

Indicator 47. Children's hearing loss

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

Purpose

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

Data

Hearing loss among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is widespread. It can be the result of repeated bouts of otitis media, and is thought to be more severe among Indigenous children due to crowded housing conditions and lack of access to primary health care. Hearing loss often leads to increased learning difficulties and behavioural problems in school, adding to existing social disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people.

New South Wales

NSW Health has commenced a \$2.49 million state-wide otitis media screening initiative for 0-6 year old Aboriginal children over a 4 year term. Over 9,000 children were tested for otitis media in the first year of operation (2004-05) and this is expected to increase to over 19,000 children being checked annually by 2007-08.

Victoria

Victoria reported that children are screened for hearing through School Nursing Services which aim to screen all children in the first year of school (Prep); however screening is not compulsory. A form is sent to the parents of all Prep children and Aboriginal identification is asked but is not mandatory. Each child is screened once during the year.

In 2004, 58,793 Prep children were screened, of whom 724 were recorded as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of the Aboriginal children screened, 598 were recorded with hearing within normal limits and 141 were referred for further action.

Further work is being carried out by a PhD student at the University of Melbourne who is working on a project about the prevention of hearing loss in Aboriginal children. The aim of the project is to gather evidence about risk factors and social determinants for otitis media, in order to develop a community-based intervention strategy aimed at the prevention of otitis media in the Indigenous population.

Queensland

Queensland currently does not routinely collect data regarding hearing loss detected in preschool and school age children. However, child health nurses and health workers screen children opportunistically and in cases where they have had children with suspected hearing loss referred to them.

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening is being progressively introduced across Queensland Health hospitals to detect permanent childhood hearing impairment. Referral to paediatric audiology services takes place for further diagnostic testing where screening detects a

problem. An information system to gather data, including the Indigenous status of the baby, is nearing completion.

Western Australia

No comprehensive data on children's hearing loss were available for this indicator.

South Australia

The excessive burden of ear disease in Aboriginal populations has long been recognised. The average time of ear infection is 32 months for the Aboriginal community compared to 3 months for the general community. An estimated 46% of Aboriginal people admitted to a South Australian hospital with otitis media from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2003 were aged 0–4 and 30% were aged 5–9 years (South Australia Department of Health – hospital separations data). A Ministerial Advisory Committee on students with disabilities found that otitis media with subsequent hearing loss is a likely contributor to the high percentage of Aboriginal children with a communication and language disability (11.1% compared to 4.7%) (Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities, Sept 2003). Recent testing of Aboriginal children in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands has revealed disturbingly high and untreated levels of otitis media.

Tasmania

Family and child Health Services collects information on hearing loss from children entering private and government schools using a self identifying method. Enrolment cards are completed by either parents or nurses and asking Indigenous status is mandatory, but responding is voluntary. If children's hearing loss is already detected and they attend the Australian Hearing Service, their Indigenous status is collected, however with unsure reliability. Some work is being conducted to promote the identification of Aboriginal children entering the school system and improvements in data collection will improve reporting ability.

Australian Capital Territory

Data on the extent of children's hearing loss is currently not available for the ACT. The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Winnunga Nimmityjah, has received recurrent funding from ACT Health to implement an otitis media program for infants and children. The program will provide a comprehensive screening service, appropriate education and treatment, and children will be referred for surgical intervention where necessary. The extent of hearing loss will be recorded on Winnunga's recently installed patient information system.

Northern Territory

Aboriginal children are known to have high rates of acute and chronic ear infections, resulting in permanent ear damage, hearing loss and educational disadvantage. In the Northern Territory, remote nurses from the Maternal and Child Health team perform hearing screening. Hearing screening is performed at 25dBHL at 1KHz and 4KHz at school entry. Children who fail the hearing screening are then referred to the hearing services within the Department of Health and Community Services for follow-up diagnostic assessments.

In 2004, 62% of school-aged children (aged 4–16 years) tested in remote communities in the Northern Territory were identified with varying degrees of hearing loss in one or both ears. The tests were performed by audiologists and nurse audiometrists who travelled to remote communities. The numbers tested included mostly children who failed hearing screening at

school entry (aged 4-5 years) and children with hearing concerns but also older children who have had existing hearing loss and were being monitored.

Indicator 48. Stillbirths to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers

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

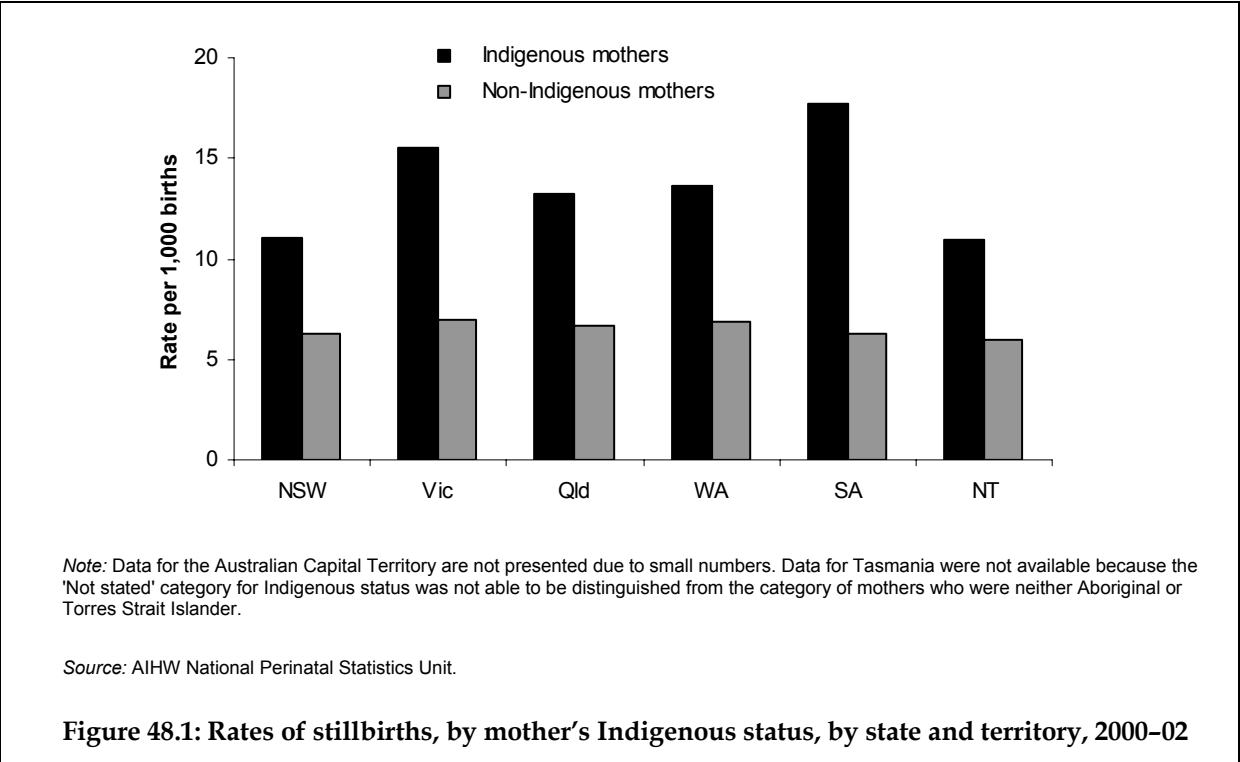
Purpose

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

Data

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

Three years of data were combined in Figure 48.1 in order to smooth out yearly fluctuations in the number of stillbirths to Indigenous mothers, which can cause volatility in rates.



- The rate of stillbirths to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers was around twice the rate for non-Indigenous mothers in all jurisdictions except for South Australia, where the rate was around three times as high.
- The rate of stillbirths to Indigenous mothers ranged from 11.0 per 1,000 in New South Wales and the Northern Territory to 17.7 per 1,000 in South Australia.

Indicator 49. Early adult death

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

Purpose

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

Data

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

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

	Males	Females
Indigenous (1996–2001)		
Queensland	0.34	0.26
South Australia// Western Australia	0.35	0.18
Northern Territory	0.37	0.21
New South Wales/Victoria	0.30	0.20
Tasmania	0.30	0.20
Australian Capital Territory	0.30	0.20
Australia	0.33	0.22
Total Australian (1999–2001)		
Queensland	0.07	0.04
Western Australia	0.07	0.04
South Australia	0.07	0.04
Northern Territory	0.14	0.09
New South Wales	0.07	0.04
Victoria	0.06	0.04
Tasmania	0.07	0.04
Australian Capital Territory	0.05	0.03
Australia	0.07	0.04

Note: States and territories with less complete coverage of Indigenous deaths have been shaded.

Source: Abridged experimental Indigenous life tables 1996–2001; Australian and state life tables 1999–2001; ABS 2004a.

- Based on estimates over the period 1996–2001, in the four jurisdictions with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths, an Indigenous male had between 34% and 37% chance of dying before the age of 55. The comparable percentages for all-Australian males for the period 1999–2001 were between 7% and 14%.
- The early adult mortality estimates reported in Table 49.1 are based on experimental population estimates based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. The Bhat method was used by the ABS to construct an experimental model life table for the Indigenous population which gives an estimation of the probability of a person aged 20 years dying before aged 55 years.
- In Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, Indigenous females had an 18% – 26% chance of dying before the age of 55 years. The comparable percentages for all-Australian females were between 4% and 9%.
- The probability of a person aged 20 dying before age 55 was highest in the Northern Territory for Indigenous males, all-Australian males and all-Australian females. For Indigenous females, the probability of dying before age 55 years at aged 20 was highest in Queensland.

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

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

Purpose

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

Data

The data provided come from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths is presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory as these states and territories have been assessed as having more complete coverage of Indigenous deaths. Given the recent efforts by New South Wales to improve coverage of Indigenous deaths, it was important to present the number of deaths in this jurisdiction despite the fact that they are still considered incomplete. Consequently, rates have not been calculated for New South Wales.

Number of deaths

- Over the 3-year period 2001–03, the number of deaths among people who identified as Indigenous was 1,482 in New South Wales, 1,724 in Queensland, 798 in Western Australia, 369 in South Australia and 1,325 in the Northern Territory. In New South Wales, the highest proportion of deaths was among those aged 65 years and over and for all other states and territories the highest proportion of deaths was among those aged 45–64 years (Table 50.1).
- Over the 3-year period 1999–01, the number of deaths for which Indigenous status was not recorded was 4,065 in New South Wales, 997 in Queensland, 537 in Western Australia, 818 in South Australia and 17 in the Northern Territory. The proportion of deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated was 2.8 in New South Wales, 2.3 in South Australia, 1.6 in Western Australia, 1.4 in Queensland and 0.6 in the Northern Territory.

Age- and sex-specific rates and rate ratios

- In all four states and territories, the death rates for Indigenous males and females were considerably higher than for non-Indigenous Australian males and females for all age groups (Table 50.2).
- In the four states and territories, the highest death rates among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians were among those aged 65 years and over. Indigenous Australians died at much higher rates than non-Indigenous Australians at ages 25–44 and 45–64 years.

Table 50.1: Number of deaths, by age and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Males		Females		Total ^(a)		Not stated	Total deaths	Not stated (%)
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous			
New South Wales									
0–4 yrs	56	716	39	580	95	1,296	111	1,502	7.4
5–24	33	1,106	33	418	66	1,524	72	1,662	4.3
25–44	192	10,064	93	1,593	285	11,657	200	12,142	1.6
45–64	287	11,298	184	6,706	471	18,004	628	19,103	3.3
65+	297	51,288	268	54,387	565	105,675	3,054	109,294	2.8
Total	865	74,472	617	63,684	1,482	138,156	4,065	143,703	2.8
Queensland									
0–4 yrs	82	468	51	340	133	808	15	956	1.6
5–24	69	776	45	291	114	1,067	16	1,197	1.3
25–44	224	2,048	117	987	341	3,035	37	3,413	1.1
45–64	337	6,514	237	3,670	574	10,184	134	10,892	1.2
65+	274	26,086	288	26,423	562	52,509	795	53,866	1.5
Total	986	35,892	738	31,711	1,724	67,603	997	70,324	1.4
Western Australia									
0–4 yrs	43	180	44	131	87	311	19	417	4.6
5–24	53	371	22	150	75	521	28	624	4.5
25–44	132	974	88	494	220	1,468	59	1,747	3.4
45–64	189	2,847	138	1,698	227	4,545	110	4,882	2.3
65+	162	12,162	142	12,791	189	24,953	321	25,463	1.3
Total	579	16,534	434	15,264	798	31,798	537	33,133	1.6
South Australia									
0–4 yrs	7	128	12	129	19	257	10	286	3.5
5–24	17	260	5	107	22	367	21	410	5.1
25–44	58	839	33	445	91	1,284	66	1,441	4.6
45–64	89	2,682	54	1,652	143	4,334	114	4,591	2.5
65+	47	13,850	47	14,784	94	28,634	607	29,335	2.1
Total	218	17,759	151	17,117	369	34,876	818	36,063	2.3
Northern Territory									
0–4 yrs	52	37	42	16	94	53	2	149	1.3
5–24	68	33	33	23	101	56	1	158	0.6
25–44	256	115	137	34	393	149	2	544	0.4
45–64	240	272	164	108	404	380	7	791	0.9
65+	166	404	167	268	333	672	5	1,010	0.5
Total	782	861	543	449	1,325	1,310	17	2,652	0.6

Notes

1. Table includes deaths data from New South Wales, which has the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories where coverage of Indigenous status is more complete.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

Table 50.2: Age- and sex-specific death rates per 1,000 and rate ratios for all causes, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Males			Females		
	Indigenous	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
Queensland						
0–4 yrs	3.2	1.3	2.4	2.0	1.0	2.0
5–24	0.8	0.5	1.6	0.5	0.2	2.6
25–44	4.5	1.3	3.4	2.0	0.6	3.3
45–64	16.2	5.0	3.2	10.1	2.9	3.5
65+	59.0	44.0	1.3	49.5	37.4	1.3
Western Australia						
0–4 yrs	3.3	1.0	3.3	3.5	0.8	4.6
5–24	1.2	0.5	2.5	0.5	0.2	2.6
25–44	4.8	1.2	4.1	3.0	0.6	5.1
45–64	16.7	4.2	4.0	11.1	2.6	4.3
65+	60.8	42.2	1.4	41.2	36.2	1.1
South Australia						
0–4 yrs	1.5	1.0	1.5	2.5	1.0	2.4
5–24	1.0	0.4	2.2	0.3	0.2	1.6
25–44	5.4	1.3	4.1	2.9	0.7	4.1
45–64	19.8	4.9	4.0	11.0	3.0	3.7
65+	51.5	47.4	1.1	36.8	39.2	0.9
Northern Territory						
0–4 yrs	4.9	2.2	2.2	4.1	1.0	4.0
5–24	1.7	0.5	3.2	0.9	0.4	2.2
25–44	10.0	1.4	7.2	5.2	0.5	11.2
45–64	25.0	4.9	5.1	15.5	2.5	6.3
65+	82.3	38.6	2.1	58.4	32.5	1.8

Notes

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

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

Indicator 51. Standardised mortality ratios for all causes

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

Purpose

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

Data

The data provided come from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Data on numbers of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory as these states and territories have been assessed as having more complete coverage of Indigenous deaths. Given the recent efforts by New South Wales to improve coverage of Indigenous deaths, it was important to present the number of deaths in this jurisdiction despite the fact that they are still considered incomplete. Consequently, rates have not been calculated for New South Wales.

Table 51.1: Number of deaths among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	741	866	506	204	714	3,031
Females	457	597	361	126	465	2,006
Persons	1,198	1,463	867	330	1,179	5,037
Non-Indigenous						
Males	31,194	17,286	7,892	7,482	636	64,490
Females	18,155	9,661	4,546	4,498	246	37,106
Persons	49,349	26,947	12,438	11,980	882	101,596
Subtotal	50,547	28,410	13,305	12,310	2,061	106,633
Not stated	1,764	355	299	306	14	2,738
Total	52,311	28,765	13,604	12,616	2,075	109,371
Proportion not stated (%)	3.4	1.2	2.2	2.4	0.7	2.5

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03, in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there was a total of 109,371 deaths among people aged 0–74 years. Of these deaths, 5,037 (4.6%) were of Indigenous people.
- For 2,738 deaths (2.5%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from 0.7% in the Northern Territory to 3.4% in New South Wales.
- Of all Indigenous deaths, 60% were males compared with 63% male deaths among non-Indigenous people.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 51.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	1,006.8	1,089.5	1,135.1	1,796.0
Non-Indigenous males	338.0	304.3	331.9	375.9
Indigenous females	643.1	730.3	643.8	1,100.6
Non-Indigenous females	196.0	180.9	197.6	196.4
Indigenous persons	814.2	900.9	876.0	1,430.9
Non-Indigenous persons	268.3	243.5	264.6	299.6
	Standardised mortality ratio^(a)			
Males	2.9	3.2	3.3	5.2
Females	3.2	3.6	3.2	5.4
Persons	3.0	3.3	3.2	5.2

(a) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

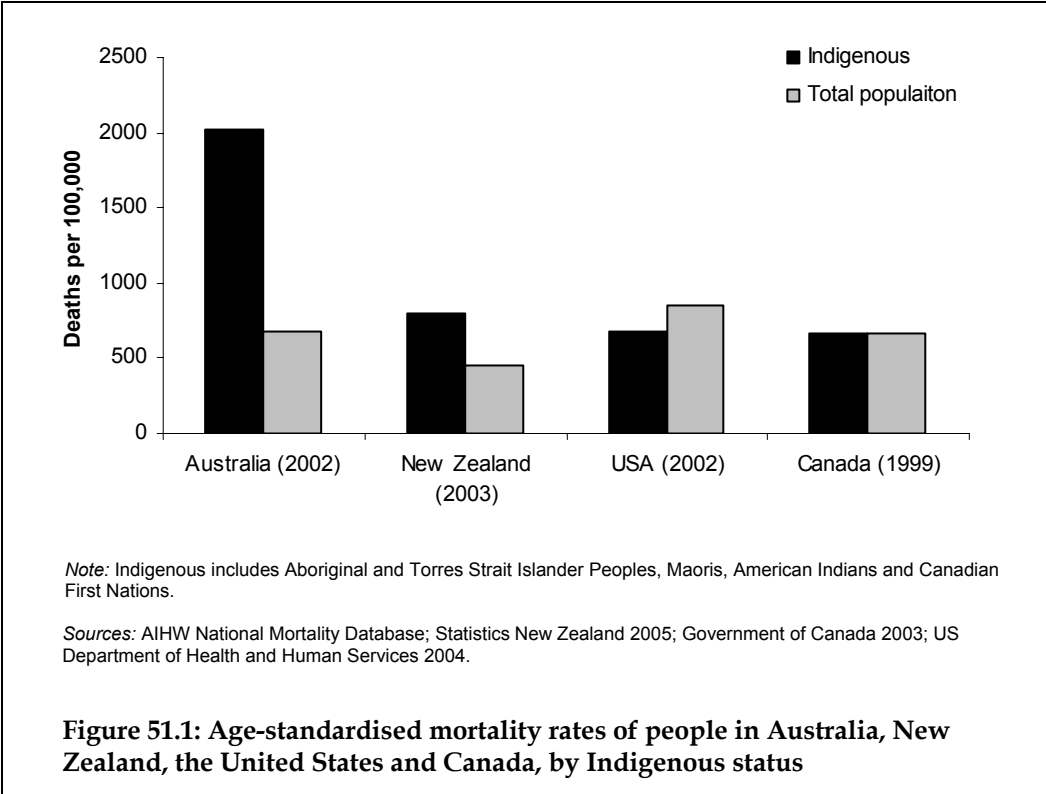
Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, death rates for Indigenous persons ranged from 814 per 100,000 in Queensland to 1,431 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- Indigenous Australians in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia died at around 3 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians. In the Northern Territory, Indigenous people died at more than 5 times the rate of non-Indigenous people.

An analysis of trends in all-cause mortality among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the period 1991–2002 was undertaken in the joint ABS/AIHW report *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2005* (ABS & AIHW 2005).

International comparisons

- Death rates among Indigenous Australians were higher than death rates among New Zealand Maori, American Indians and Canadian First Nations.
- The overall Australian age-standardised death rate in 2002 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 2,026 per 100,000.
- In 2003 the age-standardised death rate was 796 per 100,000 for New Zealand Maoris, in 2002, 677 per 100,000 for American Indians and in 1999, 662 per 100,000 for First Nations in Canada (Statistics New Zealand 2005; Government of Canada 2003; US Department of Health and Human Services 2004).
- The difference in mortality rates between the Indigenous and total populations was higher in Australia than in the other three countries, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples dying at three times the rate of all Australians.
- Although some methodological differences – such as variation in the method used for standardisation and the age structure or death rates of the population used for standardisation in the different countries – have probably influenced the observed death rates, these are unlikely to account for the large difference observed in the death rates between Indigenous Australians and the Indigenous groups in the other countries.



Indicator 52. Standardised mortality ratios for circulatory diseases

Indicator:

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

Purpose

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

Data

The data provided come from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Given the recent efforts by New South Wales to improve coverage of Indigenous deaths, it was important to present the number of deaths in this jurisdiction despite the fact that they are still considered incomplete. Consequently, rates have not been calculated for New South Wales.

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

Circulatory diseases

Table 52.1: Number of deaths from circulatory disease^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	238	239	132	47	170	826
Females	126	156	63	40	106	491
Persons	364	395	195	87	276	1,317
Non-Indigenous						
Males	8,640	4,453	1,850	2,124	161	17,228
Females	4,003	1,920	801	949	44	7,717
Persons	12,643	6,373	2,651	3,073	205	24,945
Subtotal	13,007	6,768	2,846	3,160	481	26,262
Not stated	447	94	55	70	4	670
Total	13,454	6,862	2,901	3,230	485	26,932
Proportion not stated (%)	3.3	1.4	1.9	2.2	0.8	2.5

(a) ICD-10 codes I00–I99.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 26,932 deaths among people aged 0–74 years due to circulatory disease. Of these, 1,317 or 4.9% were deaths of Indigenous people.
- For 670 deaths (2.5%), Indigenous status was not recorded. The proportion of ‘not stated’ varied by jurisdiction and ranged from 0.8% of all deaths in the Northern Territory to 3.3% of all deaths in New South Wales.
- Males made up 63% of the Indigenous deaths from circulatory disease, compared with 69% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 52.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from circulatory diseases^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	372.3	377.9	346.4	580.5
Non-Indigenous males	87.1	71.8	92.5	103.8
Indigenous females	227.7	167.6	267.3	330.8
Non-Indigenous females	39.4	32.4	40.6	43.4
Indigenous persons	293.9	266.1	301.8	445.0
Non-Indigenous persons	63.8	52.5	66.4	79.2
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	4.1	4.2	3.8	6.4
Females	5.4	4.0	6.4	7.9
Persons	4.4	4.0	4.5	6.7

(a) ICD-10 codes I00–I99.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete than in other states and territories, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 266 per 100,000 in Queensland to 445 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The age-standardised mortality rates for deaths caused by circulatory diseases were between 4 and 7 times higher in the Indigenous population than in the non-Indigenous population in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Coronary heart disease

Table 52.3: Number of deaths from coronary heart disease^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	163	170	74	34	107	548
Females	70	84	33	22	49	258
Persons	233	254	107	56	156	806
Non-Indigenous						
Males	5,542	3,039	1,250	1,360	111	11,302
Females	1,891	985	426	465	23	3,790
Persons	7,433	4,024	1,676	1,825	134	15,092
Subtotal	7,666	4,278	1,783	1,881	290	15,898
Not stated	263	51	43	33	2	392
Total	7,929	4,329	1,826	1,914	292	16,290
Proportion not stated (%)	3.3	1.2	2.4	1.7	0.7	2.4

(a) ICD-10 codes I20–I25.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 16,290 deaths from coronary heart disease. Of these deaths, 806 or 4.9% were of Indigenous people.
- For 392 deaths (2.4%), Indigenous status was not stated. The proportion of ‘not stated’ varied by jurisdiction and ranged from 0.7% all deaths in the Northern Territory to 3.3% of all deaths in New South Wales.
- Females made up 32% of Indigenous deaths from coronary heart disease and 33% of non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 52.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from coronary heart disease^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	272.7	218.1	257.5	376.8
Non-Indigenous males	59.4	48.5	59.2	71.3
Indigenous females	133.7	94.9	158.7	165.6
Non-Indigenous females	20.3	17.3	19.8	24.1
Indigenous persons	196.6	151.7	201.5	261.5
Non-Indigenous persons	40.2	33.1	39.4	52.0
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	4.6	3.7	4.3	6.4
Females	6.5	4.6	7.7	8.1
Persons	4.9	3.8	5.0	6.5

(a) ICD-10 codes I20–I25.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete than in other states and territories, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 152 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 262 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths caused by coronary heart disease in Queensland and South Australia were around 5 times higher in the Indigenous population than in the non-Indigenous population. In Western Australia and the Northern Territory, Indigenous people were hospitalised at 4 and 7 times the rate of non-Indigenous people respectively.
- The standardised mortality ratios were higher for females than for males in all states and territories.

Rheumatic heart disease

Table 52.5: Number of deaths from rheumatic heart disease^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous persons	9	19	8	n.p.	29	n.p.
Non-Indigenous persons	90	57	21	n.p.	3	n.p.
Subtotal	99	76	29	30	32	266
Not stated	2	1	0	0	0	3
Total	101	77	29	30	32	269
Proportion not stated (%)	2.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1

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

(a) ICD-10 codes I00–I09.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Numbers for males and females were not published because of low numbers.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 269 deaths recorded among people aged 0–74 years as being caused by rheumatic heart disease. Of these, 26% were deaths of Indigenous people.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 52.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from rheumatic heart disease^(a), by Indigenous status, and selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
Rate per 100,000				
Indigenous persons	11.2	8.7	n.p.	36.6
Non-Indigenous persons	0.6	0.4	n.p.	1.0
Standardised mortality ratio^(b)				
Persons	17.1	13.3	n.p.	55.9

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

(a) ICD-10 codes I00–I09.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

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

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- Death rates from rheumatic heart disease should be interpreted with care because of the low numbers of deaths.
- The standardised mortality ratio was 17 in Queensland, 13 in Western Australia and 56 in the Northern Territory.

An analysis of trends in mortality from cardiovascular diseases among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the periods 1991–96 and 1997–2002 was undertaken in the joint ABS/ AIHW report *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2005* (ABS & AIHW 2005).

Indicator 53. Standardised mortality ratios for injury and poisoning

Indicator:

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

Purpose

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

Data

The data provided come from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Given the recent efforts by New South Wales to improve coverage of Indigenous deaths, it was important to present the number of deaths in this jurisdiction despite the fact that they are still considered incomplete. Consequently, rates have not been calculated for New South Wales.

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

Injury and poisoning

Table 53.1: Number of deaths from injury and poisoning^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	132	182	101	54	161	630
Females	53	72	46	17	71	259
Persons	185	254	147	71	232	889
Non-Indigenous						
Males	3,916	2,643	1,176	930	161	8,826
Females	1,195	781	406	283	43	2,708
Persons	5,111	3,424	1,582	1,213	204	11,534
Subtotal	5,296	3,678	1,729	1,284	436	12,423
Not stated	189	38	74	90	1	392
Total	5,485	3,716	1,803	1,374	437	12,815
Proportion not stated (%)	3.4	1.0	4.1	6.6	0.2	3.1

(a) ICD-10 codes V01–Y98.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001 to 2003 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 12,815 deaths due to all types of injury and poisoning among people aged 0–74 years. Of these, 889 or 6.9% were Indigenous people.
- Indigenous status was not stated for 392 deaths (3.1%). This ranged from 0.2% of all deaths in the Northern Territory to 6.6% of all deaths in South Australia.
- Males made up 71% of the Indigenous deaths from injury and poisoning, compared with 77% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 53.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from injury and poisoning^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	118.3	120.6	165.3	211.8
Non-Indigenous males	51.7	43.8	44.2	70.2
Indigenous females	43.6	53.8	50.8	94.7
Non-Indigenous females	15.5	15.6	13.5	22.9
Indigenous persons	79.1	86.5	107.0	152.3
Non-Indigenous persons	33.8	29.9	29.0	48.4
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	2.5	2.6	3.5	4.5
Females	2.8	3.5	3.3	6.1
Persons	2.5	2.8	3.4	4.9

(a) ICD-10 codes V01–Y98.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 79 per 100,000 in Queensland to 152 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- Indigenous people died from injury and poisoning at between 3 and 5 times the rate of non-Indigenous people.
- The standardised mortality ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous deaths from injury and poisoning was highest in the Northern Territory (4.9).

Transport accidents

This category includes injuries caused by accidents involving cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians. It excludes other land transport accidents, water transport accidents, air and space transport accidents and other and unspecified transport accidents.

Table 53.3: Number of deaths from transport accidents^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	30	30	29	21	50	160
Females	10	14	17	9	30	80
Persons	40	44	46	30	80	240
Non-Indigenous						
Males	931	669	315	280	50	2,245
Females	302	219	107	91	21	740
Persons	1,233	888	422	371	71	2,985
Subtotal	1,273	932	468	401	151	3,225
Not stated	52	10	23	25	0	110
Total	1,325	942	491	426	151	3,335
Proportion not stated (%)	3.9	1.1	4.7	5.9	0.0	3.3

(a) ICD-10 codes V01–V79.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 3,335 deaths due to transport accidents (mostly road-vehicle related). Of these, 240 or 7.2% were Indigenous people.
- For 110 deaths (3.3%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 5.9% of all deaths in South Australia.
- Males made up two-thirds (67%) of the Indigenous deaths from motor vehicle accidents, and three-quarters (75%) of the non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 53.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from transport accidents^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	17.2	30.6	56.9	58.0
Non-Indigenous males	13.1	11.7	13.4	22.0
Indigenous females	7.9	18.5	25.0	37.2
Non-Indigenous females	4.3	4.1	4.4	11.4
Indigenous persons	12.3	24.3	40.6	47.1
Non-Indigenous persons	8.7	8.0	8.9	17.0
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	1.4	2.5	4.7	4.7
Females	1.9	4.5	6.0	9.0
Persons	1.5	3.0	5.0	5.7

(a) ICD-10 codes V01–V79.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 12 per 100,000 in Queensland to 47 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- Indigenous people died from transport accidents at around 3 times the rate of non-Indigenous people in Western Australia, at 6 times the rate of non-Indigenous people in South Australia, and at 6 times the rate of non-Indigenous people in the Northern Territory.

Other accidents

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

Table 53.5: Number of deaths from other accidents^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	43	56	39	9	26	173
Females	25	19	18	4	10	76
Persons	68	75	57	13	36	249
Non-Indigenous						
Males	1,338	822	339	226	43	2,768
Females	440	269	135	85	10	939
Persons	1,778	1,091	474	311	53	3,707
Subtotal	1,846	1,166	531	324	89	3,956
Not stated	55	17	15	24	1	112
Total	1,901	1,183	546	348	90	4,068
Proportion not stated (%)	2.9	1.4	2.7	6.9	1.1	2.8

(a) ICD-10 codes V80–X59.

Notes:

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 4,068 deaths caused by other accidents. Of these, 249 or 6.1% were Indigenous people.
- Indigenous status was not stated for 112 deaths (2.8%). This ranged from 1.1% of all deaths in the Northern Territory to 6.9% of all deaths in South Australia.
- Males made up 69% of the Indigenous deaths from other accidents, compared to 75% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 53.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from other accidents^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001-03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	37.8	48.7	28.9	36.2
Non-Indigenous males	16.1	12.7	10.7	19.1
Indigenous females	11.8	21.6	12.2	13.8
Non-Indigenous females	5.4	5.2	4.0	5.6
Indigenous persons	24.2	34.9	20.4	24.9
Non-Indigenous persons	10.8	9.0	7.4	13.0
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	2.6	3.4	2.0	2.5
Females	2.3	4.1	2.3	2.7
Persons	2.5	3.5	2.1	2.5

(a) ICD-10 codes V80-X59.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001-03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 20 per 100,000 in South Australia to 35 per 100,000 in Western Australia.
- Indigenous people died from other accidents at between 2 and 4 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people died.
- The standardised mortality ratios were higher for females than males in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, largely reflecting the very low death rates from other accidents among non-Indigenous women.

Self-harm

Table 53.7: Number of deaths from self-harm^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	46	80	20	16	64	226
Females	13	28	4	4	8	57
Persons	59	108	24	20	72	283
Non-Indigenous						
Males	1,463	1,056	492	398	60	3,469
Females	378	247	145	86	9	865
Persons	1,841	1,303	637	484	69	4,334
Subtotal	1,900	1,411	661	504	141	4,617
Not stated	67	10	32	33	0	142
Total	1,967	1,421	693	537	141	4,759
Proportion not stated (%)	3.4	0.7	4.6	6.1	0.0	3.0

(a) ICD-10 codes X60–X84.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001 to 2003 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 4,759 deaths caused by self-harm among those aged less than 75 years. Of these, 283 or 5.9% were Indigenous people.
- For 142 deaths (3.0%), Indigenous status was not stated. The proportions not stated varied by jurisdiction and ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 6.1% of all deaths in South Australia.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 53.8: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from self-harm^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	55.7	25.4	51.9	88.9
Non-Indigenous males	20.7	18.3	18.9	25.7
Indigenous females	18.4	5.1	12.9	11.4
Non-Indigenous females	4.9	5.5	4.1	4.6
Indigenous persons	36.0	15.0	32.0	49.9
Non-Indigenous persons	12.9	12.0	11.6	16.0
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	3.0	1.4	2.8	4.8
Females	3.6	1.0	2.5	2.2
Persons	3.0	1.3	2.7	4.2

(a) ICD-10 codes X60–X84.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 15 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 49.9 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- In Queensland, and South Australia and the Northern Territory, Indigenous people died from self-harm at between 3 and 4 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people died in these jurisdictions.
- In Western Australia, Indigenous people died from self-harm at similar rates to non-Indigenous people.

Assault

Table 53.9: Number of deaths from assault^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	13	16	13	8	21	71
Females	5	11	7	0	23	46
Persons	18	27	20	8	44	117
Non-Indigenous						
Males	184	96	30	26	n.p.	n.p.
Females	75	46	19	21	n.p.	n.p.
Persons	259	142	49	47	11	508
Subtotal	277	169	69	55	55	625
Not stated	15	1	4	8	0	28
Total	292	170	73	63	55	653
Proportion not stated (%)	5.1	0.6	5.5	12.7	0.0	4.3

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

(a) ICD-10 codes X85–Y09.

Notes:

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 653 deaths caused by assault. Of these, 117 or 18% were Indigenous people.
- For 28 deaths (4.3%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 12.7% of all deaths in South Australia.
- Females made up 39% of the Indigenous deaths from assault, compared with only 32% of non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 53.10: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from assault^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	9.6	14.5	22.9	25.9
Non-Indigenous males	1.9	1.1	1.2	n.p.
Indigenous females	5.6	7.0	0.0	26.0
Non-Indigenous females	0.9	0.7	1.0	n.p.
Indigenous persons	7.6	10.7	11.0	26.2
Non-Indigenous persons	1.4	0.9	1.1	2.5
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	4.8	7.1	11.3	n.p.
Females	5.5	6.8	0.0	n.p.
Persons	5.0	7.0	7.2	17.2

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

(a) ICD-10 codes X85–Y09.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 8 per 100,000 in Queensland to 26 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratios show that Indigenous people died from assault between 5 and 17 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people died.

An analysis of trends in mortality from injury and poisoning among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the periods 1991–96 and 1997–2002 was undertaken in the joint ABS/ AIHW report *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2005* (ABS & AIHW 2005).

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

Indicator:

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

Purpose

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

Data

The data provided come from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Given the recent efforts by New South Wales to improve coverage of Indigenous deaths, it was important to present the number of deaths in this jurisdiction despite the fact that they are still considered incomplete. Consequently, rates have not been calculated for New South Wales.

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

Respiratory diseases

Table 54.1: Number of deaths from respiratory disease^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	63	76	39	16	63	257
Females	42	48	30	16	42	178
Persons	105	124	69	32	105	435
Non-Indigenous						
Males	1,876	948	447	484	38	3,793
Females	1,287	653	269	306	8	2,523
Persons	3,163	1,601	716	790	46	6,316
Subtotal	3,268	1,725	785	822	151	6,751
Not stated	124	29	21	25	1	200
Total	3,392	1,754	806	847	152	6,951
Proportion not stated (%)	3.7	1.7	2.6	3.0	0.7	2.9

(a) ICD-10 codes J00–J99.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 6,951 deaths caused by respiratory diseases among people aged less than 75 years. Of these, 435 or 6.2% were Indigenous people.
- There was a total of 200 deaths (2.9%) for which Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from 0.7% in the Northern Territory to 3.7% in New South Wales.
- Males made up 59% of the Indigenous deaths from respiratory disease, and 60% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 54.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from respiratory diseases^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	121.6	115.0	122.8	224.1
Non-Indigenous males	18.7	17.6	20.9	27.3
Indigenous females	67.0	76.9	103.1	126.2
Non-Indigenous females	13.4	10.9	13.1	7.9
Indigenous persons	92.7	94.7	112.2	171.1
Non-Indigenous persons	16.1	14.3	17.0	19.2
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	6.0	5.7	6.1	11.1
Females	4.8	5.5	7.3	9.0
Persons	5.4	5.5	6.6	10.0

(a) ICD-10 codes J00–J99.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 93 per 100,000 in Queensland to 171 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratios indicate that Indigenous people die from respiratory diseases at between 5 and 10 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.

Pneumonia

Table 54.3: Number of deaths from pneumonia^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	10	21	19	n.p.	17	n.p.
Females	7	14	16	n.p.	7	n.p.
Persons	17	35	35	9	24	120
Non-Indigenous						
Males	277	148	69	88	n.p.	n.p.
Females	202	86	48	52	n.p.	n.p.
Persons	479	234	117	140	12	982
Subtotal	496	269	152	149	36	1,102
Not stated	30	3	6	9	1	49
Total	526	272	158	158	37	1,151
Proportion not stated (%)	5.7	1.1	3.8	5.7	2.7	4.3

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

(a) ICD-10 codes J10–J18.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 1,151 deaths caused by pneumonia among people aged 0–74 years. Of these, 120 or 10.4% were Indigenous people.
- For 49 deaths due to pneumonia, Indigenous status was not stated (4.3%). This ranged from 1.1% in Queensland to 5.7% in New South Wales and South Australia.
- Males made up 59% of deaths from pneumonia among Indigenous people, and 60% of deaths among non-Indigenous people.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 54.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from pneumonia^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	26.3	44.2	n.p.	47.4
Non-Indigenous males	2.9	2.7	3.8	n.p.
Indigenous females	15.4	33.2	n.p.	17.1
Non-Indigenous females	1.8	1.9	2.3	n.p.
Indigenous persons	20.6	38.5	25.3	31.3
Non-Indigenous persons	2.3	2.3	3.1	4.4
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	8.4	14.0	n.p.	n.p.
Females	7.5	16.1	n.p.	n.p.
.Persons	7.9	14.7	9.7	12.0

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

(a) ICD-10 codes J10–J18.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 21 per 100,000 in Queensland to 39 per 100,000 in Western Australia.
- The standardised mortality ratios for pneumonia indicate that Indigenous people die from pneumonia at between 8 and 15 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- Standardised mortality ratios were highest in Western Australia (14.7) followed by the Northern Territory (12.0).

Lung cancer

Table 54.5: Number of deaths from lung cancer^(a) among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	38	37	12	n.p.	25	n.p.
Females	26	32	12	n.p.	13	n.p.
Persons	64	69	24	8	38	203
Non-Indigenous						
Males	2,737	1,597	767	602	41	5,744
Females	1,360	784	351	309	20	2,824
Persons	4,097	2,381	1,118	911	61	8,568
Subtotal	4,161	2,450	1,142	919	99	8,771
Not stated	115	30	19	16	2	182
Total	4,276	2,480	1,161	935	101	8,953
Proportion not stated (%)	2.7	1.2	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.0

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

(a) ICD-10 codes C33–C34.9.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 8,953 deaths caused by lung cancer among people aged less than 75 years. Of these, 203 or 2.3% were Indigenous people.
- There were a total of 184 deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated (2.0%). This ranged from 1.2% in Queensland to 2.7% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 42% of the Indigenous deaths from lung cancer, compared with 33% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rate and standardised mortality ratios

Table 54.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from lung cancer^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
Rate per 100,000				
Indigenous males	64.5	38.5	n.p.	96.1
Non-Indigenous males	31.2	29.9	26.1	27.8
Indigenous females	46.4	31.9	n.p.	40.4
Non-Indigenous females	15.9	14.0	13.3	18.0
Indigenous persons	55.1	35.2	29.7	65.7
Non-Indigenous persons	23.7	22.1	19.7	23.9
Standardised mortality ratio^(b)				
Males	2.2	1.3	n.p.	3.2
Females	3.0	2.1	n.p.	2.6
Persons	2.4	1.6	1.3	2.9

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

(a) ICD-10 codes C33–C34.9.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 30 per 100,000 in South Australia to 66 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratios for lung cancer indicate that Indigenous people die from lung cancer at between 1 and 3 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.

An analysis of trends in mortality from respiratory diseases among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the periods 1991–96 and 1997–2002 was undertaken in the joint ABS/AIHW report *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2005* (ABS & AIHW 2005).

Indicator 55. Standardised mortality ratios for diabetes

Indicator:

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

Purpose

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

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

Data

The data provided come from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Given the recent efforts by New South Wales to improve coverage of Indigenous deaths, it was important to present the number of deaths in this jurisdiction despite the fact that they are still considered incomplete. Consequently, rates have not been calculated for New South Wales.

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

Diabetes as an underlying cause

Table 55.1: Number of deaths from diabetes^(a) as an underlying cause among those aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	27	57	32	15	43	174
Females	22	63	47	14	45	191
Persons	49	120	79	29	88	365
Non-Indigenous						
Males	630	346	184	172	12	1,344
Females	294	203	98	89	7	691
Persons	924	549	282	261	19	2,035
Subtotal	973	669	361	290	107	2,400
Not stated	30	8	5	2	0	45
Total	1,003	677	366	292	107	2,445
Proportion not stated (%)	3.0	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.0	1.8

(a) ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period from 2001 to 2003 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 2,445 deaths caused by diabetes. Of these, 365 or 14.9% were Indigenous people.
- There were 45 deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated (1.8%). This ranged from none in the Northern Territory to 3.0% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 52% of deaths from diabetes as an underlying cause among Indigenous people, compared with only 34% of deaths among non-Indigenous people.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 55.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for death from diabetes^(a) as an underlying cause, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	93.4	96.4	116.3	154.4
Non-Indigenous males	6.8	7.2	7.5	7.9
Indigenous females	91.8	124.9	93.4	139.6
Non-Indigenous females	4.2	4.0	3.8	6.8
Indigenous persons	92.3	111.3	103.8	146.1
Non-Indigenous persons	5.5	5.6	5.6	7.5
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	10.9	11.3	13.6	18.1
Females	19.4	26.3	19.7	29.4
Persons	13.9	16.7	15.6	22.0

(a) ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was more complete, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 92 per 100,000 in Queensland to 140 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratio for diabetes as an underlying cause indicates that Indigenous people die from diabetes at between 14 and 22 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The standardised mortality ratio for Indigenous females compared with non-Indigenous females was higher than for Indigenous males compared with non-Indigenous males in all four states and territories.

Diabetes as an associated cause

Table 55.3: The number of deaths from diabetes^(a) as an associated cause for people aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	73	87	49	22	51	282
Females	37	91	45	16	44	233
Persons	110	178	94	38	95	515
Non-Indigenous						
Males	2,008	847	388	522	42	3,807
Females	1,120	452	216	305	9	2,102
Persons	3,128	1,299	604	827	51	5,909
Subtotal	3,238	1,477	698	865	146	6,424
Not stated	87	22	21	8	2	140
Total	3,325	1,499	719	873	148	6,564
Proportion not stated (%)	2.6	1.5	2.9	0.9	1.4	2.1

(a) ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001–03 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 6,564 deaths caused by diabetes as an associated cause among people aged 0–74 years. Of these, 515 or 7.8% were Indigenous people.
- Indigenous status was not stated for 140 deaths (2.1%) caused by diabetes. This ranged from 0.9% in the Northern Territory to 2.6% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 49% of the Indigenous deaths from diabetes as an associated cause, compared with only 34% of the non-Indigenous deaths.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 55.4: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for diabetes^(a) as an associated cause, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	152.0	157.1	182.2	196.8
Non-Indigenous males	16.6	15.2	22.5	29.2
Indigenous females	143.5	128.4	114.5	147.1
Non-Indigenous females	9.3	8.8	13.0	9.4
Indigenous persons	146.8	141.3	145.2	169.4
Non-Indigenous persons	13.0	12.0	17.7	21.2
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	7.6	7.8	9.1	9.8
Females	12.5	11.2	10.0	12.8
Persons	9.3	9.0	9.2	10.7

(a) ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for diabetes as an associated cause for the Indigenous population ranged from 141 per 100,000 in Western Australia to 169 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratios for diabetes as an associated cause indicate that Indigenous people die from diabetes at between 9 and 11 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- Indigenous females died from diabetes as an associated cause at up to 13 times the rate of non-Indigenous females in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Diabetes as an underlying or as an associated cause

Table 55.5: The number of deaths from diabetes^(a) as an underlying or an associated cause for people aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous						
Males	100	144	81	37	94	456
Females	59	154	92	30	89	424
Persons	159	298	173	67	183	880
Non-Indigenous						
Males	2,638	1,193	572	694	54	5,151
Females	1,414	655	314	394	16	2,793
Persons	4,052	1,848	886	1,088	70	7,944
Subtotal	4,211	2,146	1,059	1,155	253	8,824
Not stated	117	30	26	10	2	185
Total	4,328	2,176	1,085	1,165	255	9,009
Proportion not stated (%)	2.7	1.4	2.4	0.9	0.8	2.1

(a) ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period 2001 to 2003 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 9,009 deaths caused by diabetes as an underlying or associated cause among people aged less than 75 years. Of these, 880 or 9.7% were Indigenous people.
- For 185 deaths (2.1%), Indigenous status was not stated. This ranged from 0.8% in the Northern Territory to 2.7% in New South Wales.
- Females made up 48% of deaths from diabetes as an underlying or associated cause among Indigenous people, compared with only 35% of deaths among non-Indigenous people.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 55.6: Age-standardised mortality rates and standardised mortality ratios for diabetes^(a) as an underlying or an associated cause, by Indigenous status and sex, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous males	246.7	254.8	300.3	354.8
Non-Indigenous males	23.4	22.4	30.0	37.0
Indigenous females	237.1	257.0	210.2	290.9
Non-Indigenous females	13.4	12.7	16.8	16.3
Indigenous persons	240.6	255.1	251.0	319.3
Non-Indigenous persons	18.5	17.6	23.4	28.7
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Males	8.6	8.9	10.5	12.4
Females	14.6	15.8	13.0	17.9
Persons	10.7	11.4	11.2	14.2

(a) ICD-10 codes E10–E14.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state and territory of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In 2001–03 in the four states and territories where the Indigenous identification was acceptable, death rates for the Indigenous population ranged from 241 per 100,000 in New South Wales to 319 per 100,000 in the Northern Territory.
- The standardised mortality ratios indicate that Indigenous people die from diabetes at between 11 and 14 times the rate at which non-Indigenous people die.
- The standardised mortality ratios for females were higher than for males in all four states and territories.

Indicator 56. Standardised mortality ratios for cervical cancer

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

Purpose

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

Data

The data provided come from the AIHW National Mortality Database. Number of deaths are presented for five states and territories – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates were only calculated for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Given the recent efforts by New South Wales to improve coverage of Indigenous deaths, it was important to present the number of deaths in this jurisdiction despite the fact that they are still considered incomplete. Consequently, rates have not been calculated for New South Wales.

Table 56.1: Number of deaths from cervical cancer^(a) among females aged less than 75 years, by Indigenous status, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Total
Indigenous females	10	13	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	29
Non-Indigenous females	154	78	53	45	n.p.	n.p.
Subtotal	164	91	55	46	7	363
Not stated	5	1	1	1	0	8
Total	169	92	56	47	7	371
Proportion not stated (%)	3.0	1.1	1.8	2.1	0.0	2.2

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

(a) ICD-10 code C53.

Notes

1. Table includes mortality data from New South Wales, having the largest Indigenous population, and from the four states and territories with the most complete coverage of Indigenous deaths.
2. Data are for state of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- In the period from 2001 to 2003 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 371 deaths caused by cervical cancer where Indigenous status was recorded. Of these, 29 or 7.8% were Indigenous females.
- There were 8 deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated (2.2%). Most of these occurred in New South Wales.

Age-standardised rates and standardised mortality ratios

Table 56.2: Age-standardised mortality rates and rate ratios for death from cervical cancer^(a), by Indigenous status, for selected states and territories, 2001–03

	Qld	WA	SA	NT
	Rate per 100,000			
Indigenous females	13.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Non-Indigenous females	1.6	2.1	2.0	n.p.
	Standardised mortality ratio^(b)			
Females	7.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.

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

(a) ICD-10 code C53.

(b) Standardised mortality ratio is the number of observed deaths in the Indigenous population divided by the number of expected deaths, based on the age-specific rates of the total Australian population.

Notes

1. In New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, the coverage of Indigenous deaths is not sufficient to calculate rates.
2. Deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated were excluded from the calculation of rates.
3. Data are for state of usual residence and year of registration of death.

Source: AIHW National Mortality Database.

- The standardised mortality ratios for cervical cancer were only provided for Queensland as there were fewer than five Indigenous deaths from cervical cancer in the three other states and territories.
- In Queensland there were 7 times as many deaths from cervical cancer among Indigenous females as among non-Indigenous females.