1.03	*1.06	0.98	*0.87	*3.1
0–64	..	*1.12	*1.17	*1.17	*1.22	*4.4	..	*1.09	*1.09	1.06	1.16	*4.7

* Significantly different from 1 (that is, rates are significantly different from those in Major Cities).

Notes

1. Caution should be used when making inferences about ratios that are not significantly different from 1.
2. 'MC rates' (i.e. Major Cities rates) for non-Indigenous persons are expressed as deaths per 100,000 population per year. Total (crude) Major Cities rate is largely meaningless and is not included.
3. Ratios for Indigenous people are for SA, WA, NT and Qld.
4. Although the table allows comparison of deaths between areas for each sex, it does not allow comparison between the sexes or age groups.
5. SMRs calculated for non-Indigenous persons from Remote and Very Remote areas should be treated with caution.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

1.4.2 Perinatal mortality

Summary of findings

Rates of foetal and neonatal death are higher in regional and especially remote areas. Foetal death rates are 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 2.2 times as high in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas, and neonatal death rates are 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 and 2.9 times as high in these areas as in Major Cities.

Uncertainty about the overall accuracy of recording of Indigenous status, and regional differences in this accuracy in both the births and perinatal data sets, prevents disentanglement of Indigenous and regional/remote effects. It is clear, however, that overall high rates of Indigenous perinatal mortality have a substantial effect in remote areas.

Background

Perinatal mortality is an indicator of population health and birth outcomes.

A foetal death (stillbirth) is defined as the death, before birth, of a foetus of 400 grams or more. A neonatal death is defined as the death of a newborn within 28 days of birth.

Perinatal deaths are the sum of all foetal and neonatal deaths.

Rates have been calculated from ABS Perinatal Deaths data and ABS Births data. However, with available data, it is not possible to accurately comment on the inter-regional patterns for either Indigenous or non-Indigenous people. Allocation of ASGC Remoteness Area from the source (ABS) was provided for the 1999–2001 period only.

A small number of records in the perinatal deaths data set did not contain details of the mother's age, or the postcode of the mother's address, and so were excluded from the analysis.

Indirect age-standardised death rates provide an inter-regional comparison of the risk of death in each area that allows for differences in the age of the mothers giving birth. The risk of perinatal death is greater for very young and very old mothers, and the births in Very Remote areas are more likely to be from young mothers. Crude perinatal death rates and numbers of deaths are descriptive statistics, providing an understanding of the size of the issue in each area.

Detailed findings

The rate of foetal and neonatal death was lowest in Major Cities, slightly higher in regional areas, and highest in Remote and especially Very Remote areas.

The crude rate of foetal death was 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.1 times as high in Inner and Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas, respectively, as in Major Cities, and the rate of neonatal death was 1.1, 1.3, 1.5 and 2.7 times as high in these areas as in Major Cities (Table 1.4.2.1).

Inter-regional comparisons using indirect age-standardised rates show a very similar pattern, with the rate of foetal and neonatal death being statistically significantly higher in all areas outside Major Cities. The maternal age-standardised rate of foetal death was 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 2.2 times as high in Inner and Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas, respectively, as in Major Cities, and the rate of neonatal death was 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 and 2.9 times as high in these areas as in Major Cities (Table 1.4.2.1)

Table 1.4.2.1: Number, crude rate and indirect age-standardised rate of foetal and neonatal death, 1999–2001

	MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
Average number per year						
Foetal deaths	803	260	159	34	33	1290
Neonatal deaths	488	163	104	23	26	805
Total (perinatal) deaths	1291	423	264	58	60	2095
Births	164,776	47,883	26,527	5,233	3,232	247,652
Crude rate per 1000 births						
Foetal deaths	4.9	5.4	6.0	6.6	10.3	5.2
Neonatal deaths	3.0	3.4	3.9	4.4	8.1	3.2
Total (perinatal) deaths	7.8	8.8	9.9	11.0	18.5	8.5
Ratio of observed to expected deaths						
Foetal deaths	1.00	1.11	1.24	1.38	2.16	n.p.
Neonatal deaths	1.00	1.16	1.35	1.51	2.88	n.p.
Total (perinatal) deaths	1.00	1.13	1.28	1.43	2.42	n.p.

Note: Expected deaths are calculated as the number of foetal and neonatal deaths that would have occurred if Major Cities maternal age-specific death rates applied in each area.

Source: ABS Births data, 1999–2001, ABS Perinatal deaths data, 1999–2001.

Babies born to Indigenous women were 1.9 times as likely to be stillborn (foetal death) and 2.6 times as likely to die within 28 days of birth (neonatal death) as those born to non-Indigenous women (ABS & AIHW 2003).

The high perinatal death rates in Very Remote areas are likely to be affected by the high overall perinatal death rates for Indigenous infants (ABS & AIHW 2003), high Indigenous fertility (Section 2.3.4), and proportionally large numbers of Indigenous people in these areas (Section 2.3.1). The very high percentages (69% and 86%, respectively) of foetal and neonatal deaths that are recorded as Indigenous in Very Remote areas indicate that a substantial proportion of these deaths are of babies born to Indigenous mothers.

1.4.5 Leading causes of death and excess deaths

Summary of findings

The leading causes of death in Australia are circulatory diseases (41% in 1997–99), cancers (28%), respiratory diseases (8%) and injury (6%), with a similar pattern being observed both inside and outside Major Cities. However, the leading causes of the higher death rates experienced in regional and remote areas are mainly circulatory diseases (42% of the ‘excess’ deaths) and injury (24%), with respiratory disease and cancers each contributing about 10% of the ‘excess’.

More specifically, coronary heart disease (23%), ‘other’ cardiovascular disease (16%), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (11%), motor vehicle accidents (11%), diabetes (6%), suicide (6%) and ‘other’ injuries (6%) were the main contributors to the ‘excess’ deaths that elevate regional and remote area mortality above levels experienced in Major Cities. Prostate, colorectal and lung cancers together contribute another 10% of the ‘excess’ deaths.

Background

In this report, the leading causes of death are described in three ways, by comparing across the four areas:

- the number of observed and expected deaths
- the average annual number of observed deaths
- the average annual number of ‘excess’ deaths.

Comparison statistics are provided for the total population in each area, the non-Indigenous population in each area, the non-Indigenous population younger than 65 years, and the total Indigenous population in the aggregated area of South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland.

The data is sourced from the ABS mortality data collection and pertains to the 3-year period 1997–99. Because of differences in the age and sex structure of the populations in each area, the results have been age-standardised and reported for each sex. Standardisation has been by the indirect method (see page 302). This method basically compares the number of deaths observed with the number expected if Major Cities death rates applied uniformly across all areas; the ratio is referred to as the standardised mortality ratio (SMR). If there were twice as many deaths as expected, then the SMR is 2.00; if there were as many as expected then the SMR is 1.00; if there were half as many as expected, then the SMR is 0.5.

The number of expected deaths is calculated by multiplying the number of people in each age group in an area by the death rate experienced by people in that age group in Major Cities.

The annual number of ‘excess’ deaths is the difference between the number of observed deaths and the number of expected deaths each year if Major Cities rates applied in all areas. ‘Excess’ deaths have been reported because although SMRs provide a measure of inequity, they do not provide a measure of magnitude (that is, an understanding of the absolute size of disadvantage for particular causes of death in each region, in terms of human lives lost).

A substantial proportion of the poorer health outcomes in more remote areas can be a consequence of poor Indigenous health. Consequently, mortality for the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations is reported alongside mortality for the total population. However, two issues affect the reporting of data for Indigenous people:

- Concerns about the inter-regional differences in the accuracy of the recording of Indigenous deaths prevent reporting on Indigenous mortality separately for the five regions used in this report. Reporting of differences between areas may reflect differences in the accuracy of the records rather than real differences in mortality. Consequently, overall rather than regional mortality rates for Indigenous people are presented.
- Identification of Indigenous mortality was considered to be most reliable in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland during the study period. Overall mortality rates for Indigenous people have been calculated using data from these jurisdictions only.

Because a 'non-Indigenous' person has been defined in this report as someone who is not identified as Indigenous, underidentification of Indigenous people will necessarily mean overreporting of non-Indigenous people in the mortality data. However, the effect on reporting by area will be much less than for Indigenous people (minimal in Major Cities and in regional areas), because non-Indigenous persons constitute the vast majority of the population. A full discussion and sensitivity analysis of the combined effects of differences in the proportions of Indigenous people and their propensity to identify as such can be found in *Rural, Regional and Remote Health: A Study on Mortality* (AIHW 2003a).

Frequently, death rates for elderly non-Indigenous people from remote areas appear substantially lower than for their Major Cities counterparts, whereas rates for younger people from remote areas are higher than for those in Major Cities. It is possible that this effect is due to elderly people in poorer health migrating to less remote areas where they can access services, leaving behind the healthier individuals, who have lower death rates. To control for this apparent effect, death rates for the population under 65 years have been presented alongside those for the total population.

Detailed results

The overall annual leading causes of death are circulatory disease (52,230 deaths), cancers (35,604 deaths), respiratory diseases (9,857 deaths) and injury (8,143 deaths), which were responsible nationally for 41%, 28%, 8% and 6% of deaths, respectively. Other causes (22,354 deaths), including diabetes (2,952 deaths), were responsible for the remainder. The importance of diabetes to mortality is understated in this report, because it is frequently a contributing factor to other deaths (e.g. those classified as due to circulatory diseases).

However, circulatory disease (42%) is also the leading cause of 'excess' death outside Major Cities, and injury (24%) is the next greatest cause, followed by respiratory disease (10%) and cancers (11%). Injury deaths assume even greater importance because they are frequently of young and working-age people.

Table 1.4.5.1 describes the 'excess' deaths resulting from the leading specific causes of higher death rates outside Major Cities: ischaemic and 'other' heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, motor vehicle accidents, diabetes, suicide, 'other' injuries, and some cancers (prostate, colorectal and lung). These causes explain about 90% of all of the excess deaths that occur outside Major Cities.

Table 1.4.5.2 compares, for each cause, the rates of deaths in each area with those in Major Cities. The presented statistic is the ratio of the number of deaths observed to the number expected if Major Cities rates applied in each area. A ratio of 2 indicates twice as many deaths as expected (i.e. rates twice those in Major Cities), and a ratio of 0.5 indicates half as

many deaths as expected (i.e. rates half those in Major Cities). This measure provides an indication of the inter-regional 'inequity' in the risk of death from each cause.

Table 1.4.5.1: Leading causes of 'excess' deaths in areas outside Major Cities, 1997–99

Cause of death	Annual 'excess' deaths	Per cent of total 'excess'
Coronary (Ischaemic) heart disease	755	23
'Other' cardiovascular diseases ^(a)	518	16
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	374	11
Motor vehicle accidents	368	11
Diabetes	191	6
Suicide	184	6
'Other' injuries ^(b)	214	6
Prostate cancer	131	4
Colorectal cancer	117	4
Lung cancer	52 ^(c)	2 ^(c)
All other causes	399	12
All causes	3,303	100

(a) Excludes stroke and rheumatic heart disease.

(b) 'Other' injuries include all injuries except motor vehicle accidents, suicide, homicide and accidental shooting.

(c) There were 52 additional deaths due to lung cancer overall (this was made up of 112 additional deaths of those under 70 years outside Major Cities and 60 fewer than expected for those who were 70 years and over). While it accounted for 2% of all additional deaths, lung cancer accounted for 6% of additional deaths of people under 65 years.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

Table 1.4.5.3 compares, for each cause, the annual number of deaths in each area. This measure provides an indication of the relative 'importance' of each cause of death in each area.

Table 1.4.5.4 (from which Table 1.4.5.1 is derived) estimates, for each cause, the annual number of deaths in excess of the number expected if Major Cities rates applied in each area. This measure identifies the specific causes of the higher overall death rates, and describes the magnitude of their contribution to these higher rates.

For most causes, rates of death are higher in regional and especially remote areas. The higher rates in remote areas are almost invariably affected by high overall rates for Indigenous people. For other causes (e.g. motor vehicle accidents – MVA), rates may be elevated because of high rates in the Indigenous population, but rates for the non-Indigenous population in regional and/or remote areas are still high relative to Major Cities rates.

The absolute numbers of deaths in regional and especially remote areas are smaller than in Major Cities, a consequence of the larger numbers of people living in Major Cities.

The causes showing the greatest disparity between areas in the rate of death include respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – COPD), almost all injury (MVA, suicide, accidental shooting and 'other' injuries), diabetes and rheumatic heart disease.

Some causes show only slightly higher rates outside Major Cities, but are responsible for large numbers of deaths. For example, rates of ischaemic heart disease are about 10% higher outside Major Cities than inside (not dramatically higher, compared with causes such as

accidental shooting), but (unlike accidental shooting) responsible for a large proportion of deaths and 'excess' deaths.

Causes that are responsible for large numbers of deaths include circulatory diseases and cancers. Respiratory diseases, injury and conditions such as diabetes are also substantial contributors. Causes of the additional deaths that are responsible for the overall higher death rates outside Major Cities have been described earlier (Table 1.4.5.1).

Selected causes of death

Details for four specific major causes of death of interest are detailed below. More detail is available from the AIHW report *Rural, Regional and Remote Health: A Study on Mortality* (AIHW 2003a).

Coronary (ischaemic) heart disease was responsible for 755 more deaths each year outside Major Cities than expected. Rates were 10% higher in all areas outside Major Cities except Very Remote areas, where they were 30% higher. For younger non-Indigenous people (aged 0–64 years), rates were 10%, 20%, 20% and 30% higher in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas respectively. Overall, there were 3.3 times as many deaths of Indigenous people as expected (9.3 times as many for 0–64-year-olds).

There were about 374 more deaths (mainly male) than expected outside Major Cities from **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** each year; overall rates in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas were 1.2, 1.3, 1.3 and 1.9 times those in Major Cities, respectively. Death rates for non-Indigenous people aged 0–64 years were 1.3, 1.6, 1.8 and 2.8 times as high, respectively, in the four areas outside Major Cities. Rates for Indigenous people were 3.4 times as high as expected (and 8.8 times as high for 0–64-year-olds).

Outside Major Cities, there were 368 more deaths annually from **motor vehicle accidents** than expected, of which 70% were of males. Rates were substantially elevated outside Major Cities for all areas examined. Rates for non-Indigenous people aged 0–64 years were 1.8, 2.0, 2.1 and 2.4 times as high, respectively, in the four areas outside Major Cities. Indigenous death rates due to this cause were 4.1 times as high as expected.

There were 184 more deaths than expected due to **suicide** annually outside Major Cities, and practically all were of males. Rates in the four areas were 1.2, 1.2, 1.4 and 1.6 times the rate in Major Cities. Rates for non-Indigenous people were 1.2 times as high in Inner Regional, Outer Regional and Remote areas as in Major Cities, with all age groups between 15 and 64 years contributing, but similar in Very Remote areas to those in Major Cities. Rates for non-Indigenous people aged 0–64 years from Inner and Outer Regional areas were 1.3 and 1.2 times as high as in Major Cities. Indigenous death rates due to this cause were 2.9 times as high as expected.

Table 1.4.5.2: Standardised mortality ratios for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(ratio)									
All cancers	All people	*1.05	*1.06	1.04	1.00	n.p.	1.00	1.00	0.95	1.08	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.05	*1.06	1.03	0.88	n.p.	1.00	0.99	0.92	0.87	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.13	*1.13	1.01	1.04	n.p.	*1.04	1.02	0.91	0.99	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*1.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*1.5
Lung cancer	All people	1.02	*1.08	1.13	*1.31	n.p.	0.96	0.93	1.16	*1.43	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	1.02	*1.08	1.13	1.18	n.p.	0.96	*0.91	1.11	1.05	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.12	*1.27	1.14	*1.88	n.p.	1.08	0.90	1.15	1.47	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*1.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*2.4
Breast cancer	All people	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.99	0.99	0.89	0.81	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.99	0.99	0.86	0.73	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1.01	0.98	0.85	0.77	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1.1
Colorectal cancer	All people	*1.07	1.05	1.06	*0.61	n.p.	*1.09	*1.13	0.92	0.82	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.07	1.06	1.04	0.68	n.p.	*1.09	*1.14	0.97	0.94	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.21	1.11	1.04	0.55	n.p.	*1.19	*1.25	1.01	1.32	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.6
Cervical cancer	All people	..	..	..	..	..	0.95	*1.27	1.53	*3.32	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	0.94	1.18	1.15	1.07	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	..	..	..	..	..	1.05	1.09	0.93	0.73	n.p.
	Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*6.5

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.2 (continued): Standardised mortality ratios for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(ratio)									
Prostate cancer	All people	*1.14	*1.20	1.16	1.02	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..
	Non-Indigenous	*1.13	*1.21	1.20	1.17	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.40	*1.41	1.59	1.23	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.8	..	..	..	..	..
Melanoma	All people	*1.27	1.06	0.85	0.45	n.p.	1.02	1.01	0.99	0.96	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.27	1.08	0.89	0.59	n.p.	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.26	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.45	*1.27	0.97	0.65	n.p.	1.00	1.20	1.14	1.12	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.2
Other cancers	All people	*1.03	1.02	0.99	0.99	n.p.	0.99	0.98	0.91	1.08	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.03	1.02	0.95	*0.75	n.p.	0.98	0.97	*0.87	0.84	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.08	1.05	0.93	0.85	n.p.	1.01	1.01	0.83	0.93	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*1.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*1.5
All circulatory diseases	All people	*1.08	*1.10	*1.10	*1.36	n.p.	*1.06	*1.08	1.04	*1.18	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.08	*1.09	1.02	0.95	n.p.	*1.04	*1.07	0.98	*0.78	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.10	*1.18	*1.21	1.23	n.p.	*1.16	*1.29	1.24	1.46	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.0
Ischaemic heart disease	All people	*1.10	*1.08	*1.11	*1.36	n.p.	*1.05	*1.07	1.01	1.12	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.10	*1.07	1.04	0.96	n.p.	*1.04	*1.06	0.97	0.86	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.11	*1.14	*1.21	1.23	n.p.	*1.22	*1.42	1.30	*1.86	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.1

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.2 (continued): Standardised mortality ratios for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(ratio)									
Stroke	All people	1.03	1.04	0.98	*1.38	n.p.	1.02	1.00	0.91	0.91	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	1.03	1.04	0.92	1.03	n.p.	1.00	0.99	0.87	*0.61	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	0.98	1.06	0.88	1.43	n.p.	*1.15	*1.21	1.31	1.48	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*2.2
Rheumatic heart disease	All people	0.94	*1.42	2.28	*8.06	n.p.	0.96	*1.34	*2.64	*5.85	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	0.95	1.26	1.05	0.04	n.p.	0.97	1.12	1.35	1.56	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	0.81	1.08	1.83	0.10	n.p.	0.93	1.47	2.18	0.50	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*30.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*20.4
Other circulatory diseases	All people	*1.09	*1.22	*1.18	*1.24	n.p.	*1.12	*1.18	*1.22	*1.49	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.09	*1.22	1.10	0.86	n.p.	*1.10	*1.18	1.14	0.80	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.17	*1.40	*1.41	1.13	n.p.	1.09	1.11	1.00	0.89	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*2.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.1
All respiratory diseases	All people	*1.09	*1.23	*1.26	*1.88	n.p.	1.00	*1.06	*1.29	*1.86	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.08	*1.21	1.13	1.22	n.p.	0.99	1.04	1.15	0.88	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.20	*1.49	1.40	*1.99	n.p.	*1.13	*1.24	*1.76	1.67	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*4.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*4.4
COPD	All people	*1.21	*1.39	*1.27	*1.90	n.p.	*1.06	*1.12	*1.38	*1.84	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.21	*1.38	*1.19	*1.44	n.p.	1.05	*1.10	1.25	0.99	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.38	*1.76	1.42	*3.00	n.p.	1.17	*1.33	*2.48	2.40	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.8

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.2 (continued): Standardised mortality ratios for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(ratio)									
Asthma	All people	1.08	*1.29	*2.17	1.09	n.p.	1.07	1.18	1.01	1.58	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	1.08	1.19	*2.22	0.76	n.p.	1.06	1.13	0.89	0.77	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	1.29	*1.52	*2.41	0.75	n.p.	1.11	1.21	1.27	0.84	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.0
Pneumonia	All people	*0.85	0.97	1.33	*2.26	n.p.	0.98	1.02	1.26	*2.35	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*0.84	0.92	1.09	1.30	n.p.	0.96	1.01	1.07	0.88	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	0.96	1.10	0.95	1.63	n.p.	*1.54	1.31	0.56	2.06	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*8.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*5.8
Other respiratory diseases	All people	*0.86	*0.89	0.91	*1.71	n.p.	*0.82	0.91	1.04	1.32	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*0.86	*0.86	*0.67	0.59	n.p.	*0.82	*0.86	0.90	0.55	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	0.84	1.08	0.99	0.91	n.p.	0.86	1.06	1.22	0.36	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*5.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*5.1
All injuries	All people	*1.25	*1.40	*1.71	*2.35	n.p.	*1.19	*1.27	*1.53	*2.44	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.26	*1.37	*1.54	*1.68	n.p.	*1.18	*1.21	*1.23	1.06	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.32	*1.42	*1.57	*1.77	n.p.	*1.26	*1.17	1.21	1.24	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.9
Motor vehicle accidents	All people	*1.65	*1.93	*2.42	*3.81	n.p.	*1.65	*1.85	*2.27	*3.10	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.67	*1.90	*2.24	*2.63	n.p.	*1.66	*1.78	*1.79	0.98	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.78	*2.02	*2.25	*2.78	n.p.	*1.82	*1.93	*1.83	1.17	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*4.5

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.2 (continued): Standardised mortality ratios for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(ratio)									
Suicide	All people	*1.27	*1.27	*1.47	*1.65	n.p.	1.03	0.97	0.86	1.18	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.27	*1.24	*1.28	1.05	n.p.	1.04	0.92	0.80	0.87	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.32	*1.23	*1.27	1.02	n.p.	1.08	0.93	0.82	0.78	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*2.2
Interpersonal violence	All people	*0.80	1.00	1.64	*4.06	n.p.	0.91	1.02	*2.94	*9.13	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*0.79	0.92	1.20	2.10	n.p.	0.91	0.71	1.39	2.40	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*0.76	0.86	1.23	2.18	n.p.	0.99	0.61	1.10	2.59	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*5.6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*11.3
Accidental shooting	All people	*3.08	*4.17	*6.72	*15.50	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*3.10	*4.27	*7.24	*22.27	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*3.34	*3.72	*7.72	*19.01	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other injuries	All people	*1.10	*1.31	*1.60	*2.05	n.p.	*1.11	*1.21	*1.44	*2.08	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*1.09	*1.28	*1.47	*1.74	n.p.	*1.10	*1.18	1.21	1.07	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*1.11	*1.37	*1.57	*1.99	n.p.	1.08	0.98	1.17	1.52	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.7
All other causes	All people	*0.97	*1.04	*1.17	*1.81	n.p.	*1.05	*1.14	*1.18	*2.34	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*0.97	1.00	0.96	*0.79	n.p.	*1.04	*1.10	0.93	0.99	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*0.91	*0.94	0.88	*0.74	n.p.	1.04	1.03	1.04	1.17	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*4.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*4.7

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.2 (continued): Standardised mortality ratios for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(ratio)									
Diabetes	All people	1.01	*1.25	*1.52	*2.82	n.p.	*1.11	*1.44	*1.93	*5.48	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	1.00	*1.17	1.19	*0.52	n.p.	*1.10	*1.33	*1.34	1.59	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	0.86	1.05	1.27	0.85	n.p.	0.90	*1.38	1.71	*3.52	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*11.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*16.0
Renal disease	All people	1.01	1.02	1.11	*1.99	n.p.	1.00	*1.12	1.31	*3.35	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	1.00	0.99	0.95	1.21	n.p.	0.98	1.08	1.02	1.27	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	1.04	1.07	1.46	0.66	n.p.	1.23	1.14	0.42	1.79	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*5.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*9.1
Others	All people	*0.97	1.00	*1.12	*1.66	n.p.	*1.05	*1.09	1.06	*1.87	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	*0.97	0.98	0.93	*0.80	n.p.	*1.04	*1.07	*0.87	0.89	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	*0.91	*0.93	*0.84	*0.74	n.p.	*1.05	*1.00	*1.00	*0.99	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*3.4

* Significantly different from 1 (that is, rates are significantly different from those for people or non-Indigenous people in Major Cities).

Notes

1. Caution should be used when making inferences about ratios that are not significantly different from 1.
2. Ratios for Indigenous people are for SA, WA, NT and Qld.
3. Although the table allows comparison of deaths between areas for each sex, it does not allow comparison between the sexes.
4. SMRs calculated for non-Indigenous persons from Remote and Very Remote areas should be treated with caution.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

Table 1.4.5.3: Average yearly number of observed deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males						Females					
		MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total	MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
(number)													
All cancers	All people	12,697	4,675	2,313	297	120	20,102	10,358	3,352	1,544	173	75	15,502
	Non-Indigenous	12,665	4,659	2,275	278	79	19,958	10,330	3,333	1,514	158	42	15,377
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	3,335	1,227	648	90	34	5,334	2,950	975	472	57	19	4,473
	Indigenous ^(a)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	107	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	89
Lung cancer	All people	2,927	1,051	547	74	35	4,634	1,397	442	195	28	13	2,076
	Non-Indigenous	2,918	1,044	537	71	24	4,595	1,390	438	188	25	7	2,048
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	717	264	160	22	13	1,176	372	130	53	9	3	567
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	18
Breast cancer	All people	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1,711	548	258	29	10	2,557
	Non-Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1,707	545	253	26	7	2,538
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	796	254	121	14	4	1,189
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	13
Colorectal cancer	All people	1,575	592	286	38	9	2,501	1,380	489	232	22	7	2,129
	Non-Indigenous	1,573	590	284	35	8	2,491	1,378	487	230	22	6	2,123
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	450	178	87	13	2	730	322	123	63	7	3	518
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	4
Cervical cancer	All people	..	..	..	..	..	..	167	51	32	5	4	260
	Non-Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	..	167	50	29	3	1	251
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	26	13	2	—	120
	Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	..	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	8

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.3 (continued): Average yearly number of observed deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males						Females					
		MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total	MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
(number)													
Prostate cancer	All people	1,527	614	309	36	13	2,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Non-Indigenous	1,525	612	308	35	11	2,491	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	105	49	26	4	1	187	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melanoma	All people	373	162	68	7	2	611	229	74	35	4	2	344
	Non-Indigenous	372	161	68	7	2	610	229	74	35	4	1	343
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	152	69	32	4	1	258	94	29	17	2	1	143
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—
Other cancers	All people	6,282	2,252	1,101	141	60	9,837	5,474	1,747	792	85	38	8,137
	Non-Indigenous	6,264	2,247	1,077	129	34	9,751	5,460	1,739	778	77	21	8,075
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	1,907	665	341	47	16	2,977	1,287	414	204	23	8	1,936
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	67	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	45
All circulatory diseases	All people	15,823	6,013	2,953	374	197	25,360	17,767	5,945	2,750	291	116	26,870
	Non-Indigenous	15,757	5,975	2,868	323	99	25,023	17,711	5,917	2,681	256	55	26,619
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	2,464	880	500	79	30	3,953	882	330	180	23	8	1,423
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	250	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	189
Ischaemic heart disease	All people	9,525	3,670	1,755	229	118	15,297	8,712	2,903	1,342	138	53	13,149
	Non-Indigenous	9,481	3,643	1,699	200	61	15,083	8,678	2,885	1,305	123	29	13,020
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	1,678	607	333	54	20	2,693	401	160	92	11	5	668
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	156	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	95

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.3 (continued): Average yearly number of observed deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males						Females					
		MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total	MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)											
Stroke	All people	3,151	1,141	550	65	39	4,945	4,998	1,609	715	71	25	7,417
	Non-Indigenous	3,140	1,136	539	56	21	4,891	4,988	1,603	698	64	12	7,365
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	334	106	61	8	5	514	220	81	42	6	2	351
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	43	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	38
Rheumatic heart disease	All people	51	17	12	3	4	87	114	35	22	5	4	181
	Non-Indigenous	49	16	10	1	—	77	112	35	18	2	1	169
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	14	4	3	1	—	21	19	6	4	1	—	29
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	11
Other circulatory diseases	All people	3,107	1,189	639	78	35	5,049	3,968	1,403	674	77	33	6,156
	Non-Indigenous	3,098	1,184	623	68	17	4,990	3,957	1,398	662	67	13	6,097
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	437	163	104	16	5	726	242	84	42	5	1	375
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	43	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	46
All respiratory diseases	All people	3,314	1,273	690	87	55	5,420	2,951	940	453	61	32	4,437
	Non-Indigenous	3,302	1,263	664	73	26	5,328	2,938	934	436	51	11	4,369
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	330	130	85	12	6	563	270	99	53	10	3	435
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	69	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	53
COPD	All people	2,023	869	475	53	33	3,453	1,385	473	226	30	14	2,128
	Non-Indigenous	2,017	863	464	47	18	3,409	1,379	468	219	26	6	2,097
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	163	76	51	6	5	301	122	47	26	6	2	204
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.3 (continued): Average yearly number of observed deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males						Females					
		MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total	MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)											
Asthma	All people	112	41	24	6	1	185	184	62	32	3	2	283
	Non-Indigenous	112	41	22	5	1	181	184	62	30	3	1	279
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	43	17	11	3	—	74	61	21	11	2	—	95
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	4
Pneumonia	All people	521	154	85	15	11	786	764	235	111	15	10	1,135
	Non-Indigenous	517	153	77	11	4	763	760	234	108	12	3	1,116
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	41	13	8	1	1	63	25	12	5	—	—	43
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	15
Other respiratory diseases	All people	658	209	106	13	10	995	618	171	85	13	5	892
	Non-Indigenous	656	206	100	9	2	974	614	170	80	11	1	877
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	82	24	16	2	1	125	62	19	10	2	—	92
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	16	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	14
All injuries	All people	3,390	1,270	750	155	113	5,678	1,540	556	285	48	36	2,465
	Non-Indigenous	3,336	1,245	701	125	53	5,459	1,525	548	263	35	9	2,381
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	2,645	980	560	107	48	4,340	835	304	140	22	8	1,309
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	165	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	68
Motor vehicle accidents	All people	632	309	189	40	35	1,206	282	141	77	14	10	524
	Non-Indigenous	623	305	178	33	15	1,153	278	139	71	10	2	500
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	526	262	156	29	14	987	203	107	56	8	2	376
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	42	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.3 (continued): Average yearly number of observed deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males						Females					
		MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total	MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)											
Suicide	All people	1,287	474	255	52	31	2,099	360	109	51	7	5	533
	Non-Indigenous	1,271	466	239	41	13	2,030	357	108	47	6	2	520
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	1,113	408	204	37	12	1,774	305	93	40	5	2	446
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	56	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	11
Interpersonal violence	All people	142	33	23	7	9	214	65	18	10	5	7	105
	Non-Indigenous	136	31	19	4	3	194	64	17	6	2	1	90
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	129	28	17	4	3	180	56	16	5	1	1	79
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	13	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	13
Accidental shooting	All people	7	7	5	1	1	21	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	7	7	5	1	1	21	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	6	6	3	1	1	18	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	–	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other injuries	All people	1,321	448	278	55	36	2,138	833	287	147	22	14	1,302
	Non-Indigenous	1,299	437	260	45	20	2,061	826	283	139	17	4	1,270
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	872	276	180	36	18	1,381	271	86	39	7	3	406
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	54	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	25
All other causes	All people	6,937	2,299	1,210	190	136	10,772	7,544	2,512	1,253	154	120	11,582
	Non-Indigenous	6,868	2,267	1,134	142	40	10,451	7,485	2,489	1,187	112	33	11,306
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	2,331	651	356	56	17	3,411	1,282	417	207	32	11	1,949
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	248	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	221

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.3 (continued): Average yearly number of observed deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997–99

Cause	Population group	Males						Females					
		MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total	MC	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)											
Diabetes	All people	919	324	195	31	24	1,494	895	319	188	28	28	1,458
	Non-Indigenous	909	320	179	22	3	1,433	883	314	169	18	6	1,390
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	180	50	33	6	2	271	98	28	21	4	2	153
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	50	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	59
Renal disease	All people	549	194	93	12	10	857	668	211	107	14	12	1,012
	Non-Indigenous	548	194	90	10	4	845	664	209	102	10	3	988
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	28	9	5	1	—	43	30	12	5	—	—	48
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	11	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21
Others	All people	5,469	1,780	922	147	103	8,421	5,981	1,982	957	112	79	9,112
	Non-Indigenous	5,412	1,754	865	110	33	8,173	5,938	1,966	917	84	24	8,928
	Non-Indigenous (0–64)	2,123	591	318	48	16	3,097	1,155	376	180	28	9	1,748
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	184	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	141

Notes

1. Numbers of deaths of males from breast cancer and those of females from accidental shooting have not been provided because the numbers are very small.
2. Figures for Indigenous people are for the aggregated area of SA, WA, NT and Queensland. This, and the inaccuracies in the identification of Indigenous deaths prevent calculation from the table of the number of Indigenous deaths in each area. The sum of the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people will not equal the total, because figures for the Indigenous population refer to the four jurisdictions in which identification is thought to be most accurate.

Source: AIHW Mortality database.

Table 1.4.5.4: Average annual number of 'excess' deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997-99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)									
All cancers	All people	232	135	12	—	379	—	-2	-9	6	-6
	Non-Indigenous	233	129	8	-11	359	-10	-9	-13	-6	-38
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	145	72	1	1	220	36	11	-6	—	41
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	38	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30
Lung cancer	All people	18	41	8	8	76	-16	-15	4	4	-23
	Non-Indigenous	16	38	8	4	65	-17	-19	2	—	-33
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	27	34	3	6	70	10	-6	1	1	6
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	14	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	11
Breast cancer	All people	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-3	-2	-4	-2	-11
	Non-Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-4	-2	-4	-2	-12
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	2	-3	-3	-1	-4
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	2
Colorectal cancer	All people	40	15	2	-6	51	42	27	-2	-2	66
	Non-Indigenous	40	16	1	-4	54	40	28	-1	—	67
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	31	9	1	-2	38	20	13	—	1	33
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-3
Cervical cancer	All people	..	..	..	..	..	-3	7	2	3	9
	Non-Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	-3	4	—	—	2
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	—	—	2
	Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	7

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.4 (continued): Average annual number of 'excess' deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997-99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)									
Prostate cancer	All people	73	52	5	—	131	..	..	..	..	..
	Non-Indigenous	73	54	6	2	134	..	..	..	..	..
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	14	8	2	—	24	..	..	..	..	..
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-1	..	..	..	..	..
Melanoma	All people	34	4	-1	-2	35	1	—	—	—	1
	Non-Indigenous	34	5	-1	-1	37	1	1	—	—	2
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	22	7	—	-1	28	—	3	—	—	3
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-1
Other cancers	All people	67	24	-2	-1	88	-22	-20	-9	3	-48
	Non-Indigenous	71	17	-6	-12	70	-27	-21	-12	-4	-64
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	52	15	-4	-3	60	3	3	-5	-1	1
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	15
All circulatory diseases	All people	464	274	34	53	825	320	202	12	18	552
	Non-Indigenous	449	244	7	-5	696	242	168	-4	-15	390
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	82	75	14	6	176	45	40	5	3	93
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	175	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	126
Ischaemic heart disease	All people	328	137	23	31	519	137	91	2	6	236
	Non-Indigenous	317	112	7	-3	433	100	72	-4	-5	163
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	61	42	10	4	116	28	27	3	2	60
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	110	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	64

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.4 (continued): Average annual number of 'excess' deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997-99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)									
Stroke	All people	34	20	-1	11	64	31	—	-7	-2	21
	Non-Indigenous	33	20	-5	1	49	8	-8	-9	-8	-17
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	-2	4	-1	1	2	11	7	1	1	20
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	21
Rheumatic heart disease	All people	-1	4	1	4	8	-2	6	3	3	10
	Non-Indigenous	-1	2	—	—	1	-1	2	1	—	2
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	-1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	10
Other circulatory diseases	All people	102	116	12	7	237	151	105	14	11	281
	Non-Indigenous	100	111	6	-3	215	133	101	8	-3	239
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	24	30	5	1	59	7	4	—	—	11
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	31
All respiratory diseases	All people	103	130	18	26	277	-2	26	14	15	53
	Non-Indigenous	98	115	8	5	226	-11	15	7	-1	10
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	22	28	4	3	56	12	10	4	1	27
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	53	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	41
COPD	All people	151	133	11	15	310	25	24	8	6	63
	Non-Indigenous	147	127	8	6	287	21	19	5	—	46
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	21	22	2	3	48	7	7	4	1	18
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	15

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.4 (continued): Average annual number of 'excess' deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997-99

Cause	Population group	Males				Total	Females				Total
		IR	OR	R	VR		IR	OR	R	VR	
		(number)									
Asthma	All people	3	6	3	—	12	4	5	—	1	9
	Non-Indigenous	3	3	3	—	9	4	3	—	—	6
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	4	4	2	—	9	2	2	—	—	4
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3
Pneumonia	All people	-28	-3	4	6	-21	-4	2	3	6	7
	Non-Indigenous	-28	-7	1	1	-33	-9	1	1	—	-7
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	5
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	13
Other respiratory diseases	All people	-23	-6	—	4	-25	-26	-5	2	1	-28
	Non-Indigenous	-24	-9	-3	-2	-38	-27	-8	1	-1	-35
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	-3	1	—	—	-2	-2	1	—	—	-1
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	13	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	10
All injuries	All people	257	215	64	65	602	88	60	17	21	186
	Non-Indigenous	254	190	44	21	510	85	46	6	1	138
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	237	165	39	21	461	63	21	4	1	89
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	117	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	51
Motor vehicle accidents	All people	122	91	24	26	263	56	36	8	7	106
	Non-Indigenous	123	84	18	9	235	55	31	4	—	91
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	115	78	16	9	219	49	27	4	—	79
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	31	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	15

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.4 (continued): Average annual number of 'excess' deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997-99

Cause	Population group	Males				Females					
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)									
Suicide	All people	100	54	17	12	183	3	-2	-1	1	1
	Non-Indigenous	98	46	9	1	154	4	-4	-1	—	-2
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	98	38	8	—	144	7	-3	-1	-1	2
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	38	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	6
Interpersonal violence	All people	-8	—	3	7	1	-2	—	3	7	8
	Non-Indigenous	-8	-2	1	2	-8	-2	-3	1	1	-3
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	-9	-3	1	2	-9	—	-3	—	1	-2
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	11	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	12
Accidental shooting	All people	4	4	1	1	10	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous	4	4	1	1	11	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	4	3	1	1	9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other injuries	All people	40	66	21	19	145	30	25	7	7	69
	Non-Indigenous	37	57	14	9	118	26	21	3	—	51
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	28	48	13	9	98	7	-1	1	1	8
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	37	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	18
All other causes	All people	-59	44	28	61	73	120	149	23	68	362
	Non-Indigenous	-63	5	-6	-10	-75	96	111	-8	-1	199
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	-67	-23	-8	-6	-102	16	6	1	2	25
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	188	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	174

(Continued)

Table 1.4.5.4 (continued): Average annual number of 'excess' deaths for specific causes of death, ASGC Remoteness Area, 1997-99

Cause	Population group	Males					Females				
		IR	OR	R	VR	Total	IR	OR	R	VR	Total
		(number)									
Diabetes	All people	2	38	10	15	66	31	57	13	23	125
	Non-Indigenous	1	26	4	-3	28	29	42	5	2	77
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	-8	2	1	—	-6	-3	6	1	2	6
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	45	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	56
Renal disease	All people	1	2	1	5	9	—	11	3	9	23
	Non-Indigenous	-1	-1	—	1	-1	-4	8	—	1	5
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	3
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19
Others	All people	-62	4	17	41	-2	89	81	7	36	214
	Non-Indigenous	-63	-20	-10	-8	-102	71	61	-13	-4	117
	Non-Indigenous (0-64)	-59	-25	-9	-6	-97	17	-1	—	—	16
	Indigenous	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	134	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	99

Notes

1. 'Excess' deaths are calculated as the difference between the number of deaths observed in each area, and the number expected if Major Cities age-specific death rates applied in each area. The number of expected deaths of 'All people' is based on the age-specific death rates for 'All people' living in Major Cities. The numbers of expected deaths of 'non-Indigenous and Indigenous people are based on the age-specific death rates for non-Indigenous people living in Major Cities.
2. Numbers of 'excess' deaths for Indigenous people are for the combined area of SA, WA, NT and Qld only. Numbers of deaths for non-Indigenous people and 'All people' are for Australia.
3. Estimates of the number of excess deaths of non-Indigenous people in Remote and Very remote areas should be treated with caution.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.