

2.17 Indigenous people with access to their traditional lands

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on or visiting traditional areas of land with which they have ancestral and/or cultural links

Data sources

Data for this indicator come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey and the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

The 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (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. This included information on health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. The survey provides comparisons over time in the health of Indigenous Australians. It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at six-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

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected 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.

Data analyses

Access to traditional lands

- In 2008, approximately 29% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported they did not recognise their homeland or traditional country. Approximately 26%

Table 2.17.2: Access to homelands/traditional country, by state/territory, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

State/ territory	Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	Recognises homelands/traditional country			Total
		Lives on homelands/traditional country	Allowed to visit homelands/traditional country	Not allowed to visit	
Per cent					
NSW Major cities	43.3	13.7	42.6	0.3	100.0
NSW Inner regional	32.9	39.4	26.8	0.9	100.0
NSW Outer regional	25.1	44.4	30.1	0.3	100.0
Vic Total	33.0	16.9	49.5	0.6	100.0
Qld Major cities	25.1	2.9	71.4	0.6	100.0
Qld Inner regional	39.7	9.5	50.8	0.0	100.0
Qld Outer regional	33.4	16.4	49.4	0.8	100.0
Qld Remote/Very remote	14.0	40.7	44.3	1.1	100.0
WA Non-remote	31.1	21.8	45.8	1.3	100.0
WA Remote/Very remote	15.2	42.2	42.2	0.5	100.0
NT Remote/Very remote	8.8	47.5	43.2	0.5	100.0
Balance of Australia - Non-remote	33.0	13.1	53.1	0.8	100.0
Balance of Australia - Remote/Very remote	30.2	46.9	22.9	0.0	100.0
Australia	28.7	25.5	45.2	0.6	100.0
Number	92,718	82,607	146,017	2,051	323,393

Note: Proportions and numbers exclude not stated responses

Source: AIHW Analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by remoteness

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who reported they did not recognise their homelands was highest in *Major cities* (37%) and lowest in *Very remote* areas (approximately 6%) (Table 2.17.3a; Figure 2.17.1).
- Around 56% of Indigenous Australians reported they lived on their homeland in non-remote areas and 44% in remote areas (Table 2.17.3a).
- The proportion of Indigenous people who were allowed to visit their homelands/traditional country but did not live there was highest in *Major cities* (40%) (Table 2.17.3a).
- Around 8% of Indigenous people in *Very remote* and 29% in *Major cities* were not allowed to visit their traditional country (Table 2.17.3a).

Table 2.17.3a: Access to homelands/traditional country, by remoteness, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Recognises homelands/traditional country				Total
	Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	Lives on homelands/traditional country ^(a)	Allowed to visit homelands/traditional country ^(b)	Not allowed to visit ^(b)	
	Per cent				
Major cities	37.3	12.1	39.9	28.6 ^(c)	32.2
Inner regional	26.6	21.5	16.4	22.9 ^(d)	20.6
Outer regional	23.9	22.6	20.9	25.9 ^(c)	22.3
<i>Total non-remote</i>	<i>87.8</i>	<i>56.2</i>	<i>77.2</i>	<i>77.4^(c)</i>	<i>75.1</i>
Remote	6.4	11.9	9.4	14.1 ^(c)	9.1
Very remote	5.8	31.9	13.4	8.4 ^(c)	15.8
<i>Total remote</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>43.8</i>	<i>22.8</i>	<i>22.6^(c)</i>	<i>24.9</i>
Australia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Asked of persons who recognised their homelands (234,383).

(b) Asked of persons who recognised their homelands, but were not living there (151,776).

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(d) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: AIHW Analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.3b: Access to homelands/traditional country, by remoteness, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

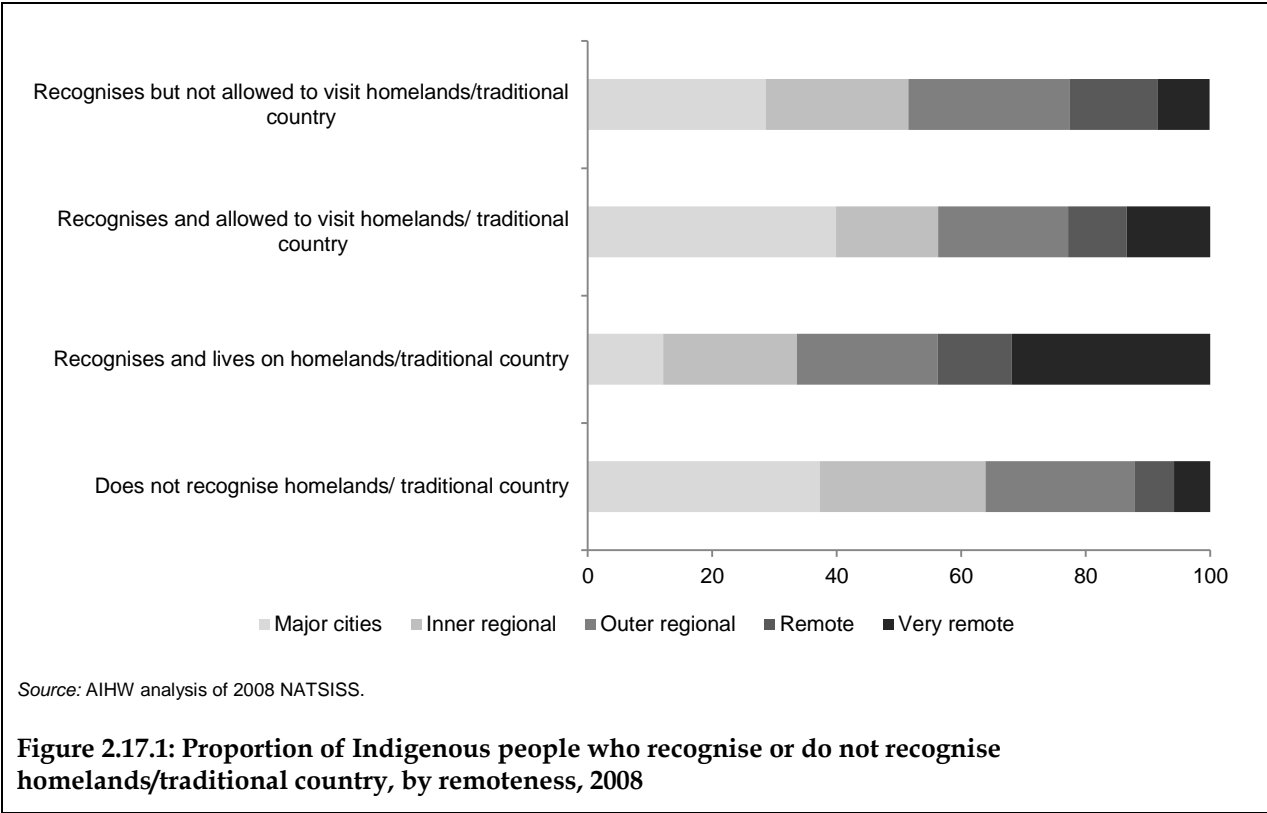
	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Total non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Total remote	Australia
	Per cent							
Recognises homelands								
Lives on homelands ^(a)	9.5	26.3	25.6	18.9	32.9	51.0	44.4	25.3
Does not live on homelands								
Allowed to visit homelands	55.4	35.4	41.9	45.9	45.8	38.0	40.9	44.6
Not allowed to visit homelands	0.6 ^(b)	0.7 ^(c)	0.7 ^(b)	0.6 ^(b)	1.0 ^(b)	0.3 ^(b)	0.6 ^(b)	0.6
Not known	1.7 ^(b)	1.0 ^(b)	1.4 ^(b)	1.4	0.3 ^(c)	0.2 ^(c)	0.2 ^(c)	1.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>57.6</i>	<i>37.1</i>	<i>44.1</i>	<i>48.0</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>38.5</i>	<i>41.7</i>	<i>46.4</i>
Total recognises homelands	67.1	63.4	69.7	66.9	80.0	89.6	86.1	71.7
Does not recognise homelands								
	32.9	36.6	30.3	33.1	20.0	10.4	13.9	28.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Asked of persons who recognised their homelands (234,383).

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: AIHW Analysis of 2008 NATSISS.



Access to traditional lands by remoteness and selected population and socioeconomic characteristics

- In 2008, Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands and lived in remote areas were more likely to be living under financial stress (68%) than those in non-remote areas (47%) (Table 2.17.4).
- Total employment rates for those who recognised their homelands and lived in remote areas were lower (50%) than those who lived in non-remote areas (53%). Similar rates by remoteness were observed for those who have access to homelands (Table 2.17.4).

Table 2.17.4: Access to homelands/traditional country by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008

	Recognises homelands/traditional country			Has access to homelands/traditional country		
	Remote	Non-remote	Total	Remote	Non-remote	Total
Per cent						
Main language spoken at home						
English	50.9	97.8	83.1	49.4	97.7	83.0
Language other than English	49.1	2.2	16.9	50.6	2.3	17.0
Household income						
1st quintile	19.2	21.3	20.7	19.6	22.6	21.8
5th quintile	7.5	8.8	6.3	7.0	10.1	9.2
Index of socioeconomic disadvantage						
1st quintile (lowest)	83.1	44.1	56.3	83.2	43.7	55.7
5th quintile (highest)	0.9	5.0	3.7	1.0	5.6	4.2
Financial stress						
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	68.1	46.6	53.4	67.6	45.1	52.0
Employment						
Employed CDEP	38.1	2.0	12.3	38.4	2.0	12.7
Employed non-CDEP	61.8	98.0	87.7	61.7	98.0	87.3
Total employed	50.2	53.4	52.4	50.4	53.2	52.4
Unemployed	8.7	10.9	10.3	8.8	11.2	10.4
<i>Subtotal in labour force</i>	<i>58.9</i>	<i>64.3</i>	<i>62.7</i>	<i>59.2</i>	<i>64.4</i>	<i>62.8</i>
Not in labour force	41.1	35.7	37.3	40.8	35.6	37.2
Housing						
Dwelling has major structural problems	40.6	25.9	30.5	40.4	25.8	30.2
Repairs and maintenance carried out in last 12 months	63.5	62.6	62.9	63.5	61.8	62.3
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)	54.1	18.4	29.6	50.4	16.7	26.9
Mobility						
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	20.0	22.1	21.4	20.6	22.7	22.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by selected health characteristics

- In 2008, 81% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who did not recognise their homelands reported excellent/very good/good health status, compared with 42% of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands but were not allowed to visit. Around 76% of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands and were allowed to visit them reported excellent/very good/good health status (Table 2.17.5a).
- Approximately 19% of Indigenous Australians who lived on their homelands reported medium/high-risk alcohol consumption compared with 9.5% of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands but were not allowed to visit.
- Around 38% of Indigenous Australians who lived on their homelands reported they did not consume alcohol in the 12 months before the survey compared with 47% of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands but were not allowed to visit.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands but were not allowed to visit were current smokers (56%), compared with 43% who did not recognise their homelands (Table 2.17.5a).

Table 2.17.5a: Access to homelands/traditional country, by health status and risk factors and psychological distress, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Self-assessed health status			Alcohol consumption				Smoking			Psychological distress (Kessler 5)		
	Excellent/ very good/ good	Fair/ poor	Total ^(a)	Medium/ high risk alcohol consump- tion	Low risk alcohol consump- tion	Did not consume alcohol	Total ^(a)	Current smoker	Ex- smoker or never smoked	Total ^(a)	Low/ moderate	High/ very high	Total ^(a)
Per cent													
Does not recognise homelands/ traditional country	80.6	19.4	100.0	16.9	49.3	33.8	100.0	43.0	57.0	100.0	71.4	28.6	100.0
Recognises and lives on homelands/ traditional country	79.3	20.7	100.0	18.6	43.7	37.7	100.0	49.6	50.4	100.0	66.7	33.3	100.0
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	75.8	24.2	100.0	17.0	47.4	35.6	100.0	47.6	52.4	100.0	68.9	31.1	100.0
Recognises homelands/traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	42.4	57.6	100.0	9.5	44.0	46.5	100.0	56.1	43.9	100.0	45.0	55.0	100.0
Total	77.8	22.2	100.0	17.3	47.0	35.7	100.0	46.8	53.2	100.0	68.9	31.1	100.0

Source: AIHW Analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.5b: Access to homelands/traditional country, by health status and risk factors and psychological distress, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Self-assessed health status		Alcohol consumption			Smoking		Psychological distress (Kessler 5)	
	Excellent/ very good/ good	Fair/ poor	Medium/ high risk alcohol consumption	Low risk alcohol consumption	Did not consume alcohol	Current smoker	Ex-smoker or never smoked	Low/moderate	High/very high
	Per cent								
Does not recognise homelands/ traditional country	29.7	25.2	28.1	30.3	27.3	26.3	30.7	29.8	26.5
Recognises and lives on homelands/ traditional country	26.0	23.8	27.6	23.9	27.1	27.0	24.2	24.5	27.2
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	43.9	49.4	43.9	45.2	44.7	45.9	44.5	45.3	45.3
Recognises homelands/traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	0.3	1.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	251,726	71,666	55,2392	150,001	113,813	151,469	171,924	219,612	98,960

(a) Excludes not stated and unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by community cohesion

- In 2008, around 5% of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands but were not allowed to visit did not have support in a time of crisis, compared with around 12% of those who recognised their homelands but were allowed to visit (Table 2.17.6a).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands and lives there reported neighbourhood problems (75%), compared with 67% of those who recognise their homelands but are not allowed to visit or live there (Table 2.17.6a).

Table 2.17.6a: Access to homelands/traditional country, by community cohesion, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Support in time of crisis			Presence of neighbourhood/community problems		
	Does not have support in time of crisis	Has support in time of crisis	Total	Neighbourhood / community problems reported	No neighbourhood /community problems reported	Total ^(a)
	Per cent					
Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	12.1	87.9	100.0	69.7	30.3	100.0
Recognises and lives on homelands/traditional country	9.6	90.4	100.0	75.2	24.8	100.0
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	11.7	88.3	100.0	74.5	25.5	100.0
Recognises homelands/traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	4.6	95.4	100.0	67.0	33.0	100.0
Total	11.2	88.8	100.0	73.3	26.7	100.0

(a) Excludes not stated.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS

Table 2.17.6b: Access to homelands/traditional country, by community cohesion, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Support in time of crisis		Presence of neighbourhood/community problems	
	Does not have support in time of crisis	Has support in time of crisis	Neighbourhood/community problems reported	No neighbourhood/community problems reported
			Per cent	
Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	30.9	28.4	27.2	32.4
Recognises and lives on homelands/traditional country	21.8	26.0	26.3	23.8
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	47.1	44.9	45.9	43.1
Recognises homelands/ traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by personal stressors

- In 2008, 28% of Indigenous Australians who lived on their homelands reported a death of a family member or close friend, 11% reported difficulty in getting a job and 10% reported overcrowding (Table 2.17.7).
- Around 30% of Indigenous people who recognised their homelands but were not allowed to visit reported a death of a family member or close friend and 21% reported divorce or separation (Table 2.17.7).

Table 2.17.7: Access to traditional lands, by type of personal stressors in last 12 months, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

Type of stressor	Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	Recognises homelands/traditional country		
		Lives on homelands/traditional country	Allowed to visit homelands/traditional country	Not allowed to visit
Really bad illness	10.9	10.1	14.7	17.0
Really bad accident	2.4	4.4	3.7	4.8
Death of family member or close friend	20.0	27.8	27.7	30.8
You, a family member or friend spent time in gaol	2.8	6.2	3.9	3.6
Overcrowding at home	4.8	10.1	7.1	2.4
Divorce or separation	4.8	3.9	4.4	20.8
Not able to get a job	11.7	11.4	11.3	6.5
Lost job / made redundant / sacked / retired	3.7	3.2	4.3	1.2
Alcohol/drug problems	5.7	7.9	9.1	13.1
Witness to violence	1.9	3.4	4.6	18.9
Abuse or violent crime	2.6	2.6	3.1	19.5
Trouble with police	3.4	6.7	5.9	19.4
Gambling problem	1.5	2.4	3.0	0.0
Other	20.2	24.2	29.0	43.7
Total^(a)	96.3	124.2	131.8	201.6

(a) Sum of components will not add to 100% because multiple stressors can be reported.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Frequency and length of time spent visiting homelands

- In 2008, of Indigenous Australians 15 years and over who recognised and were allowed to visit their homelands, 49% visited their homelands less than once a year. This was compared with only 2% that visited their homelands at least weekly and 2% who visited their homelands fortnightly (Table 2.17.8).
- In 2008, of Indigenous Australians 15 years and over who visited their homelands at least once a year, 43% reported the longest time that they spent at their homelands was one week to less than a month. This was compared with 2.2% that reported three to less than six months (Table 2.17.9)

Table 2.17.8: How often visits homelands/traditional country, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over^(a), 2008

How often visits homelands/ traditional country	
	Per cent
At least once a week	2.0
At least once a fortnight	2.1
At least once a month	4.3
Several times per year	24.4
Once per year	18.4
Less frequently than once per year	48.9
Total who recognises an area as their homelands and are allowed to visit	100.0
Total number	146,017

(a) Selected persons 15+ who recognise an area as their homelands and are allowed to visit

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.9: Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country in last 12 months, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country^(a)	
	Per cent
<1 week	42.4
1 week to less than 1 month	43.2
1 to less than 3 months	9.6
3 to less than 6 months	2.2
6+ months	2.6
Total	100.0
Total number	74,687

(a) Selected persons 15+ who visit their homelands/ traditional country at least once per year

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Length of time spent visiting homelands by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors

- For those Indigenous Australians who reported spending 3 to less than 6 months visiting their homelands, 83% reported excellent/very good/good health compared with 17% who reported fair/poor health (Table 2.17.10a).
- Of those who spent less than a week visiting their homelands, 78% reported excellent/very good/good and 22% reported fair/poor health (Table 2.17.10a).
- Indigenous Australians who spent 6 months or more visiting their homelands were more likely to be a daily smoker, use risky amounts of alcohol and to have ever used substances (63%, 30% and 46%, respectively) than those who spent less than a week visiting their homelands (44%, 17% and 43%, respectively) (Table 2.17.10b; Table 2.17.11b).
- Of Indigenous Australians who reported that they did not have support during a time of crisis 11% has spent less than a week visiting their homelands in the past year while 2.1% had spent 3 to less than 6 months visiting their homelands (Table 2.17.11a).

Table 2.17.10a: Health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors by longest time spent in homelands/traditional country, 2008

		Longest time spent in homelands					Total
		<1 week	1 week to less than 1 month	1 to less than 3 months	3 to less than 6 months	6+ months	
Self-assessed health status	Excellent/ very good/ good	78.2	78.9	84.6	83.4	67.5	78.9
	Fair/ poor	21.8	21.1	15.4	16.6	32.5	21.1
	Total^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)	Low/moderate	68.5	73.4	70.1	57.7	77.1	70.8
	High/very high	31.5	26.6	29.9	42.3	22.9	29.2
	Total^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Experienced personal stressors in last 12 months	Experienced stressors	58.2	65.8	69.4	67.5	68.8	63.0
	Did not experience stressors	41.8	34.2	30.6	32.5	31.2	37.0
	Total^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Support in time of crisis	Does not have support in time of crisis	11.2	9.9	13.1	2.1	19.5	10.9
	Has support in time of crisis	88.8	90.1	86.9	97.9	80.5	89.1
	Total^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Presence of neighbourhood/community problems	Neighbourhood/ community problems reported	70.5	76.3	77.2	81.7	63.8	73.8
	No neighbourhood/community problems	29.5	23.7	22.8	18.3	36.2	26.2
	Total^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Not stated responses excluded

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.10b: Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors, 2008

Longest time spent in homelands	Smoking status			Alcohol use			Substance use		
	Current daily smoker	Not current daily smoker	Total ^(a)	Risky/high risk	Not risky/high risk	Total ^(a)	Ever used substances	Never used substances	Total ^(a)
<1 week	44.3	55.7	100.0	16.6	83.4	100.0	42.6	57.4	100.0
1 week to less than 1 month	42.5	57.5	100.0	15.5	84.5	100.0	42.9	57.1	100.0
1 to less than 3 months	50.7	49.3	100.0	17.3	82.7	100.0	40.6	59.4	100.0
3 to less than 6 months	56.5	43.5	100.0	27.8	72.2	100.0	58.8	41.2	100.0
6+ months	62.7	37.3	100.0	30.3	69.7	100.0	45.7	54.3	100.0
Total	45.0	55.0	100.0	16.8	83.2	100.0	42.9	57.1	100.0

(a) Not stated responses excluded

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.11a: Health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors by longest time spent in homelands/traditional country, 2008

		Longest time spent in homelands					Total
		<1 week	1 week to less than 1 month	1 to less than months	3 to less than 6 months	6+ months	
Self-assessed health status	Excellent/ very good/ good	42.0	43.2	10.3	2.3	2.2	100.0
	Fair/ poor	44.0	43.3	7.0	1.7	4.0	100.0
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)	Low/moderate	41.6	44.3	9.3	1.8	2.9	100.0
	High/very high	46.3	38.8	9.7	3.2	2.1	100.0
Experienced personal stressors in last 12 months	Experienced stressors	39.2	45.1	10.5	2.4	2.8	100.0
	Did not experience stressors	48.0	39.9	7.9	1.9	2.2	100.0
Support in time of crisis	Does not have support in time of crisis	44.0	39.4	11.5	0.4	4.7	100.0
	Has support in time of crisis	42.2	43.6	9.3	2.4	2.4	100.0
Presence of neighbourhood/ community problems	Neighbourhood/ community problems reported	40.8	44.7	10.1	2.4	2.0	100.0
	No neighbourhood/community problems	47.9	39.0	8.4	1.5	3.2	100.0

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.11b: Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors, 2008

Longest time spent in homelands	Smoking status		Alcohol use		Substance use	
	Current daily smoker	Not current daily smoker	Risky/high risk	Not risky/high risk	Ever used substances	Never used substances
<1 week	41.8	43.0	41.9	42.6	42.9	43.5
1 week to less than 1 month	38.9	43.1	37.9	41.8	40.8	40.8
1 to less than months	13.0	10.4	12.1	11.6	11.0	12.0
3 to less than 6 months	2.9	1.8	3.8	2.0	2.9	1.5
6+ months	3.5	1.7	4.3	2.0	2.4	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Identification with clan, tribal or language group

- The level of identification with a clan, tribal or language group was highest within the 35-44 year age group where 72% of Indigenous Australians reported identifying with their clan, tribal or language group. Identification was lowest for the 15-24 year age group where only 51% identified with the clan, tribal or language group (Table 2.17.12).

Table 2.17.12: Whether identifies with clan, tribal or language group, by age, 2008

	15–24 years	25–34 years	35–44 years	45–54 years	55 years and over
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	50.6	63.9	71.8	68.2	66.0
Does not identify with clan, tribal or language group	49.4	36.2	28.3	31.8	34.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

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

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

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

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

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

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. However, some factor may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However, not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys; hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS as the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may however be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS user's guide (ABS 2010).

List of symbols used in tables

- n.a. not available
- rounded to zero (including null cells)
- 0 zero
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- n.f.d. not further defined
- n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

References

ABS 2006. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2004-05. ABS cat.no. 4715.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2010. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Users' Guide. ABS Cat. no. 4720.0. Canberra: ABS.

List of tables

Table 2.17.1:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by age group, Indigenous Australians, 2008.....	1295
Table 2.17.2:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by state/territory, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008	1296
Table 2.17.3a:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by remoteness, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008	1297
Table 2.17.3b:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by remoteness, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008	1297
Table 2.17.4:	Access to homelands/traditional country by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008	1299
Table 2.17.5a:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by health status and risk factors and psychological distress, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008	1301
Table 2.17.5b:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by health status and risk factors and psychological distress, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008	1302
Table 2.17.6a:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by community cohesion, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008	1303
Table 2.17.6b:	Access to homelands/traditional country, by community cohesion, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008	1304
Table 2.17.7:	Access to traditional lands, by type of personal stressors in last 12 months, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008.....	1305
Table 2.17.8:	How often visits homelands/traditional country, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008.....	1306
Table 2.17.9:	Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country in last 12 months, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008.....	1306
Table 2.17.10a:	Health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors by longest time spent in homelands/traditional country, 2008.....	1308
Table 2.17.10b:	Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors, 2008.....	1309
Table 2.17.11a:	Health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors by longest time spent in homelands/traditional country, 2008.....	1310
Table 2.17.11b:	Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors, 2008.....	1311
Table 2.17.12:	Whether identifies with clan, tribal or language group, by age, 2008.....	1312

List of figures

Figure 2.17.1: Proportion of Indigenous people who recognise or do not recognise homelands/traditional country, by remoteness, 2008 1298