

2.13 Community safety

Three parameters of community safety are considered for this measure:

1. experience of personal injury or death as a result of violence
2. experience of threatened violence or a social setting in which violence is common
3. experience of a social setting where there is a lack of security and a perception of danger; for example, where crimes against property or disorderly behaviour are common

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Hospital Morbidity Database, the AIHW National Mortality Database and the Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program.

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.

National Hospital Morbidity Database

The National Hospital Morbidity Database is a compilation of episode-level records from admitted patient morbidity data collection systems in Australian hospitals in each state and territory. State and territory health departments provide information annually on the characteristics, diagnoses and care of admitted patients in public and private hospitals to the AIHW.

Data are presented for the six jurisdictions that have been assessed by the AIHW as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations in 2006–08 – New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. These six jurisdictions represent approximately 96% of the Indigenous population of Australia. Data are presented by state/territory of usual residence of the patient.

In the period 2007–08, there were 276,000 hospital separations (episodes of care for admitted patients) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, around 3.5% of all separations. The proportion of separations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons was higher in

public hospitals (5.4% or 256,425 separations) compared with private hospitals (0.6% or 20,015 separations). Of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander separations, nearly 93% occurred in public hospitals (AIHW 2009).

Hospitalisations for which the Indigenous status of the patient was not reported have been included with hospitalisations data for non-Indigenous people under the 'other' category. This is to enable consistency across jurisdictions, because public hospitals in some states and territories do not have a category for the reporting of 'not stated' or inadequately recorded/reported Indigenous status.

Hospitalisation data are presented for the 2-year period from July 2006 to June 2008. An aggregate of 2 years of data has been used, because the number of hospitalisations for some conditions is likely to be small for a single year.

The principal diagnosis is the diagnosis established to be the problem that was chiefly responsible for the patient's episode of care in hospital. The additional diagnosis is a condition or complaint either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of care. The term 'hospitalisation' has been used to refer to a separation, which is the episode of admitted patient care. This can include a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death) or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change in the type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation). 'Separation' also means the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care.

National Mortality Database

The National Mortality Database is a national collection of de-identified unit record level data. It comprises most of the information recorded on death registration forms and medical (cause of death) certificates, including Indigenous status. The AIHW maintains the database. The Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages provide information on the characteristics and causes of death of the deceased and the ABS codes this nationally. The medical practitioner certifying the death, or a coroner, supplies information on the cause of death. The data are updated each calendar year and are presented by state/territory of usual residence rather than state/territory where death occurs.

It is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are registered. However, a proportion of these deceased are not reported as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by the family, health worker or funeral director during the death registration process. That is, while data are provided to the ABS for the Indigenous status question for 99% of all deaths, there are concerns regarding the accuracy of the data. The funeral director does not always ask the Indigenous status question of relatives and friends of the deceased. Detailed breakdowns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths are therefore only provided for five jurisdictions – New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory (AIHW 2010a).

Deaths for which the Indigenous status of the deceased was not reported have been excluded from the analysis.

Additional revised 2007 and preliminary 2008 mortality data for this indicator was supplied by the ABS from the ABS Cause of Death database. For further information see *Causes of death, Australia, 2008* (ABS 2010a).

Data have been combined for the 5-year period 2004–2008 because of the small number of deaths from some conditions each year. Data have been analysed using the year of registration of death for all years. Note that the 2006 edition of this report used year of occurrence of death for all years of analysis except for the latest year of available data for which year of registration of death was used. Data published in this report may therefore differ slightly from those published in the previous edition for comparable years of data.

National Homicide Monitoring Program

The Australian Institute of Criminology collects data on all homicides recorded in Australia under the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP). The NHMP was established in 1990 and reports annually by financial year on all homicides recorded in Australia. The Indigenous status of the victim is based on police identification of 'racial appearance' and therefore will underestimate the level of homicide involving Indigenous persons. Nevertheless, the NHMP includes useful information on the circumstances surrounding homicides involving Indigenous persons, such as motive for killing, and victim and perpetrator relationship.

The 2006-2007 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report presents findings from an overview of the 18th annual collection of homicide data.

Data analyses

Age-standardised rates and ratios have been used where appropriate as a measure of the Indigenous population relative to other Australians. Ratios of this type illustrate differences between the rates among Indigenous people and those of other Australians, taking into account differences in age distributions.

Self-reported data

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on issues of community safety, being witness and victim to violence, physical and threatened violence, personal stressors experienced in the 12 months before the survey and neighbourhood community problems, which is presented in the following tables and figures.

Issues of community safety

- In 2008, 79% of Indigenous Australians and 49% of non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported experiencing a stressor relating to community safety in the previous 12 months (Table 2.13.1).
- The stressor most likely to be experienced related to the death of a family member or close friend, which 40% of Indigenous people and 19% of non-Indigenous people reported. Over the same period, 24% of Indigenous people and 6% of non-Indigenous people reported experiencing a stressor related to alcohol or drug-related problems, and 17% of Indigenous people and 9% of non-Indigenous people experienced a stressor related to mental illness (Table 2.13.1).

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by age

- In the previous 12 months, Indigenous Australians of all age groups over 18 years were more likely to have experienced a stressor related to community safety than non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.13.1). Furthermore, for every age group over 18 years Indigenous Australians were more likely to experience every stressor. The biggest disparities were for stressors related to alcohol or drug-related problems, witness to violence, and trouble with the police. The Indigenous rates were 4.2, 4.0 and 5.6 times the non-Indigenous rates for these stressors, respectively.

Table 2.13.1: Issues of community safety, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Type of stressors experienced in last 12 months	18–24			25–34			35–44			45–54			55+			Total 18 years and over			Total 18 years and over age-standardised ^(a)		
	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months	32.9	24.0	1.4*	27.5	13.5	2.0*	25.0	10.7	2.0*	18.9	9.3	2.0*	8.3	4.4	1.9*	..	..	..	20.5	10.8	1.9
Stressors experienced by individual, family members and/or close friends in last 12 months^(b)																					
Mental illness	14.2	9.1	1.6*	16.6	11.8	1.4*	20.8	10.5	2.0*	19.9	10.6	1.9*	14.0	4.8	2.9*	17.1	8.8	1.9*	..	..	..
Death of family member or close friend	35.0	20.8	1.7*	42.5	18.7	2.3*	45.5	20.2	2.2*	38.3	19.7	1.9*	40.4	18.6	2.2*	40.4	19.4	2.1*	..	..	..
Alcohol or drug-related problems	22.1	9.8	2.3*	27.1	8.6	3.2*	26.6	5.6	4.8*	26.2	5.9	4.4*	16.9	2.4	7.0*	24.2	5.7	4.2*	..	..	..
Abuse or violent crime	6.2	3.7	1.7*	9.0	3.5	2.6*	9.4	2.6	3.6*	7.8	2.2	3.5*	4.4	1.1	4.2*	7.6	2.4	3.2*	..	..	..
Witness to violence	8.5	3.7	2.3*	9.6	3.7	2.6*	10.9	2.8	3.9*	10.2	1.8	5.6*	4.5	0.8	6.0*	9.0	2.2	4.0*	..	..	..
Trouble with the police	16.2	6.2	2.6*	16.6	3.4	4.8*	15.8	2.3	6.9*	14.4	2.5	5.8*	7.6	1.1	7.3*	14.7	2.6	5.6*	..	..	..
<i>One or more of the above stressors</i>	55.2	34.7	1.6*	61.2	33.2	1.8*	64.6	32.1	2.0*	59.5	31.5	1.9*	53.4	24.7	2.2*	59.1	30.2	2*	..	..	..
You, a family member or friend spent time in gaol	13.2	..	..	14.5	..	..	13.8	..	..	12.3	..	..	8.3	..	..	12.8	..	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding at home	12.9	..	..	14.6	..	..	13.7	..	..	11.7	..	..	8.7	..	..	12.7	..	..	..	..	..
Treated badly / discrimination	7.9	..	..	10.3	..	..	13.5	..	..	12.7	..	..	6.0	..	..	10.2	..	..	..	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.13.1 (continued): Issues of community safety, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Type of stressors experienced in last 12 months	18–24			25–34			35–44			45–54			55+			Total 18 years and over			Total 18 years and over age-standardised ^(a)		
	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio	Indig	Non-Indig	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Total experienced stressors ^{(c)(d)}	79.2	51.8	1.5*	80.4	53.0	1.5*	79.1	51.5	1.5*	79.1	48.8	1.6*	76.5	44.6	1.7*	79.0	49.1	1.6*	..	..	..
No stressors reported	20.8	48.2	0.4*	19.6	47.0	0.4*	20.9	48.5	0.4*	20.9	51.2	0.4*	23.5	55.4	0.4*	21.0	50.9	0.4*	..	..	..
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	..	..	..

*Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant for these categories

(a) For this variable only, non-Indigenous comparison has been sourced from General Social Survey 06 (GSS06). Totals are age-standardised, as this measure was found to be associated with age.

(b) In the 2008 NATSISS, Indigenous persons were asked about 24 separate stressors, and in the 2007-08 NHS, non-Indigenous persons were asked about 14 separate stressors.

(c) Sum of components may exceed total, as persons may have reported more than one type of stressor.

(d) Includes all other types of stressors not listed here

Note: Excludes stressors not stated

Sources: ABS analysis of NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by sex

- In the previous 12 months, Indigenous females (80%) were more likely to have experienced a stressor than Indigenous males (78%) (Table 2.13.2). The same trend held with the non-Indigenous population, with non-Indigenous females (53%) more likely than non-Indigenous males (46%) to have experienced a stressor.

Table 2.13.2: Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and sex, 2008

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months ^(a)	20.8	13.4	1.6*	20.4	8.2	2.5*	20.5	10.8	1.9*
Stressors experienced by individual, family members and/or close friends in last 12 months^(b)									
Mental illness	15.3	7.0	2.2*	18.8	10.5	1.8*	17.1	8.8	1.9*
Death of family member or close friend	38.4	17.8	2.2*	42.2	20.9	2.0*	40.4	19.4	2.1*
Alcohol or drug-related problems	24.4	4.8	5.1*	24.0	6.6	3.6*	24.2	5.7	4.2*
Abuse or violent crime	6.7	1.9	3.5*	8.4	2.8	3.0*	7.6	2.3	3.2*
Witness to violence	8.4	2.1	4.0*	9.5	2.3	4.0*	9.0	2.2	4.0*
Trouble with the police	16.6	2.8	5.9*	12.9	2.5	5.2*	14.7	2.6	5.6*
<i>One or more of the above stressors</i>	<i>57.2</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>2.1*</i>	<i>60.8</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>1.8*</i>	<i>59.1</i>	<i>30.2</i>	<i>2*</i>
You, a family member or friend spent time in gaol	12.7	..	..	12.8	..	..	12.8	..	..
Overcrowding at home	10.3	..	..	14.8	..	..	12.7	..	..
Treated badly / discrimination	10.2	..	..	10.2	..	..	10.2	..	..
<i>Total experienced stressors^{(c)(d)}</i>	<i>77.8</i>	<i>45.5</i>	<i>1.7*</i>	<i>80.2</i>	<i>52.6</i>	<i>1.5*</i>	<i>79.0</i>	<i>49.1</i>	<i>1.6*</i>
No stressors reported	22.2	54.5	0.4*	19.8	47.4	0.5*	21.0	50.8	0.4*
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..

* Differences between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant for these categories.

(a) For this variable only, Non Indigenous comparison has been sourced from General Social Survey 06 (GSS06). These figures have been age-standardised, as this measure was found to be associated with age.

(b) In the 2008 NATSISS, Indigenous persons were asked about 24 separate stressors, and in the 2007-08 NHS, non-Indigenous persons were asked about 14 separate stressors.

(c) Sum of components may exceed total, as persons may have reported more than one type of stressor.

(d) Includes all other types of stressors not listed here.

Note: Excludes stressors not stated.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07-08.

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by state/territory

- In 2008, the state or territory with the highest proportion of Indigenous persons over 18 years of age reporting experiencing stressors in the previous 12 months was Victoria (83%). The Northern Territory had the lowest (72%). For non-Indigenous Australians the Australian Capital Territory had the highest percentage (52%) and New South Wales had the lowest (48%) (Table 2.13.3).

Table 2.13.3: Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Per cent																	
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months ^(a)	22.0*	9.3*	24.3*	9.7*	16.8	13.5	23.9*	12.9*	20.6*	11.7*	22.9*	10.1*	23.2*	9.4*	18.3	16.9	20.5*	10.8*
Stressors experienced by individual, family members and/or close friends in last 12 months^(b)																		
Mental illness	18.0*	8.3*	26.3*	8.4*	16.5*	10.0*	15.6*	8.5*	23.2*	9.5*	15.8*	8.4*	31.4*	10.4*	10.1*	4.4 ^(c)	17.1*	8.8*
Death of family member or close friend	37.1*	19.5*	38.1*	18.6*	42.1*	20.2*	47.8*	19.8*	41.9*	18.6*	29.2*	23.2*	46.2*	18.4*	40.2*	12.3 ^(d)	40.4*	19.4*
Alcohol or drug-related problems	23.4*	5.1*	27.5*	5.1*	23.0*	6.6*	31.1*	7.6*	24.8*	5.2*	13.3*	5.9*	30.9*	7.3*	22.1*	9.3 ^(d)	24.2*	5.7*
Abuse or violent crime	7.4*	2.0*	10.9*	2.1*	5.8*	2.6*	10.9*	3.3*	7.9*	2.5*	6.2*	3.2*	11.2*	2.9*	6.7	4.5 ^(c)	7.6*	2.4*
Witness to violence	9.0*	1.6*	11.5*	2.0*	6.9*	2.6*	11.7*	3.4*	8.9*	2.8*	7.1*	2.0*	12.0*	2.2*	9.4	9.09 ^(d)	9.0*	2.2*
Trouble with the police	14.5*	1.9*	18.7*	2.5*	12.9*	3.4*	17.7*	3.3*	16.0*	3.0*	9.8*	2.8*	18.0*	3.4*	14.0*	4.1 ^(c)	14.7*	2.6*
<i>One or more of the above stressors</i>	57.4*	29.2*	62.4*	28.7*	61.0*	32.5*	63.7*	31.1*	64.5	30.5*	47.3*	33.3*	66.4*	32.8*	53.1*	31.9*	59.1*	30.2*
You, a family member or friend spent time in gaol	13.1	..	13.4	..	10.9	..	17.1	..	12.9	..	9.0	..	16.8	..	12.0	..	12.8	..
Overcrowding at home	9.8	..	12.7	..	14.0	..	13.5	..	11.8	..	5.6 ^(d)	..	17.1 ^(d)	..	17.5	..	12.7	..
Treated badly / discrimination	9.3	..	13.7	..	9.6	..	14.1	..	13.0	..	3.6 ^(d)	..	18.6	..	7.6	..	10.2	..
<i>Total experienced stressors^{(e)(f)}</i>	79.3*	47.9*	83.4*	48.4*	80.4*	51.2*	80.5*	49.4*	80.8*	50.2*	76.3*	50.5*	80.8*	52.0*	71.7*	48.7*	79.0*	49.1*
No stressors reported	20.7*	52.1*	16.6*	51.6*	19.7*	48.8*	19.5*	50.6*	19.2*	49.8*	23.7*	49.6*	19.2*	48.0*	28.3*	51.3*	21.0*	50.9*
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.13.3 (continued): Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant for these categories.

- (a) For this variable only, Non Indigenous comparison has been sourced from General Social Survey 06 (GSS06). These figures have been age-standardised, as this measure was found to be associated with age.
- (b) In the 2008 NATSISS, Indigenous persons were asked about 24 separate stressors, and in the 2007-08 NHS, non-Indigenous persons were asked about 14 separate stressors.
- (c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (e) Sum of components may exceed total, as persons may have reported more than one type of stressor.
- (f) Includes all other types of stressors not listed here.

Note: Excludes stressors not stated.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07-08.

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by remoteness

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over experiencing a stressor in the previous 12 months was greatest in *Major cities* (82%) and lowest in *Very remote areas* (72%) (Table 2.13.4). For non-Indigenous Australians, the proportion was greatest in *Inner regional areas* (51%) and lowest in *Outer regional areas* (47%).

Table 2.13.4: Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			Total non-remote			Remote			Very remote			Total remote			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months ^(a)	26.1	..	..	24.4	..	..	24.3	..	..	25.1	..	..	24.1	..	..	19.4	..	..	21.1	..	..	24.1	..	..
Stressors experienced by individual, family members and/or close friends in last 12 months																								
Mental illness	22.2	8.9	2.5	17.8	9.8	1.8	17.8	5.7	3.1	19.7	8.8	2.2	12.6	11.1	1.1	8.2	..	..	9.8	..	..	17.1	8.8	1.9
Death of family member or close friend	40.2	18.8	2.1	34.7	20.8	1.7	40.6	20.8	2.0	38.9	19.4	2.0	47.6	17.2	2.8	43.5	..	..	45.0	..	..	40.4	19.4	2.1
Alcohol or drug-related problems	26.1	6.3	4.1	21.7	4.3	5.0	22.6	4.7	4.8	23.9	5.7	4.2	33.6	6.1 ^(b)	5.5	20.5	..	..	25.2	..	..	24.2	5.7	4.2
Abuse or violent crime	9.2	2.1	4.4	6.7	2.8	2.4	7.2	3.2	2.3	7.9	2.4	3.3	8.3	1.9 ^(c)	4.4	5.7	..	..	6.7	..	..	7.6	2.4	3.2
Witness to violence	10.3	2.2	4.7	7.7	2.3	3.3	8.1	2.3	3.5	9.0	2.2	4.1	11.9	4.4 ^(b)	2.7	7.4	9.0	9.0	2.2	4.1

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Table 2.13.4 (continued): Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			Total non-remote			Remote			Very remote			Total remote			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Trouble with the police	15.1	2.6	5.8	15.0	2.8	5.4	14.2	2.4	5.9	14.8	2.6	5.7	17.3	2.7(b)	6.5	12.6	..	..	14.3	..	..	14.7	2.6	5.7
<i>One or more of the above stressors</i>	61.9	29.6	2.1	54.8	31.7	1.7	60.0	30.5	2.0	59.4	30.2	2.0	65.8	30.6	2.2	54.0	..	..	58.2	..	..	59.1	30.2	2.0
Member of family sent to gaol/currently in gaol	12.9	..	..	12.9	..	..	12.3	..	..	12.7	..	..	14.5	..	..	12.0	..	..	12.9	..	..	12.8	..	..
Overcrowding at home	12.6	..	..	9.6	..	..	10.8	..	..	11.3	..	..	14.5	..	..	18.0	..	..	16.7	..	..	12.7	..	..
Discrimination/racism	12.6	..	..	10.1	..	..	10.5	..	..	11.3	..	..	9.0	..	..	6.0	..	..	7.1	..	..	10.2	..	..
<i>Total experienced stressors^{(a)(d)(e)}</i>	81.9	48.8	1.7	78.9	50.8	1.6	79.7	47.2	1.7	80.4	49.1	1.6	81.3	50.4	1.6	71.6	..	..	75.1	..	..	79.1	49.1	1.6
No stressors reported	18.1	51.2	0.4	21.1	49.2	0.4	20.3	52.8	0.4	19.6	50.9	0.4	18.7	49.6	0.4	28.4	..	..	24.9	..	..	21.0	50.9	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..	100.0	100.0	..

(a) In the 2008 NATSISS, Indigenous persons were asked about 24 separate stressors, and in the 2007-08 NHS, non-Indigenous persons were asked about 14 separate stressors.

(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.

(d) Sum of components may be more than total, as persons may have reported more than one type of stressor.

(e) Includes all other types of stressors not listed here.

Note: Excludes stressors not stated.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07-08.

Victim of physical or threatened violence

- In 2008, 25% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months. This was a small increase from the 24% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months in 2002 (Table 2.13.5).

Victim of physical or threatened violence, by sex

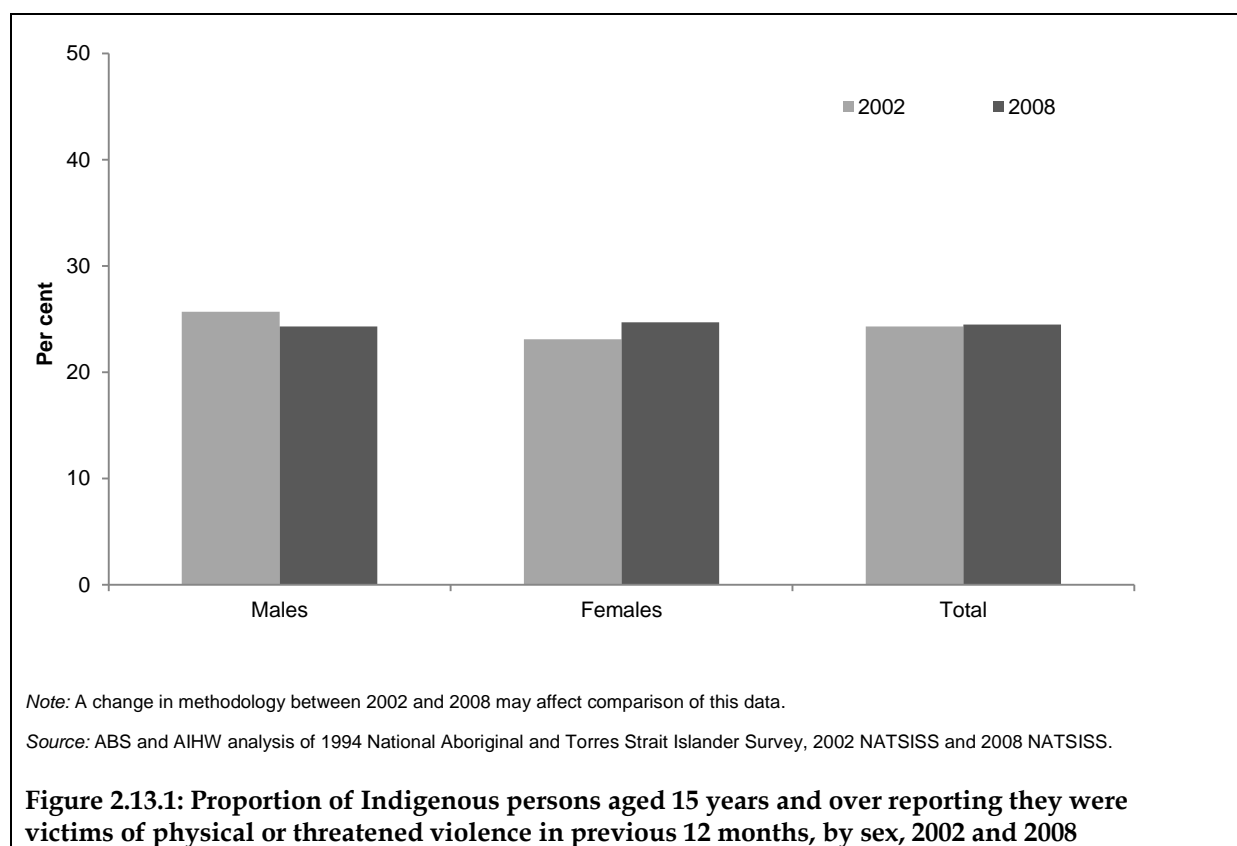
- From 2002 to 2008 the proportion of Indigenous males aged 15 years and over who reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months decreased from 26% to 24%. Over the same period, the proportion of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over who reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months increased from 23% to 25% (Table 2.13.5; Figure 2.13.1).

Table 2.13.5: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting they were victims of physical or threatened violence in previous 12 months, by sex, 2002 and 2008

	Males	Females	Total
2002	25.7	23.1	24.3
2008	24.3	24.7	24.5

Note: A change in methodology between 2002 and 2008 may affect comparison of this data.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 2002 NATSISS and 2008 NATSISS.



Victim of physical or threatened violence, by remoteness

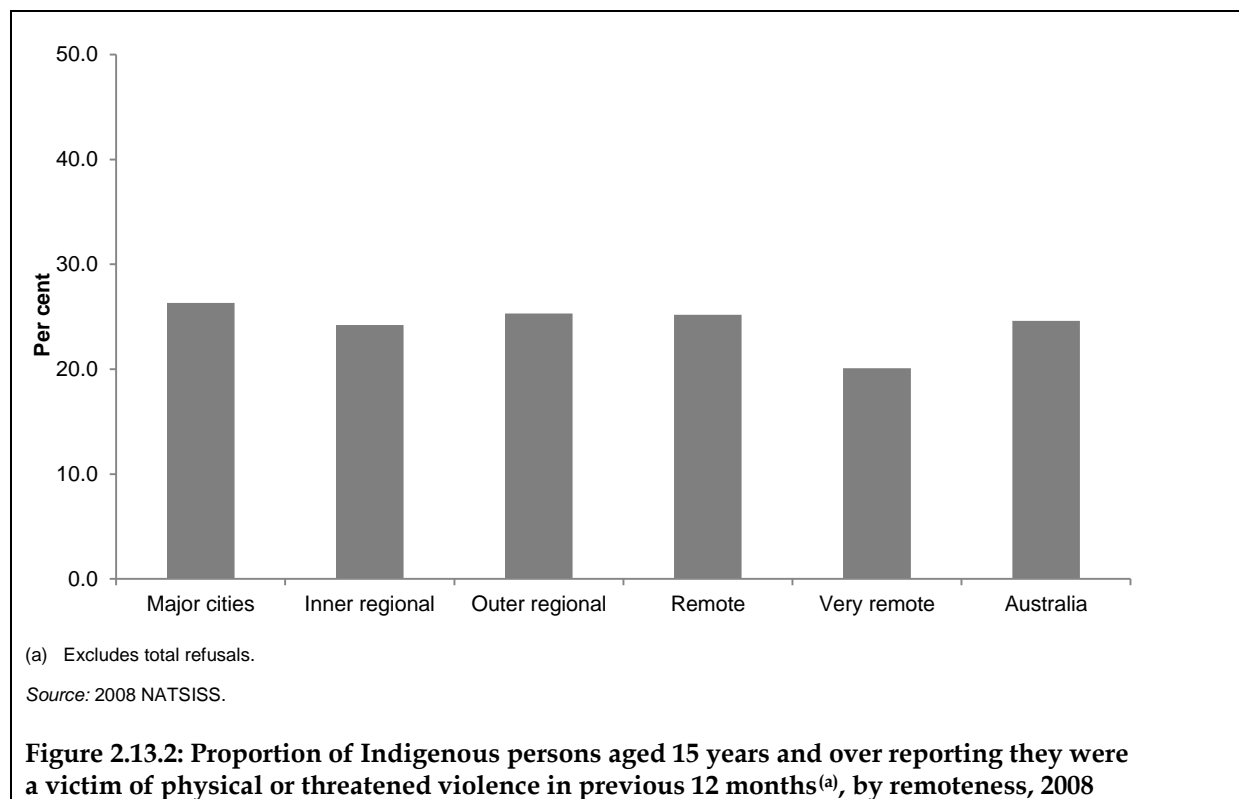
- In, 2008 the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months varied by remoteness. The largest proportion was in *Major cities* (26%) and the lowest proportion was in *Very remote* areas (20%) (Table 2.13.6; Figure 2.13.2).

Table 2.13.6: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in previous 12 months^(a), by remoteness, 2008

	Per cent
Major cities	26.3
Inner regional	24.2
Outer regional	25.3
<i>Total non-remote</i>	25.4
Remote	25.2
Very remote	20.1
<i>Total remote</i>	21.9
Australia	24.6

(a) Excludes total refusals.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.



Victim of physical or threatened violence, by selected population characteristics

- Indigenous Australians with fair/poor health, a disability or long-term health condition, in the lowest (1st) quintile of household income and who were home owners/purchasers

were more likely to have been a victim of physical or threatened violence than those with excellent health, with no disability, in the highest (5th) quintile of household income and renters, respectively (Table 2.13.7).

Table 2.13.7: Victim of physical or threatened violence, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Not victim of physical or threatened violence	Total ^(a)
	Per cent		
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent/very good	23.2	76.8	100.0
Good	26.1	73.9	100.0
Fair/poor	25.0	75.0	100.0
Disability or long-term health condition			
Has disability or long-term health condition	28.5	71.5	100.0
No disability or long-term condition	20.6	79.4	100.0
Household income			
1st quintile (lowest income)	25.0	75.0	100.0
5th quintile (highest income)	25.3	74.7	100.0
<i>Total excluding income not stated</i>	<i>24.0</i>	<i>76.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Index of disparity			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	24.3	75.7	100.0
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	18.6	81.4	100.0
<i>Total excluding not stated</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>75.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Financial stress—unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important			
	27.3	72.7	100.0
Location			
Remote	21.9	78.1	100.0
Non-remote	25.4	74.6	100.0
Law and justice			
Used legal services in last 12 months	44.3	55.7	100.0
Arrested by police in last 5 years	49.2	50.8	100.0
Incarcerated in last 5 years	41.8	58.2	100.0
Housing			
Owner/purchaser ^(b)	18.8	81.2	100.0
Renter	27.0	73.0	100.0
Dwelling has major structural problems	29.1	70.9	100.0
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms ^(c)	24.9	75.1	100.0
Family and culture			
Participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	25.0	75.0	100.0
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	24.6	75.4	100.0
Person removed from natural family	38.1	61.9	100.0
Relative(s) removed from natural family	31.0	69.0	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.13.7 (continued): Victim of physical or threatened violence, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Not victim of physical or threatened violence	Total ^(a)
	Per cent		
Currently lives in homelands	24.9	75.1	100.0
Participated in cultural activities in last 12mths	27.6	72.4	100.0
Involved in events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months	26.5	73.5	100.0

(a) Excludes persons who refused to answer the questions about victimisation.

(b) Includes participants in rent/buy schemes.

(c) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Victim of and witness to violence by selected health and population characteristics

- In 2008, of the Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who reported that they, their family members or close friends were witnesses to violence 71% had a disability or long-term health condition, 54% were in the first (lowest) quintile of the index of disparity, 56% were under financial stress and 74% lived in non-remote areas (Table 2.13.8).
- In 2008, 39% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over with excellent/good health were victims of violence compared with 25% with fair/poor health. 12% with a disability or long-term health condition were witnesses of violence compared with 5.5% who did not have a disability or long-term health condition (Table 2.13.9).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who were not witnesses of violence had better health status than those who were witnesses of to violence. They were also more likely to own their own home (Table 2.13.10).

Table 2.13.8: Victim of and witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Witness to violence ^(a)				Rate ratio
	Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	
	Proportion who were victim of physical or threatened violence	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence				
Self-assessed health status						
Excellent/good	38.9	32.0	50.0	27.6	49.6	0.6
Good	36.4	33.4	33.6	32.3	30.5	1.1
Fair/poor	24.6	34.6	16.4	40.1	19.9	2.0
Disability or long-term health condition^(b)						
Has disability or long-term health condition	60.1	71.2	51.7	78.1	55.5	1.4
No disability or long-term condition	39.9	28.8	48.3	21.9	45.5	0.5
Household income						
1st quintile	51.2	54.1	13.1	..	..	4.1
5th quintile	5.1	5.1	22.6	..	..	0.2
Index of disparity						
1st quintile	50.6	51.9	22.0	..	..	2.4
5th quintile	2.6 ^(c)	4.4	15.5	..	..	0.3
Financial stress—unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important^(d)						
	57.2	55.7	..	..	..	..
Location						
Remote	22.7	25.9	..	..	..	..
Non-remote	77.3	74.1	..	..	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.13.8 (continued): Victim of and witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence		Witness to violence ^(a)			Rate ratio
	Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	
	Proportion who were victim of physical or threatened violence	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence				
Law and justice						
Used legal services in last 12 months	34.9	31.9	..	..	..	..
Arrested by police in last 5 years	32.2	24.6	..	..	..	..
Incarcerated in last 5 years	6.2	5.3(c)	..	..	..	..
Housing^(d)						
Owner	21.6	22.8	44.9			0.5
Renter ^(e)	76.6	75.4	47.7			1.6
Dwelling has structural problems	33.1	36.2	..	..	..	..
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms ^(f)	24.3	24.2	..	..	..	..
Family and culture						
Involved in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	89.8	93.6	..	..	..	..
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	89.2	86.0	..	..	..	..
Person removed from natural family	13.0	14.9	..	..	..	..
Relative removed from natural family	58.1	71.3	..	..	..	..
Currently lives in homelands	25.6	25.4	..	..	..	..
Involved in events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months ^(g)	68.7	79.6	..	..	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.13.8 (continued): Victim of and witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Witness to violence ^(a)				Rate ratio
	Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	
	Proportion who were victim of physical or threatened violence	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence				
Participated in cultural activities in last 12 months ^(h)	67.4	75.4	..	..	..	..
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	..
Total number	69,909	26,089	347,355	..	..	..

- (a) Respondent, their family members or close friends may have been a witness to violence.
- (b) Non-remote only
- (c) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (d) Information provided by a household spokesperson on behalf of household members.
- (e) Includes boarders
- (f) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness.
- (g) Includes NAIDOC week activities, sports carnivals, arts/craft festivals and funerals/sorry business.
- (h) Includes fishing, hunting, gathering bush foods, making art/craft, performing music/dance/theatre, and storytelling.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.13.9: Witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Witness to violence ^(a)				Rate Ratio
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	
Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence					
Self-assessed health status					
Excellent/good	7.0	2.0	6.5	1.9	3.3
Good	8.7	2.6	7.8	2.7	2.8
Fair/poor	12.7	2.4	12.8	3.5	3.7
Disability or long-term health condition^(b)					
Has disability or long-term health condition	12.0	2.7	11.1	3.6	3.1
No disability or long-term condition	5.5	1.9	4.5	1.7	2.7
Household income					
1st quintile	10.1	1.8	..	..	5.5
5th quintile	9.7	2.4	..	..	4.0
Index of disparity					
1st quintile	9.2	2.9	..	..	3.1
5th quintile	10.3	1.6	..	..	6.6
Financial stress—unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important^(c)					
	9.5	..	..	..	..
Location					
Remote	9.0	..	..	..	..
Non-remote	9.0	..	..	..	..
Law and justice					
Used legal services in last 12 months	15.2	..	..	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.13.9 (continued): Witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Witness to violence ^(a)				Rate Ratio
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	
Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence					
Arrested by police in last 5 years	14.0	..	..	..	..
Incarcerated in last 5 years	13.4 ^(d)	..	..	..	..
Housing^(e)					
Owner	7.0	1.5	..	..	4.6
Renter ^(e)	9.8	3.7	..	..	2.6
Dwelling has structural problems	11.5	..	..	..	..
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms ^(f)	8.8	..	..	..	..
Family and culture					
Involved in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	9.5	..	..	..	..
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	8.6	..	..	..	..
Person removed from natural family	15.5	..	..	..	..
Relative removed from natural family	14.5	..	..	..	..
Currently lives in homelands	8.9	..	..	..	..
Involved in events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months ^(g)	11.3	..	..	..	..
Participated in cultural activities in last 12 months ^(h)	11.2	..	..	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.13.9 (continued): Witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

- (a) Respondent, their family members or close friends may have been a witness to violence.
- (b) Non-remote only.
- (c) Information provided by a household spokesperson on behalf of household members.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (e) Includes boarders.
- (f) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness.
- (g) Includes NAIDOC week activities, sports carnivals, arts/craft festivals and funerals/sorry business.
- (h) Includes fishing, hunting, gathering bush foods, making art/craft, performing music/dance/theatre, and storytelling.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.13.10: Witness to violence^(a), by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Was a witness to violence	Was not a witness to violence	Total
Self-assessed health status	Per cent		
Excellent/good	30.8*	41.7*	41.3
Good	32.4	34.4	34.4
Fair/poor	36.8*	23.9*	24.4
Disability or long-term health condition			
Has disability or long-term health condition	74.9*	51.5*	52.4
No disability or long-term condition	25.1*	48.5*	47.6
Household income			
1st quintile	63.7*	48.5*	49.1
5th quintile	6.4 ^(b)	4.8	4.9
Index of disparity			
1st quintile	51.7	50.7	50.7
5th quintile	2.6 ^(c)	3.9	3.8
Financial stress—unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important^(d)	57.9	50.1	50.4
Location			
Remote	20.9*	26.0*	25.8
Non-remote	79.1	74.0	74.2
Law and justice			
Used legal services in last 12 months	34.2*	18.3*	18.9
Arrested by police in last 5 years	30.5*	15.2*	15.8
Incarcerated in last 5 years	6.0 ^(b)	3.5	3.5
Housing^(d)			
Owner	23.8 ^(b)	29.4	29.2
Renter	74.3	69.0	69.2
Dwelling has structural problems	36.1	28.1	28.4
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms ^(e)	30.0	24.6	24.8
Family and culture			
Participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	91.4	88.3	88.4
Had undertaken voluntary work in last 12 months ^(f)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	82.9	89.5	89.3
Person removed from natural family	19.9 ^{(b)*}	8.2*	8.6
Relative removed from natural family	74.5*	45*	46.1
Currently lives in homelands	21.4	25.8	25.7
Involved in events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months ^(g)	75.0*	62.6*	63.1
Participated in cultural activities in last 12 months ^(h)	71.5*	59.7*	60.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.13.10 (continued): Witness to violence^(a), by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

* Differences between rates for Indigenous persons who had witnessed violence in the last 12 months, and those who hadn't, are statistically significant for these categories.

- (a) Respondent reported having personally witnessed violence in the last 12 months.
- (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.
- (d) Information obtained from a household spokesperson on behalf of household members.
- (e) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness.
- (f) This item not available from the 2008 NATSISS.
- (g) Includes NAIDOC week activities, sports carnivals, arts/craft festivals and funerals/sorry business.
- (h) Includes fishing, hunting, gathering bush foods, making art/craft, performing music/dance/theatre, and storytelling.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Neighbourhood/community problems

In 2008, 74% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported that neighbourhood or community problems were present in their neighbourhood/community (Table 2.13.11).

- Dangerous or noisy driving was the most common neighbourhood/community problem reported (46%), followed by theft (43%). Problems involving youth, vandalism/graffiti/damage to property, alcohol and illegal drugs were also common problems reported.

Neighbourhood/community problems by age

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians reporting neighbourhood/community problems was lowest among those aged 55 years and over (68%) and highest among those aged 35-44 (78%) (Table 2.13.11).

Table 2.13.11: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by age group, 2008

	15–24	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55 years and over	Total (15+)	Total (18+)
	Per cent							
Neighbourhood/community problem present								
Theft ^(a)	40.7	42.6	42.8	44.6	46.8	38.3	42.5	43.1
Problems involving youth	32.9	35.1	35.1	38.1	38.6	26.5	34.4	35.0
Prowlers/loiterers	17.1	16.3	18.3	20.7	23.7	18.0	19.1	19.2
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	37.7	37.2	34.6	36.7	35.9	27.6	35.3	34.9
Dangerous or noisy driving	41.3	43.7	47.5	51.8	50.4	41.9	46.1	47.2
Alcohol	42.9	43.7	39.7	43.7	44.5	32.7	41.3	41.3
Illegal drugs	37.0	38.9	37.2	38.4	37.4	29.6	36.4	36.8
Family violence	22.5	24.9	25.9	25.9	29.9	21.6	24.8	25.7
Assault	21.3	23.2	23.9	25.4	24.9	17.4	22.7	23.3
Sexual assault	10.3	10.9	12.6	13.3	14.6	7.9	11.7	12.0
Problems with your neighbours	14.9	15.6	15.9	16.3	17.1	12.4	15.4	15.6
Levels of neighbourhood conflict	13.2	14.0	15.0	14.8	15.9	11.4	14.1	14.4
Level of personal safety day or night	12.9	14.4	14.8	14.4	15.6	11.2	13.8	14.2
<i>Total with neighbourhood/community problems</i>	<i>71.9</i>	<i>74.3</i>	<i>75.6</i>	<i>78.2</i>	<i>77.2</i>	<i>68.3</i>	<i>74.2</i>	<i>75.1</i>
No neighbourhood/community problems reported	28.1	25.7	24.4	21.8	22.8	31.7	25.8	24.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	103,780	67,616	69,931	63,851	46,912	42,620	327,101	290,937

(a) Excludes unknown responses

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by sex

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians reporting neighbourhood/community problems was slightly higher for females (75%) than for males (73%) (Table 2.13.12).

Table 2.13.12: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by sex, 2008

	Male	Female
	Per cent	
Neighbourhood/community problem present		
Theft ^(a)	42.4	42.6
Problems involving youth	33.6	35.0
Prowlers/loiterers	19.1	19.2
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	35.6	35.0
Dangerous or noisy driving	44.7	47.4
Alcohol	42.0	40.6
Illegal drugs	36.8	36.1
Family violence	23.4	26.1
Assault	22.9	22.4
Sexual assault	11.2	12.1
Problems with your neighbours	13.5	17.1
Levels of neighbourhood conflict	13.5	14.6
Level of personal safety day or night	12.8	14.7
<i>Total with neighbourhood/community problems</i>	<i>72.9</i>	<i>75.4</i>
No neighbourhood/community problems reported	27.1	24.6
Total	100.0	100.0
Total number	156,052	171,049

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by state/territory

- In 2008, Queensland had the lowest proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting neighbourhood/community problems overall (71%). New South Wales had the highest proportion (77%) (Table 2.13.13).

Table 2.13.13: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by state/territory, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas/ ACT	NT	Australia
	Per cent							
Neighbourhood/community problem present								
Theft ^(a)	48.6	46.2	36.6	47.7	44.3	38.1	34.1	42.5
Problems involving youth	36.3	32.9	33.0	36.7	31.2	24.8	36.1	34.4
Prowlers/loiterers	21.3	17.6	17.9	23.3	16.5	11.4	16.9	19.1
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	40.9	35.3	27.8	42.0	37.3	28.4	33.2	35.3
Dangerous or noisy driving	46.3	51.5	44.4	49.3	49.9	49.9	39.7	46.1
Alcohol	42.3	37.7	38.0	49.9	38.7	28.1	44.6	41.3
Illegal drugs	40.9	33.8	33.1	43.3	33.8	28.1	31.7	36.4
Family violence	25.5	19.7	19.8	34.1	23.5	11.7	32.2	24.8
Assault	23.0	18.3	18.0	30.1	21.8	10.9	30.9	22.7
Sexual assault	13.7	9.4	10.9	12.5	9.0	4.8	12.6	11.7
Problems with your neighbours	16.9	14.9	13.8	17.2	17.7	11.9	13.6	15.4
Levels of neighbourhood conflict	13.6	9.8	15.4	14.7	13.2	8.1	16.4	14.1
Level of personal safety day or night	16.7	14.9	10.8	14.9	14.8	7.9	13.6	13.8
<i>Total with neighbourhood/community problems</i>	<i>76.8</i>	<i>75.1</i>	<i>70.9</i>	<i>76.6</i>	<i>75.8</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>74.2</i>
No neighbourhood/community problems reported	23.3	24.9	29.2	23.5	24.2	27.3	27.3	25.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	96,158	21,830	90,328	44,097	17,938	15,292	41,459	327,101

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by remoteness

- A higher proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in Remote areas (76%) reported most types of neighbourhood/community problems than those in Non-remote areas (73%) (Table 2.13.14).

Table 2.13.14: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and older, by remoteness, 2008

	Remote	Non-remote
	Per cent	
Neighbourhood/community problem present		
Theft	39.4	43.5
Problems involving youth	40.2	33.9
Prowlers/loiterers	19.7	19.7
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	36.7	36.3
Dangerous or noisy driving	44.5	48.6
Alcohol	55.4	38.3
Illegal drugs	43.7	35.5
Family violence	37.9	21.5
Assault	37.1	18.8
Sexual assault	16.3	10.6
Problems with your neighbours	16.5	15.6
Levels of neighbourhood conflict	22.1	12.0
Level of personal safety day or night	15.1	13.9
<i>Total with neighbourhood/community problems</i>	76.2	72.5
No neighbourhood/community problems reported	23.8	27.5
Total^(a)	100.0	100.0
Total number	81,501	245,600

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by selected health and population characteristics

- Indigenous Australians with a disability or long-term health condition and in the lowest (1st) quintile of household income were more likely to report family violence, assault, sexual assault or personal safety as neighbourhood/community problems and to report being a victim of these problems than those with no disability/long-term condition and those in the highest quintile of household income (Table 2.13.15).

Table 2.13.15: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting they were a victim of neighbourhood/community problems by selected health and population characteristics, 2008

	Neighbourhood/community problem reported			
	Family violence	Assault	Sexual assault	Personal safety day or night
	Per cent			
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/good	38.4	41.1	36.8	36.0
Good	36.8	35.9	36.7	37.2
Fair/poor	24.8	23.1	26.6	26.8
Disability or long-term health condition				
Yes	56.0	55.7	59.2	61.3
No	44.0	44.3	40.8	38.7
Household income				
1st quintile	51.3	51.9	47.5	51.4
5th quintile	7.0	7.8	7.3	5.7
Financial stress—unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important				
	60.1	58.7	58.2	60.3
Location				
Remote	37.0	39.7	33.8	26.6
Non-remote	63.0	60.3	66.2	73.4
Law and justice				
Used legal services in last 12 months	22.7	22.0	21.6	23.8
Arrested by police in last 5 years	20.2	22.2	20.4	21.1
Incarcerated in last 5 years	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.0
Housing				
Owner	22.3	19.3	22.3	23.5
Renter	75.7	78.5	75.9	75.4
Dwelling has major structural problems	38.7	37.9	36.1	35.4
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms ^(a)				
Family and culture				
Participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	90.8	91.5	90.5	88.9
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside family	90.9	90.4	90.4	89.1
Has been removed from natural family	10.8	11.3	11.4	12.2
Relative removed from natural family	55.1	54.4	57.7	55.9
Currently lives in homelands	33.4	34.0	30.1	26.4
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	72.2	72.3	71.6	64.9
Total^(b)	100	100	100	100

(a) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness.

(b) Excludes 'not known' or 'not stated' cases.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Hospitalisations

- For the period July 2006 to June 2008, there were 10,312 hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined in which assault was recorded as the principal diagnosis. This represented approximately 2% of total hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians in these states and territories.
- Overall, in the six states and territories combined, Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for assault at around 12 times the rate of other Australians.

Hospitalisations by age and sex

- Hospitalisation rates for assault were highest among those aged 25–34 and 35–44 years in the Indigenous population and among those aged 15–24 and 25–34 years in the other Australian population. Indigenous males aged 35–44 and 45–54 were hospitalised for assault at over 11 times the rate of other males, and Indigenous females aged 25–34, 35–44 and 45–54 years were hospitalised for assault at over 40 times the rate of other females (Table 2.13.16).

Table 2.13.16: Hospitalisations for principal diagnosis of assault, by Indigenous status, sex and age, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2006 to June 2008^{(a)(b)(c)(d)}

	Indigenous				Other ^(e)				Ratio ⁽ⁱ⁾
	Number	Number per 1,000 ^(f)	LCL 95% ^(g)	UCL 95% ^(h)	Number	Number per 1,000 ^(f)	LCL 95% ^(g)	UCL 95% ^(h)	
Males									
0-4	95	1.5	1.2	1.8	216	0.2	0.1	0.2	8.7*
5-14	96	0.8	0.6	0.9	635	0.2	0.2	0.3	3.1*
15-24	1,419	14.0	13.3	14.7	11,518	4.1	4.0	4.2	3.4*
25-34	1,491	21.3	20.2	22.4	8,202	3.0	2.9	3.0	7.2*
35-44	1,269	20.8	19.7	22.0	5,439	1.9	1.8	1.9	11.1*
45-54	491	11.5	10.5	12.5	2,948	1.1	1.0	1.1	10.6*
55-64	100	4.3	3.5	5.2	1,064	0.5	0.5	0.5	9.0*
65+	42	3.1	2.2	4.1	561	0.2	0.2	0.3	13.3*
Total⁽ⁱ⁾	5,003	10.8	10.5	11.2	30,583	1.6	1.5	1.6	7.0*
Females									
0-4	82	1.3	1.1	1.6	157	0.1	0.1	0.2	10.2*
5-14	121	1.0	0.8	1.2	182	0.1	0.1	0.1	13.4*
15-24	1,308	13.5	12.8	14.2	1,516	0.6	0.5	0.6	23.7*
25-34	1,727	24.2	23.0	25.3	1,470	0.5	0.5	0.6	45.1*
35-44	1,475	22.3	21.1	23.4	1,376	0.5	0.4	0.5	47.3*
45-54	512	11.1	10.1	12.1	732	0.3	0.2	0.3	42.0*
55-64	60	2.3	1.7	2.9	245	0.1	0.1	0.1	21.0*
65+	24	1.3	0.8	1.8	308	0.1	0.1	0.1	12.4*
Total⁽ⁱ⁾	5,309	10.9	10.6	11.2	5,986	0.3	0.3	0.3	35.5*
Persons									
0-4	177	1.4	1.2	1.6	373	0.2	0.1	0.2	9.3*
5-14	217	0.9	0.8	1.0	817	0.2	0.2	0.2	5.4*
15-24	2,727	13.7	13.2	14.3	13,034	2.4	2.3	2.4	5.8*
25-34	3,218	22.8	22.0	23.5	9,672	1.8	1.7	1.8	13.0*
35-44	2,744	21.6	20.8	22.4	6,816	1.2	1.1	1.2	18.4*
45-54	1,003	11.3	10.6	12.0	3,680	0.7	0.6	0.7	16.8*
55-64	160	3.3	2.8	3.8	1,309	0.3	0.3	0.3	11.1*
65+	66	2.1	1.6	2.6	869	0.2	0.2	0.2	12.7*
Total⁽ⁱ⁾	10,312	10.9	10.6	11.1	36,570	0.9	0.9	0.9	11.6

(continued)

Table 2.13.16 (continued): Hospitalisations for principal diagnosis of assault, by Indigenous status, sex and age, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2004 to June 2006^{(a)(b)(c)(d)}

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

- (a) Data are from public and most private hospitals. Excludes private hospitals in the Northern Territory.
- (b) Categories are based on the ICD-10-AM 5th edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2006). Causes of injury are based on the first reported external cause as 'assault' ICD-10-AM codes X85–Y09, where the principal diagnosis was 'injury and poisoning' (S00–T98).
- (c) Financial year reporting.
- (d) Data are reported by state/territory of usual residence of the patient hospitalised and are for New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland only. These six jurisdictions are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification, although the level of accuracy varies by jurisdiction and hospital. Hospitalisation data for these six jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the hospitalisation experience in the other jurisdictions.
- (e) Includes hospitalisations of non-Indigenous people and those for whom Indigenous status was not stated.
- (f) Age-specific rate per 1,000 population.
- (g) LCL = lower confidence limit.
- (h) UCL = upper confidence limit.
- (i) Rate ratio Indigenous: other.
- (j) Directly age-standardised rates using the Australian 2001 standard population.

Note: Population estimates are based on the 2006 Census.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisations by state/territory

Table 2.13.17 presents hospitalisations for principal diagnosis of assault for the 2-year period July 2006 to June 2008 for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

- Over the period July 2006 to June 2008, Indigenous Australians in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined were hospitalised for assault at 12 times the rate of other Australians.
- Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for assault in Victoria at 4 times the rate of other Australians, in New South Wales at 6 times the rate, in Queensland at 7 times the rate, in the Northern Territory at 15 times the rate, in South Australia at 17 times the rate, and in Western Australia at 21 times the rate.

Table 2.13.17: Hospitalisations for principal diagnosis of assault, by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, July 2006 to June 2008^{(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)}

	Indigenous				Other ^(f)				Ratio ^(j)
	Number	No. per 1,000 ^(g)	LCL 95% ^(h)	UCL 95% ⁽ⁱ⁾	Number	No. per 1,000 ^(g)	LCL 95% ^(h)	UCL 95% ⁽ⁱ⁾	
NSW	1,595	5.4	5.1	5.7	12,121	0.9	0.9	0.9	5.9*
Vic	248	3.9	3.4	4.4	9,285	0.9	0.9	0.9	4.3*
Qld	2,139	7.5	7.1	7.8	8,211	1.0	1.0	1.0	7.3*
WA	2,525	18.4	17.6	19.2	3,519	0.9	0.8	0.9	21.4*
SA	897	16.8	15.7	18.0	2,951	1.0	1.0	1.0	16.9*
NT	2,908	22.9	22.0	23.7	483	1.5	1.4	1.6	15.3*
NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA & NT^(k)	10,312	10.9	10.6	11.1	36,570	0.9	0.9	0.9	11.6*
Tas	49	1.3	0.9	1.7	885	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2
ACT	29	4.3	2.1	6.5	544	0.7	0.7	0.8	5.8*

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

- (a) Data are from public and most private hospitals. Excludes private hospitals in the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania.
- (b) Categories are based on the ICD-10-AM 5th edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2006). Causes of injury are based on the first reported external cause as 'assault' ICD-10-AM codes X85–Y09, where the principal diagnosis was 'injury and poisoning' (S00–T98).
- (c) Financial year reporting.
- (d) Data are reported by state/territory of usual residence of the patient hospitalised.
- (e) Age-standardised rates for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory have been calculated using the direct method, age-standardised by 5 year age group to 75+. Age-standardised rates for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have been calculated using the direct method, age-standardised by 5 year age group to 65+.
- (f) 'Other' includes hospitalisations of non-Indigenous people and those for whom Indigenous status was not stated.
- (g) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.
- (h) LCL = lower confidence limit.
- (i) UCL = upper confidence limit.
- (j) Rate ratio Indigenous: other.
- (k) New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification, although the level of accuracy varies by jurisdiction and hospital. Hospitalisation data for these six jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the hospitalisation experience in the other jurisdictions.

Notes

1. Rates for Indigenous are calculated using population estimates based on the 2006 Census (SERIES B).
2. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded from analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisations by remoteness

Hospitalisation with a primary diagnosis of assault in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory are presented by Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) in Table 2.13.18, covering the period July 2007 to June 2009.

- Indigenous Australians in all remoteness areas were more likely to be hospitalised for these conditions than other Australians. The ratio of hospitalisations of Indigenous people compared to other Australians was higher and the difference was statistically significant for all ASGC areas (Table 2.13.18).
- Rates of hospitalisations people for assault were highest for Indigenous people living in *Remote* areas, at 26 per 1,000. The rate was highest for other Australians who lived in *Very remote* areas, at 2.2 per 1,000. The lowest rates were observed in *Major cities* for both Indigenous people (4.7 per 1,000) and other Australians (0.9 per 1,000) (Table 2.13.18).
- Indigenous people were hospitalised for assault at a rate of 15 times that of other Australians in Remote areas of Australia. In Inner regional areas, where the lowest ratio was observed, Indigenous Australians were hospitalised at a rate of 5.1 times that of other Australians. Nationally, the rate was 12 times (Table 2.13.18).

Table 2.13.18: Hospitalisations with a principle diagnosis of assault, by Indigenous status and remoteness, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2007 to June 2009^{(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)}

	Indigenous				Other ^(g)				Ratio ^(k)
	Number	No. per 1,000 ^(h)	LCL 95% ⁽ⁱ⁾	UCL 95% ⁽ⁱ⁾	Number	No. per 1,000 ^(h)	LCL 95% ⁽ⁱ⁾	UCL 95% ⁽ⁱ⁾	
Major cities	1,445	4.7	4.4	4.9	25,432	0.9	0.9	0.9	5.2*
Inner regional	992	5.4	5.0	5.8	6,918	1.1	1.0	1.1	5.1*
Outer regional	1,978	10.3	9.8	10.8	3,759	1.2	1.2	1.3	8.4*
Remote ^(l)	2,342	26.2	25.0	27.3	872	1.8	1.6	1.9	14.9*
Very remote	3,538	22.8	21.4	24.1	365	2.2	2.1	2.2	10.5*
Missing	36	..	..	..	211	..	..	..	..
Total^(m)	10,331	11.2	11.0	11.5	37,557	1.0	1.0	1.0	11.5*

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/other comparisons at the $p < 0.05$ level.

(a) Data are from public and most private hospitals. Jurisdictional data excludes private hospitals in the Northern Territory.

(b) Categories are based on the ICD-10-AM 5th edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2006).

(c) Financial year reporting.

(d) Data are reported by state/territory of usual residence of the patient hospitalised.

(e) Age-standardised rates for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Australia have been calculated using the direct method, age-standardised by 5 year age group to 65+.

(f) New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification, although the level of accuracy varies by jurisdiction and hospital. Hospitalisation data for these six jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the hospitalisation experience in the other jurisdictions.

(g) 'Other' includes hospitalisations of non-Indigenous people and those for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

(h) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

(i) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(j) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(k) Rate ratio Indigenous: other.

(l) Outer regional includes remote Victoria

(m) Total includes hospitalisations where ASGC is missing.

Notes

1. Rates for Indigenous are calculated using the 2006 population estimates based on the 2006 Census (Series B).

2. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded from analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Time series analyses

Time series data are presented for the four jurisdictions that have been assessed as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations for all years from 2001–02 to 2007–08 – Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. These four jurisdictions represent approximately 60% of the Indigenous Australian population. New South Wales and Victoria were identified as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations from 2004–05 onwards; therefore, they were included as part of the current period analysis (2007–09) but not as part of the time series analyses.

Hospitalisation rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and other Australians for assault over the 7-year period 2001–02 to 2007–08 are presented in Table 2.13.19 and Figure 2.13.3.

- Over the period 2001–02 to 2007–08, there were decreases in the hospitalisation rates for assault among Indigenous males and females. The fitted trend implies an average yearly increase in the rate of around 0.2 per 1,000 which is equivalent to a 7.1% decrease over the period. The increase was only statistically significant when males were considered alone.
- Over the same period there were insignificant increases in the hospitalisation rate for assault for other Australians.
- There were decreases in both the hospitalisation rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and other Australians for assault over the period 1998–99 to 2007–08 (20% and 9%), which reflects both a relative and absolute reduction in the gap between rates for Indigenous and other Australian hospitalisations from assault.

Note that changes in the level of accuracy of Indigenous identification in hospital records will result in changes in the level of reported hospital separations for Indigenous Australians. Also, changes in access, hospital policies and practices all affect the level of hospitalisation over time. Caution should be used in interpreting changes over time as it is not possible to ascertain whether a change in reported hospitalisation is due to changes in the accuracy of Indigenous identification or real changes in the rate at which Indigenous people are hospitalised. An increase in hospitalisations may reflect better access rather than a worsening of health.

Table 2.13.19: Age-standardised hospitalisation rates, rate ratios and rate differences for assault, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2001–02 to 2007–08

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	Annual change ^(a)	Per cent change over period ^(b)
Indigenous separations									
Males	1,960	1,835	1,764	1,803	1,868	1,881	1,994	11	3.3
Females	2,180	2,132	2,127	2,181	2,255	2,363	2,232	27*	7.3
Persons	4,140	3,967	3,891	3,984	4,123	4,244	4,226	37	5.4
Other Australian separations									
Males	5,176	9,992	4,891	5,255	5,720	6,145	6,511	-102	-11.8
Females	1,164	2,204	1,118	1,080	1,221	1,208	1,301	-53	-27.2
Persons	6,340	12,198	6,009	6,335	6,941	7,353	7,812	-155	-14.7
Indigenous rate (separations per 1,000)									
Males	15.7	14.4	13.3	13.3	13.5	13.2	13.8	-0.3*	-10.7
Females	15.7	15.2	14.7	15.1	15.2	15.5	14.4	-0.1	-3.8
Persons	15.7	14.7	14.0	14.2	14.3	14.4	14.1	-0.2*	-7.1
Other Australian^(c) rate (separations per 1,000)									
Males	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.04*	16.2
Females	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	3.2
Persons	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.02*	14.3
Rate ratio^(d)									
Males	10.7	10.3	9.9	9.4	8.9	8.3	8.4	-0.4*	-24.0
Females	47.2	48.9	47.3	50.9	46.0	48.5	42.7	-0.6	-7.0
Persons	17.3	17.2	16.8	16.4	15.4	14.9	14.0	-0.6*	-19.6
Rate difference^(e)									
Males	14.2	13.0	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.6	12.1	-0.3*	-13.5
Females	15.4	14.9	14.4	14.8	14.9	15.2	14.1	-0.1	-4.0
Persons	14.7	13.9	13.2	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.0	-0.2*	-8.5

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the $p < 0.05$ level over the period 2001-02 to 2007-08.

(a) Average annual change in rates, rate ratios and rate differences determined using linear regression analysis.

(b) Per cent change between 2001–02 and 2007–08 based on the average annual change over the period.

(c) 'Other' includes hospitalisations of non-Indigenous people and those for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

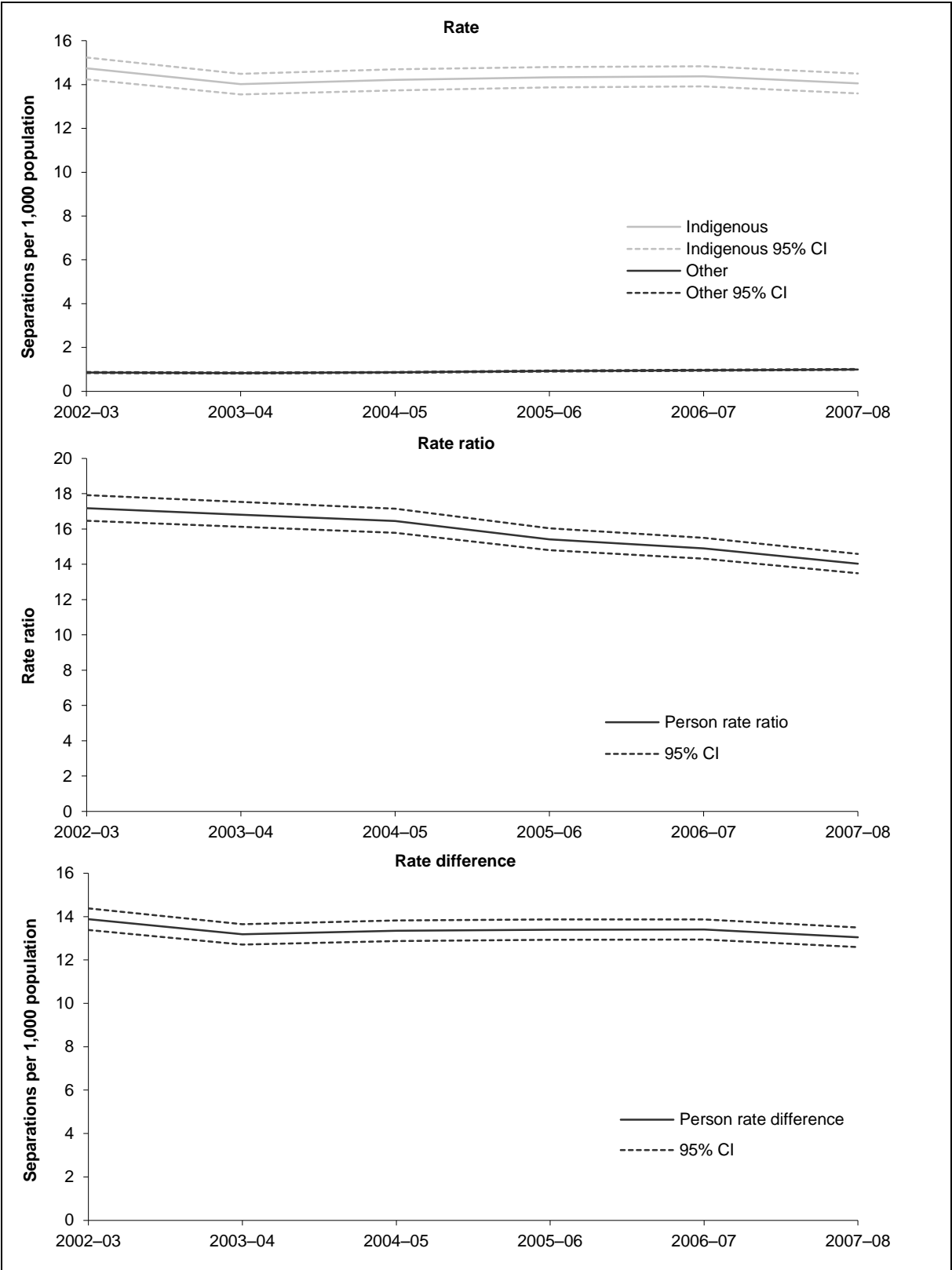
(d) Hospitalisation rates for Indigenous Australians divided by the hospitalisation rates for other Australians.

(e) Hospitalisation rates for Indigenous Australians minus the hospitalisation rates for other Australians.

Notes

1. Rates have been directly age-standardised using the 2006 Australian standard population.
2. Population estimates are based on 2006 Census.
3. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded in analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity database.



Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Figure 2.13.3: Hospitalisation rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and other Australians from assault, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2001-02 to 2007-08

Mortality

Table 2.13.20 and 2.13.21 present deaths from assault in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the 5-year period 2004–2008.

- Over the period 2004–2008, there were 139 deaths of Indigenous people from assault (homicide) in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined (Table 2.13.20). This represented approximately 1.3% of total deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in these states and territories.
- Indigenous Australians in the five states and territories combined died from assault at 8.6 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.

Mortality by age and sex

- Mortality rates for assault were highest among those age, 25–34 and 35–44 years in both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations (Table 2.13.20; Figure 2.13.4). Indigenous males in these age groups died from assault at between 10 and 11 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age, and Indigenous females in these age groups died from assault at between 15 and 17 times the rate of non-Indigenous females of the same age (Table 2.13.20).

Table 2.13.20: Deaths from assault (homicide), by Indigenous status, sex and age, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2004–2008^{(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)}

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Ratio ⁽ⁿ⁾
	Number	Age-specific rate. per 100,000 ^(k)	Number	Age-specific rate. per 100,000 ^(k)	
Males					
0–4	n.p.	n.p.	25	1.1	n.p.
5–14	n.p.	n.p.	7	0.1	n.p.
15–24	13	5.7	51	1.0	5.6
25–34	22	13.6	66	1.3	10.3
35–44	22	15.8	79	1.5	10.6
45–54	10	10.4	60	1.2	8.6
55–64	n.p.	n.p.	51	1.3	n.p.
65+	n.p.	n.p.	26	0.6	n.p.
Total^{(j)(m)}	78	6.8	365	1.0	8.0
Females					
0–4	n.p.	n.p.	9	0.4	n.p.
5–14	n.p.	n.p.	9	0.2	n.p.
15–24	8	3.7	29	0.6	6.1
25–34	24	14.4	41	0.8	17.4
35–44	19	12.6	44	0.8	15.2
45–54	6	5.8	28	0.6	10.4
55–64	—	—	15	0.4	n.a.
65+	—	—	26	0.5	n.a.
Total^{(j)(m)}	61	5.3	201	0.6	9.9
Persons					
0–4	6	2.1	34	0.8	2.7
5–14	n.p.	n.p.	16	0.2	n.p.
15–24	21	4.7	80	0.8	5.8
25–34	46	14.0	107	1.1	13
35–44	41	14.1	123	1.2	12.1
45–54	16	8.0	88	0.9	9.1
55–64	n.p.	n.p.	66	0.8	n.p.
65+	n.p.	n.p.	52	0.6	n.p.
Total^{(j)(m)}	139	6.0	566	0.8	8.6

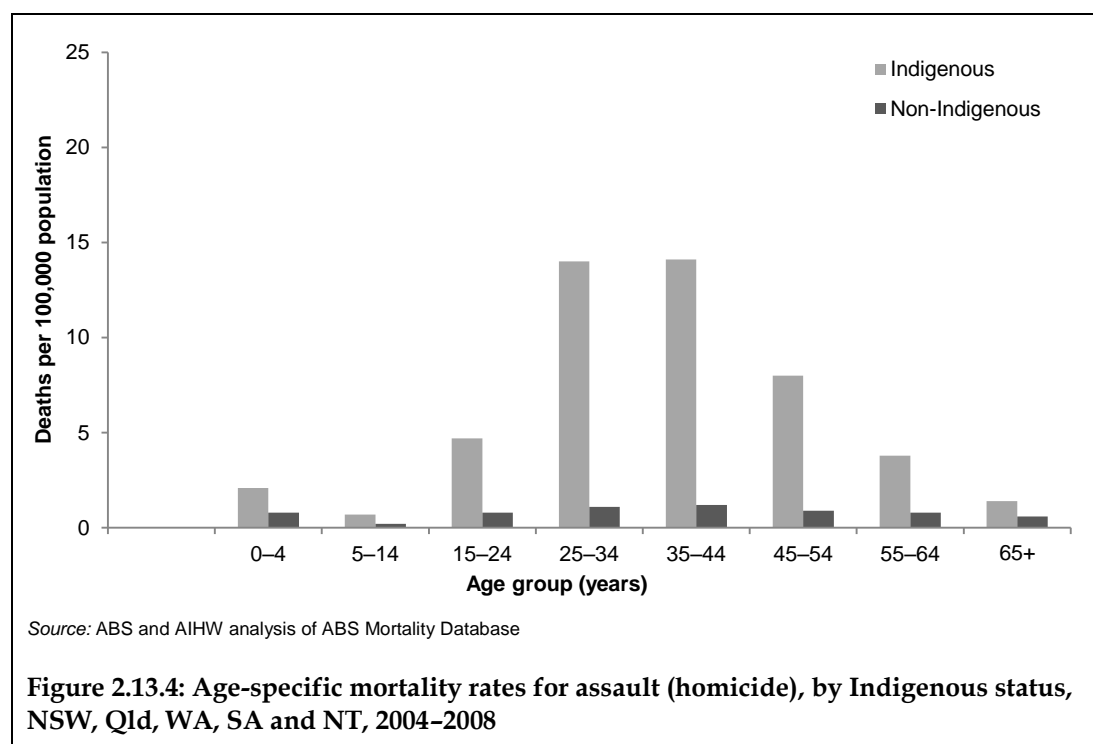
(continued)

Table 2.13.20 (continued): Deaths from assault (homicide), by Indigenous status, sex and age, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2004–2008^{(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)}

- (a) Data are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These five jurisdictions are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data. They do not represent a quasi-Australian figure.
- (b) Data are presented in 5-year groupings because of small numbers each year.
- (c) These data exclude a total of 22 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated.
- (d) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous all-causes mortality rate.
- (e) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.
- (f) Causes of death data for 2007 have been revised and are subject to further revisions. See *Causes of death, Australia, 2008* (ABS 2010a) Technical Note 2: Revisions Process for further information.
- (g) 2008 data have been subject to a process improvement which has increased the quality of these data. See *Causes of death, Australia, 2008* (ABS 2010a) Technical Note 1: 2008 COD Collection - Process Improvement for further information.
- (h) Causes of death data for 2008 are preliminary and subject to a revisions process. See *Causes of death, Australia, 2008* (ABS 2010a) Technical Note 2: Revisions Process for further information.
- (i) Data cells with small values have been randomly assigned to protect the confidentiality of individuals. As a result, some totals will not equal the sum of their components. It is important to note that cells with a zero value have not been affected by confidentialisation.
- (j) Rates per 100,000 population. Total rates have been directly age-standardised using the 2001 Australian standard population.
- (k) Average annual number of deaths per 100,000 population (ERP as at June 2006).
- (l) Rate ratio is the average annual Indigenous mortality rate: average annual non-Indigenous mortality rate.
- (m) There were zero records with age 'not stated'.

Note: The completeness of identification of Indigenous deaths can vary by age.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Mortality Database.



Mortality by state/territory

- During 2004–2008, in Western Australia and Northern Territory, Indigenous Australians died from assault at a rate of 12 and 17 per 100,000 respectively, while in Queensland, Indigenous Australians died from assault at a rate of 2.9 per 100,000 (Table 2.13.21).

Table 2.13.21: Deaths from assault (homicide), by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2004–2008(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Number	Crude rate ^(h)	No. per 100,000 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Number	Crude rate ^(h)	No. per 100,000 ⁽ⁱ⁾
NSW	28	3.7	4.1	283	0.8	0.8
Qld	21	2.9	2.9	114	0.6	0.6
WA	34	9.6	11.6	88	0.9	0.9
SA	5	3.6	4.6	69	0.9	0.9
NT	51	15.9	16.7	12	1.6	1.4
Total	139	6.0	6.8	566	0.8	0.8

- (a) Data are presented in 5-year groupings because of small numbers each year.
- (b) These data exclude a total of 22 deaths where Indigenous status was not stated.
- (c) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous all-causes mortality rate.
- (d) Data are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These five jurisdictions are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data. They do not represent a quasi-Australian figure.
- (e) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.
- (f) Causes of death data for 2007 have been revised and are subject to further revisions. See *Causes of death, Australia, 2008* (ABS 2010a) Technical Note 2: Revisions Process for further information.
- (g) 2008 data have been subject to a process improvement which has increased the quality of these data. *Causes of death, Australia, 2008* (ABS 2010a) Technical Note 1: 2008 COD Collection - Process Improvement for further information.
- (h) Average annual number of deaths per 100,000 population (ERP as at June 2006).
- (i) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.

Time series analyses

Longer term mortality trend data are limited to three jurisdictions – Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory for 1991 onwards, and five jurisdictions – New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory for 1998 onwards. These jurisdictions have over 10 years of reasonable coverage of Indigenous deaths in their recording systems.

There is a consistent time series of population estimates from 1991. Because of changes in the classification and coding of causes of death from ICD-9 (used up until 1996) to ICD-10 (used from 1997 onwards) which affect the comparability of the data, the analysis reported for this indicator has been done for two time periods – 1991–1996 and 1997–2006. Data are presented in 3-year or 4-year groupings because of low numbers of deaths from assault each year.

Because of the late inclusion of a ‘not stated’ category of Indigenous status in 1998 (before which ‘not stated’ responses were included with non-Indigenous deaths), Indigenous mortality rates have been compared with the mortality rates of other Australians (which include deaths of both non-Indigenous people and deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated).

Mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and other Australians for assault over the period 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2004–2008 are presented in Table 2.13.22 and Figure 2.13.5. Mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and other Australians for assault over the period 1998 to 2008 are presented in Table 2.13.23 and Figure 2.13.6.

- Over the period 1991–1993 to 1994–1996, there were non-significant declines in recorded mortality for assault for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined. Over the same period there were non-significant increases in mortality rates for assault for other Australians (Table 2.13.22).
- Over the period 1997–1999 to 2004–2008, there were non-significant decreases in the mortality rates from assault for Indigenous Australians and significant declines in mortality rates from assault for other Australians over this period (Table 2.13.22).

Fluctuations in the level of Indigenous mortality over time partly reflect changing levels of coverage of Indigenous deaths and population estimates. Given the volatility in the measures of Indigenous mortality, caution should be exercised in assessing trends in Indigenous mortality over time and comparisons between jurisdictions and with the non-Indigenous population.

Table 2.13.22: Age-standardised mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences for deaths from assault (homicide), WA, SA and NT, 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2004–2008

	Deaths		No. per 100,000 ^(a)		Rate ratio ^(c)	Rate difference ^(d)
	Indigenous	Other ^(b)	Indigenous	Other ^(b)		
1991–1996						
1991–1993	78	147	25	1.5	16.2	23.5
1994–1996	66	171	18.6	1.7	10.9	16.9
Difference in rates ^(e)	..	..	–6.4	0.2	..	..
1997–2008						
1997–1999	39	156	9.7	1.5	6.3	8.2
2000–2003	101	171	18.6	1.2	15.2	17.4
2004–2008	111	300	8.1	0.8	10.3	7.3
Annual change ^(f)	..	..	–0.3	–0.1*	0.5	–0.2
Per cent change over period ^(g)	..	..	–30.5	–70.3*	85.2	–23

* Represents statistically significant differences at the $p < 0.05$ level over the periods 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2004–2008.

(a) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

(b) Includes deaths of non-Indigenous people and those for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

(c) Mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for other Australians.

(d) Mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for other Australians.

(e) Mortality rate for 1994–1996 minus mortality rate for 1991–1993.

(f) Average annual change in rates, rate ratios and rate differences determined using linear regression analysis.

(g) Per cent change between 1997 and 2008 based on the average annual change over the period.

Notes

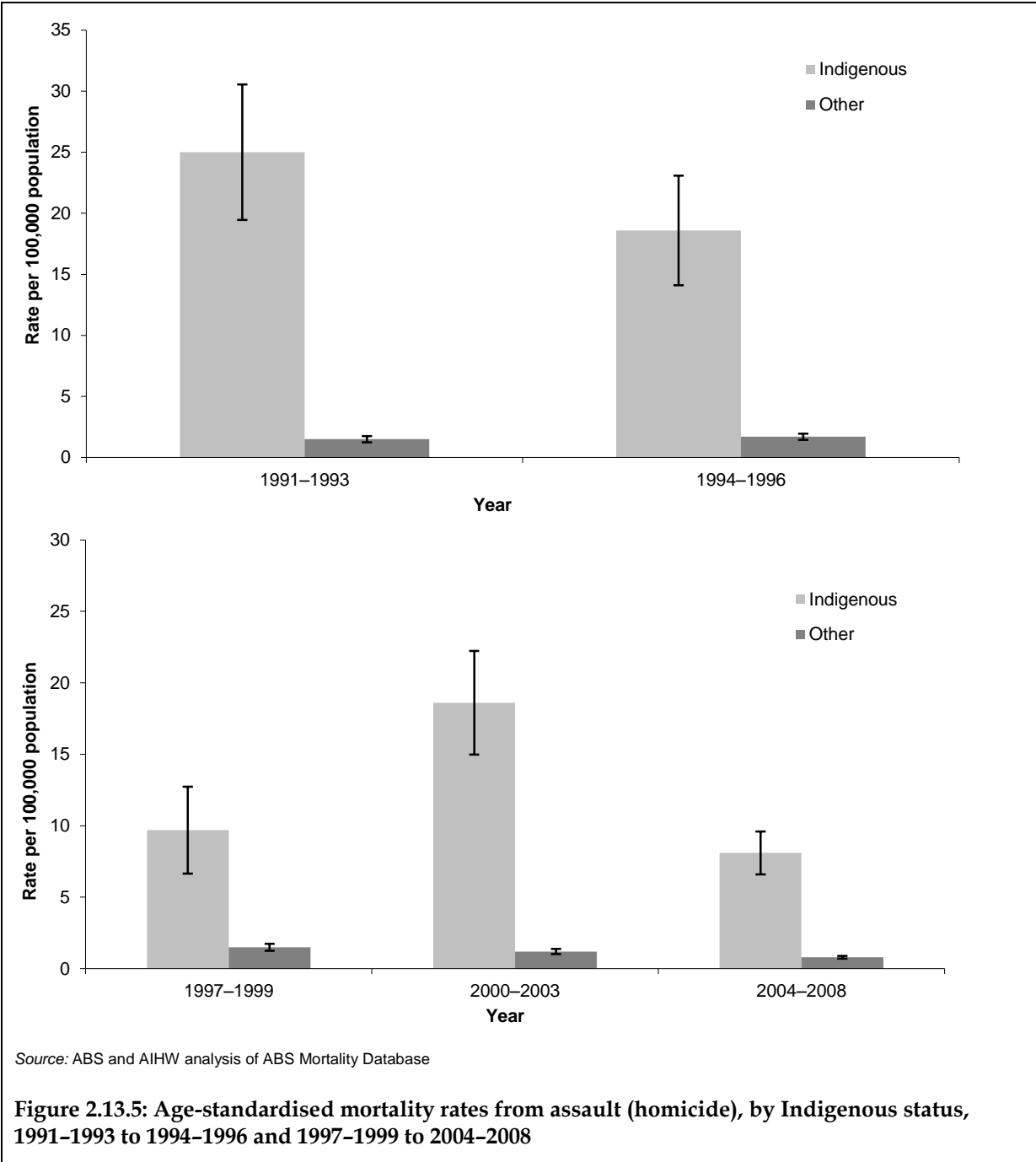
1. Data are presented in 3-year and 4-year groupings because of the small number of Indigenous deaths from assault each year.

2. The completeness of identification of Indigenous deaths can vary by age.

3. Deaths and rates presented in this table may differ from those presented in the 2006 edition of this report for comparable years because of a change from using year of occurrence of death to year of registration of death for mortality analyses.

4. Preliminary 2007 and 2008 ABS mortality.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.



Additional trends analysis has been presented for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined from 1998 to 2008 for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in Table 2.13.23 and Figure 2.13.6. Data are presented in 2-year groupings because of low numbers of deaths from assault each year. Queensland has had adequate identification of Indigenous deaths in its recording systems since 1998, and these have been compared with those of non-Indigenous Australians (excluding deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated).

- Over the period 2001 to 2008, there were non-significant declines in recorded mortality rates in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.13.23).
- There was a non-significant increase in the mortality rate ratio between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians over the period 2001 to 2008, and a non-significant decrease in the mortality rate difference over the same period (Table 2.13.23).

Table 2.13.23: Age-standardised mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences for deaths from assault (homicide), NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 1998–2008

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007-08 ^(a)	Annual change ^(b)	% change ^(c)
Indigenous deaths per 100,000^(d)						
Males	11.4	9.6	8.7	8.3	–0.5*	–31.3*
Females	8.7	4.2	5.1	6.8	–0.2	–19.3
Persons	10.0	6.9	6.8	7.5	–0.4	–26.6
Non-Indigenous deaths per 100,000^(e)						
Males	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.1	–0.1	–28.8
Females	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.0	–23.3
Persons	1.3	1.2	1.4	0.8	–0.1	–35.0
Rate ratio^(f)						
Males	6.8	7.1	8.9	7.7	0.2	23.2
Females	9.5	6.8	9.5	11.3	0.4	29.8
Persons	7.7	7.0	9.0	8.9	0.3	25.5
Rate difference^(g)						
Males	9.7	8.3	7.8	7.2	–0.4*	–28.9*
Females	7.8	3.6	4.6	6.2	–0.2	–17.1
Persons	8.7	5.9	6.1	6.7	–0.3	–23.3

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the $p < 0.05$ level over the period 1998–1999 to 2004–2008.

(a) Preliminary 2007 and 2008 ABS mortality data.

(b) Average annual change in rates, rate ratios and rate differences determined using linear regression analysis.

(c) Per cent change between 1998 and 2008 based on the average annual change over the period.

(d) Rates have been directly age-standardised using the 2001 Australian standard population.

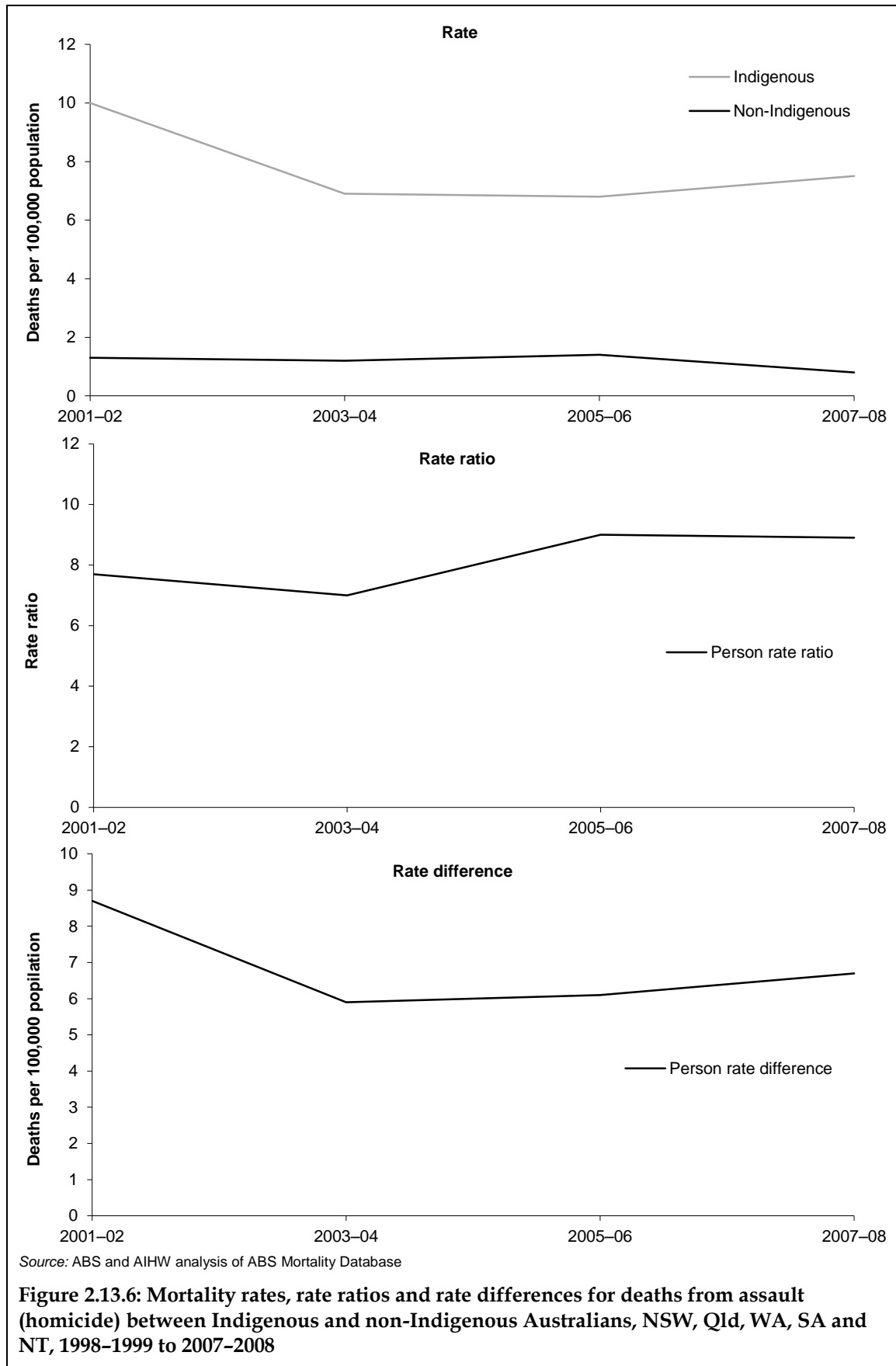
(e) Excludes deaths of those for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

(f) Mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(g) Mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

Note: Data are presented in 2-year groupings because of the small number of Indigenous deaths from assault each year.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.



Victims of homicide

The National Homicide Monitoring Program collects data on all homicides recorded in Australia. Data for the periods 1997–98 to 2001–02 and 2002–03 to 2006–07 are presented in Table 2.13.24.

- Over the period 2002–03 to 2006–07, there were 247 Indigenous victims of homicide recorded, which was higher than the number recorded for the period 1997–98 to 2001–02 (201).
- Indigenous victims represented 13% of total victims of homicide over the period 2002–03 to 2006–07 compared with 12% over the period 1997–98 to 2001–02.
- For approximately 41% of homicides in the period 2002–03 to 2006–07 in which the victim was Indigenous, the homicide involved a male offender and a male victim, and for 33% the homicide involved a male offender and a female victim.
- For approximately 85% of homicides in the period 2002–03 to 2006–07 where the victim was Indigenous, both the offender and the victim were not working. This compared with 40% of homicides where the victim was non-Indigenous.
- Domestic altercation was the most common circumstance surrounding homicides in the period 2002–03 to 2006–07 in which the victim was Indigenous (39%). Alcohol-related arguments surrounded 23% of homicides where the victim was Indigenous. The most common circumstance surrounding homicides in which the victim was non-Indigenous was other arguments (other than domestic or alcohol-related) (42%).
- During the period 2002–03 to 2006–07 approximately 66% of homicides in which the victim was Indigenous the homicide involved intimate partners or other family members, and for 25% the homicide involved friends and acquaintances. The corresponding proportions for homicides involving non-Indigenous victims were 44% and 31% respectively.

Table 2.13.24: Victims of homicide for all jurisdictions where data are available, by Indigenous status, with selected data on circumstances surrounding the homicide, 1997-98 to 2001-02 and 2002-03 to 2006-07

Physical or threatened violence in previous 12 months, by remoteness, 2008	1997-98 to 2001-02 ^(a)						2002-03 to 2006-07 ^(a)					
	Indigenous victims		Non-Indigenous victims		Total victims ^(b)		Indigenous victims		Non-Indigenous victims		Total victims ^(b)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sex^(c)												
Male offender/male victim	87	39	688	53	775	51	75	41	674	55	749	53
Male offender/female victim	85	38	415	32	500	33	61	33	355	29	416	30
Female offender/male victim	38	17	143	11	181	12	39	21	135	11	174	12
Female offender/female victim	12	5	59	5	71	5	9	5	57	5	66	5
Total	222	100	1,305	100	1,527	100	184	100	1,221	100	1,405	100
Employment status^(c)												
Offender & victim both working	6	3	164	16	170	14	4	3	202	23	206	20
Neither working	158	82	474	45	632	51	111	85	352	40	463	46
Offender working only	15	8	179	17	194	16	7	5	153	17	160	16
victim working only	13	7	234	22	247	20	9	7	172	20	181	18
Total	192	100	1,051	100	1,243	100	131	100	879	100	1,010	100
Circumstance												
Domestic altercation	81	40	382	26	463	28	96	39	430	27	526	28
Alcohol-related argument	55	27	112	8	167	10	58	23	158	10	216	12
Other argument	42	21	719	49	761	46	50	20	673	42	723	39
No apparent motive/unknown	23	11	258	18	281	17	43	17	340	21	383	21
Total	201	100	1,471	100	1,672	100	247	100	1,601	100	1,848	100

(continued)

Table 2.13.24 (continued): Victims of homicide for all jurisdictions where data are available, by Indigenous status, with selected data on circumstances surrounding the homicide, 1997–98 to 2001–02 and 2002–03 to 2006–07

Physical or threatened violence in previous 12 months, by remoteness, 2008	1997–98 to 2001–02 ^(a)						2002–03 to 2006–07 ^(a)					
	Indigenous victims		Non-Indigenous victims		Total victims ^(b)		Indigenous victims		Non-Indigenous victims		Total victims ^(b)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Victim–offender relationship^(d)												
Intimate partners and other family	116	60	521	41	637	43	153	66	640	44	793	47
Friends & acquaintances	59	31	414	32	473	32	57	25	455	31	512	30
Strangers	6	3	255	20	261	18	17	7	238	16	255	15
Other relationship	11	6	86	7	97	7	2	1	108	7	110	7
Unknown	1	1	6	0	7	0	3	1	18	1	21	1
Total	193	100	1,282	100	1,475	100	232	100	1,459	100	1,691	100
Total^(b)	201	12	1,471	88	1,672	100	247	13	1,601	87	1,848	100

(a) Where an offender has been identified.

(b) Excludes victims where racial appearance, sex, employment status, circumstances or victim–offender relationship data were unknown.

(c) Where more than one offender, victim counted twice across categories if multiple offenders were of different sex or different employment status.

(d) Refers only to relationship between victim and first offender, where identified.

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, National Homicide Monitoring Program, 1997–2007 data.

Data quality issues

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 6,900 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. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors 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 because 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 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and 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 2010b).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Users' guide, 2008* (ABS 2010b).

Community safety and family violence data

The sensitive nature of many of the issues surrounding community safety could also influence responses to these questions. Any data that are self-reported are likely to

underestimate circumstances in which the respondent may feel frightened or ashamed or be unwilling to admit to the data collector, such as experience of family violence involvement with the police. Any such self-reported figures are likely to underestimate the occurrence of the circumstance in question.

In addition, the NATSISS question on 'family violence' does not directly measure experience of family violence, because it asks about whether certain issues are a problem in the neighbourhood/community. However, these data do provide useful information about the social setting for family violence.

Hospital separations data

Separations

Differing admission practices among the jurisdictions and from year to year, and differing levels and patterns of service delivery, affect the number and pattern of hospitalisations.

In all states and territories, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander separations in public hospitals increased over the 11-year period 1996–97 to 2007–08, from 3.7% to 5.4%. In private hospitals, it stayed around 0.2% to 0.3% until 2003–04, when there was a modest increase to 0.5%.

Indigenous status question

Some jurisdictions have slightly different approaches to the collection and storage of the standard Indigenous status question and categories in their hospital collections. The 'not stated' category is missing from several collections. It is recommended that the standard wording and categories be used in all jurisdictions (AIHW 2005).

'Not stated' responses to the Indigenous status question were around 1% in public hospitals and 4% in private hospitals in 2007–08. This is a reduction from 1998–99 when 2% of responses in public hospitals and 8% of responses in private hospitals had a 'not stated' Indigenous status (AIHW 2009).

Under-identification

The incompleteness of Indigenous identification means the number of hospital separations recorded as Indigenous is an underestimate of hospitalisations involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Based on an analysis of a sample of data conducted in 2010, an estimated 89% of Indigenous patients were correctly identified in Australian public hospital admission records in 2007–08 (AIHW 2010b). In other words, 11% of Indigenous patients were not identified, and the 'true' number of hospital admissions for Indigenous persons was about 12% higher than reported.

For several years, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory reported that Indigenous status in their hospital separations data were of acceptable quality (AIHW 2007). The AIHW, however, has recently completed an assessment of the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital data in all states and territories. Results from this assessment indicate that all hospitals in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia and public hospitals in the Northern Territory have adequate Indigenous identification (80% or higher overall levels of Indigenous identification in public hospitals only) in their separations data. For Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the levels of Indigenous identification were not considered acceptable for analysis purposes. It has therefore been recommended that reporting of Indigenous hospital separations data be limited to information from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, individually or in aggregate. The proportion of the Indigenous population covered by these six jurisdictions is 96%. The following caveats have also been recommended for analysis of hospitalisation data from selected jurisdictions (AIHW 2010b):

- Interpretation of results should take into account the relative quality of the data from the jurisdictions included.
- Interpretation of time series analysis should take into account the possible contribution of changes over time in ascertainment of Indigenous status to changes in hospitalisation rates for Indigenous people.
- Bias may have been introduced due to the sampling method of hospitals used in the study. Hospitals with high proportions of Indigenous separations were used in the study to ensure sufficient numbers of Indigenous people were included in the study. Proportions of Indigenous separations should therefore not be taken to represent the NHMD overall.
- Hospitalisation data for these six jurisdictions are not necessarily representative of other jurisdictions.

From the AIHW study, it was possible to produce correction factors for the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital data for each jurisdiction and at the national level.

Remoteness areas

There were acceptable levels of Indigenous identification for all remoteness areas, ranging from 80% in *Major cities* to 97% in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas. The quality of data supports analyses by remoteness areas, in aggregate, across states and territories. However, the sample size was insufficient to allow assessment of the quality of Indigenous identification by remoteness area within jurisdictions.

Numerator and denominator

Rate and ratio calculations rely on good numerator and denominator data. There are changes in the completeness of identification of Indigenous people in hospital records. These may take place at different rates from changes in the identification of Indigenous people in other administrative collections and population censuses. Denominators used in this analysis are sourced from *Experimental estimates and projections: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 1991 to 2021* (ABS 2009a).

Data sources for injury emergency episodes

The National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database is a national collection of de-identified data on emergency department episodes based on the Non-admitted Emergency Department Care National Minimum Data Set. This data set includes the standard Indigenous status question but does not include injury coding (for example, ICD-10). The Injury Surveillance National Minimum Data Set includes injury coding (components of ICD-10) but does not include demographic details such as Indigenous status. Therefore, there is currently no national minimum data set containing both Indigenous status and injury coding.

Mortality data

Deaths

The mortality rate for Indigenous Australians can be influenced by identification of Indigenous deaths, late registration of deaths, and changes to death forms and/or processing systems. Because of the small size of the Indigenous population, these factors can significantly affect trends over time and between jurisdictions. At present, there is considerable variation across the states and territories in the completeness of mortality and hospital data for Indigenous people.

Indigenous status question

All jurisdictions comply with the standard wording for the Indigenous status question and categories for their death registration forms. However, although data are provided to the ABS for the Indigenous status question for 99% of all deaths, there are concerns regarding the accuracy of the data. The Indigenous status question is not always directly asked. Detailed breakdowns of Indigenous deaths are therefore provided for only five jurisdictions – New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Indigenous status information from the two sources is kept in the database, although this may not be consistent for an individual.

In 2004, a new range of codes were introduced as part of the effort to standardise and improve indigenous identification in data collection nationally.

Indigenous Mortality Quality Study

The ABS conducted a number of quality studies based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and other data sets as part of the Census Data Enhancement (CDE) project (ABS 2008). The CDE Indigenous Mortality Quality Study linked Census records with death registration records and examined differences in the reporting of Indigenous status across the two data sets.

There were 106,945 registered death records available to be linked in the study. Of these, 1,800 (1.7%) were identified as Indigenous on the death registration. Of the total registered deaths, 98,898 (92%) were linked to a Census record. However, a much lower linkage rate was achieved for Indigenous deaths, with more than one quarter of all Indigenous death registrations (26% or 473) unable to be linked to a Census record. As a result, Indigenous death records were over-represented in the unlinked death registrations.

As well as being over-represented in unlinked death registrations, unlinked Indigenous death records had different characteristics to linked Indigenous death registrations. Indigenous death records with older ages at death and from non-remote regions were more likely to be linked.

Under-identification

Almost all deaths in Australia are registered. However, the Indigenous status of the deceased is not always recorded/recorded correctly. The incompleteness of Indigenous identification means the number of deaths registered as Indigenous is an underestimate of deaths occurring in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (ABS 2009b). As a result, the observed differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous mortality are under-estimates of the true differences.

Longer term mortality trend data are limited to three jurisdictions (Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory) with 10 years of adequate identification of Indigenous deaths in their recording systems (ABS & AIHW 2005). The quality of the time series data is also influenced by the late inclusion of a 'not stated' category for Indigenous status in 1998. Before this time, the 'not stated' responses were probably included with the non-Indigenous.

The ABS calculated the implied coverage (identification) of Indigenous deaths for the period 2002–2006 using population estimates: New South Wales 45%, Victoria 32%, Queensland 51%, South Australia 62%, Western Australia 72%, Northern Territory 90%, Australia 55% (Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory were not calculated because of small numbers) (ABS 2007).

Note that different causes may have levels of under-identification that differ from the all-cause coverage estimates. Note also that the quality of the cause of death data depends on every step of the process of recording and registering deaths (including the documentation available at each step of the process) from certification to coding of cause of death.

There are also current concerns about data quality for causes of death, especially relating to external causes of death of all Australians (not just Indigenous) (ABS 2006).

Problems associated with identification result in an underestimation of deaths and hospital separations for Indigenous people.

Numerator and denominator

Rate and ratio calculations rely on good numerator and denominator data. There are changes in the completeness of identification of Indigenous people in death records. These may take place at different rates from changes in the identification of Indigenous people in other administrative collections and population censuses. Denominators used here are sourced from *Experimental estimates and projections: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 1991 to 2021* (ABS 2009a).

National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP)

The NHMP was established in 1990 and reports annually by financial year on all homicides recorded in Australia. The Indigenous status of the victim is based on police identification of 'racial appearance', and therefore will underestimate the level of homicide involving Indigenous persons. Nevertheless, the NHMP includes useful information on the circumstances surrounding homicides involving Indigenous persons.

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

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