

2.08 Income

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

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2007–2008 Survey of Income and Housing (SIH), the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), 2006 Census of Population and Housing, and the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS).

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 2013.

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.

Census of Population and Housing

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

Although the Census data are adjusted for under-count at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done at the household level. This affects the accuracy of the person counts at the household level to provide adjusted household estimates.

The 1996 and 2001 Census used the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, but the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations replaced this for the 2006 Census.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

The 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) collected information from 10,439 Indigenous Australians of all ages. This sample was considerably larger than the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys. The survey was conducted in remote and non-remote areas of Australia and collected a range of information from Indigenous Australians. This included information on

health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. The survey provides comparisons over time in the health of Indigenous Australians. It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next NATSIHS to be conducted in 2010–11. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

Survey of Income and Housing

The ABS conducts the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) every two years, with the first survey carried out in 1994–95. The survey was developed in order to provide broad aggregates for households within Australia. The current survey was conducted during the period of August 2007 and June 2008 and 9,345 households participated through a personal interview at their usual place of residence. The dwellings were selected through a stratified, multistage cluster design and the survey was conducted over 12 months to be representative of a yearly pattern. Participants were asked for information regarding their household, including characteristics, costs, assets and liabilities and individual personal characteristics for residents over 15 years.

Data analyses

Comparisons of NATSISS and Census data

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

When comparing the **mean equivalised gross household income** of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over from the 2008 NATSISS with data from the 2006 Census, the mean income is higher using estimates from the NATSISS (\$580) than when using estimates from the Census (\$512). This may be explained by the different time periods of the two surveys, because mean income is generally increasing with time.

When comparing **equivalised gross household income quintiles** for Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over with a stated income from the 2008 NATSISS and the 2006 Census, the results are very similar. For example, the proportions of Indigenous persons in the lowest income quintile from the NATSISS and Census were 39% and 40% respectively. However, the proportions of Indigenous persons in the highest income quintile for the two data sources were 4% and 8% respectively.

When comparing the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over **below the 20th and 50th percentiles for equivalised gross household income** from the two data sources, the estimates are slightly lower from the NATSISS and the Census. The proportions of Indigenous Australians below the 20th percentile were 46% and 40% for the NATSISS and Census respectively, and the proportions of Indigenous Australians below the 50th percentile were 71% and 72% for the two data sources respectively.

This measure presents data included in the 2008 edition of this report for persons 18 years and over (2006 Census) and new data from the 2008 NATSISS. Data from NATSISS are presented first, followed by data from the 2006 Census.

NATSISS and SIH data

Household income

Mean equivalised household income

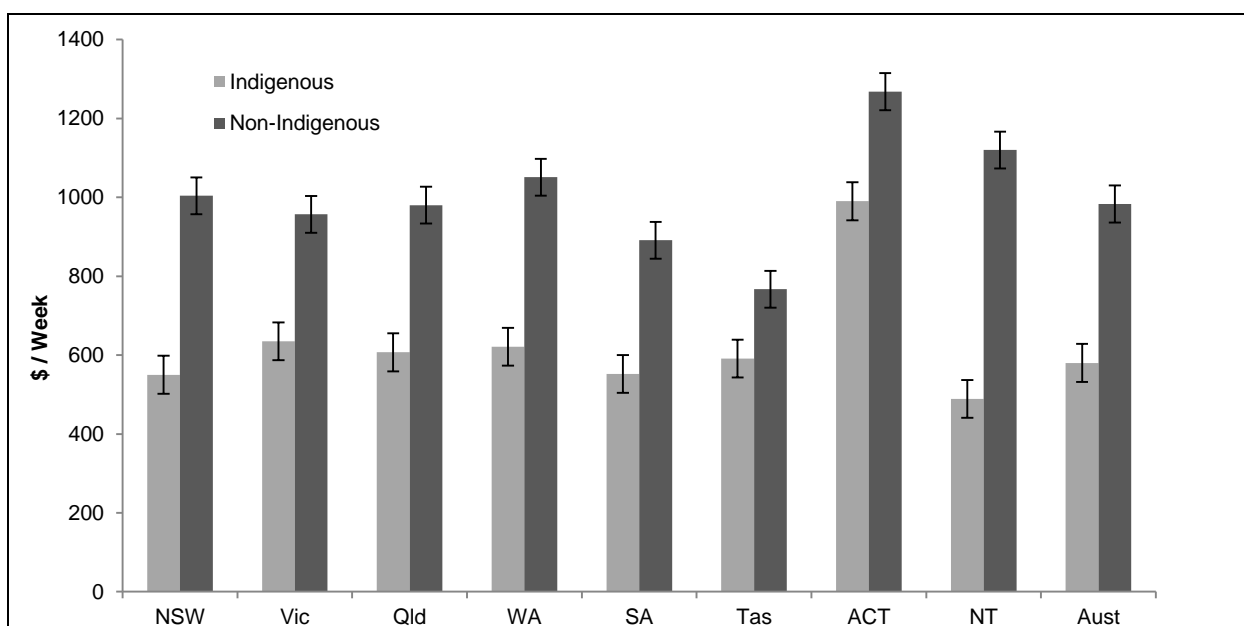
Data on the mean equivalised household income of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are available from the 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 SIH respectively.

- The 2008 NATSISS estimated that the mean equivalised gross household income was \$580 per week for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over compared with \$983 per week for non-Indigenous persons according to 2007–08 NHS estimate (Table 2.08.1).
- The mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons varied by state and territory, ranging from \$489 in the Northern Territory to \$990 in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.08.1; Figure 2.08.1).
- There has been a change in the mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons between 1994 and 2008. Nationally, the mean equivalised gross household income was \$445 in 1994, increasing to \$469 in 2002, and \$580 in 2008 (Table 2.08.2; Figure 2.08.2).
- The largest difference in the mean equivalised gross weekly household income of Indigenous Australians by remoteness was between *Major cities* (\$678) and *Very remote* areas (\$469) (Table 2.08.3; Figure 2.08.3).

Table 2.08.1: Mean equivalised gross household income (\$ per week), by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

State/territory	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
New South Wales	550	1,004
Victoria	635	957
Queensland	607	980
Western Australia	621	1,051
South Australia	552	891
Tasmania	591	767
Australian Capital Territory	990	1,268
Northern Territory	489	1,120
Australia	580	983

Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.



Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.

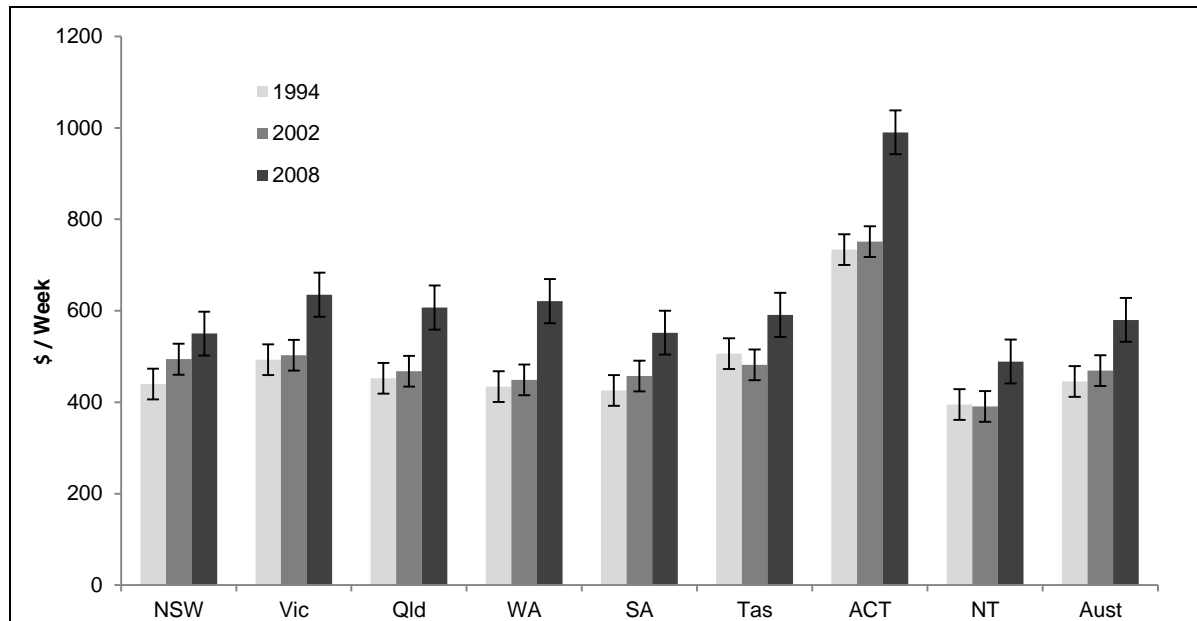
Figure 2.08.1: Mean equivalised gross household income (\$ per week), by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Table 2.08.2: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by state/territory, 1994, 2002 and 2008

State/territory	1994 ^(a)	2002 ^(a)	2008
New South Wales	440	494	550
Victoria	493	503	635
Queensland	452	468	607
Western Australia	434	449	621
South Australia	426	457	552
Tasmania	506	482	591
Australian Capital Territory	734	751	990
Northern Territory	395	391	489
Australia	445	469	580

(a) Data for 1994 and 2002 are CPI-adjusted.

Source: 1994 NATSIS, 2002 NATSISS and 2008 NATSISS.



Note: Data for 1994 and 2002 are CPI-adjusted.

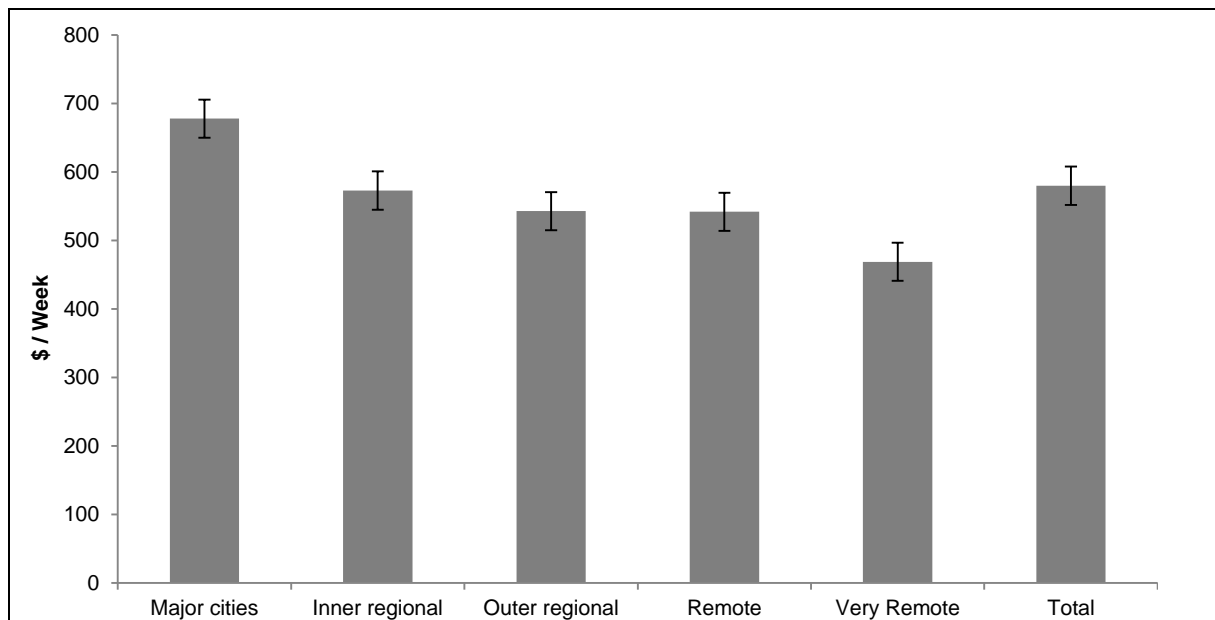
Source: 1994 NATSIS, 2002 NATSISS and 2008 NATSISS.

Figure 2.08.2: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by state/territory, 1994, 2002 and 2008

Table 2.08.3: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, 2008

Remoteness	\$ per week
Major cities	678
Inner regional	573
Outer regional	543
<i>Total non-remote</i>	<i>607</i>
Remote	542
Very remote	469
<i>Total remote</i>	<i>496</i>
Total	580

Source: NATSISS 2008.



Source: NATSISS 2008.

Figure 2.08.3: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by remoteness, 2008

Equivalised household income quintiles/percentiles

Data presented below on equivalised household income quintiles and percentiles come from the 2008 NATSISS.

- In 2008, of those who stated their household income, approximately 49% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 20% of non-Indigenous Australians. Only 4.9% of Indigenous Australians were in the highest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 22% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.4; Figure 2.08.4).

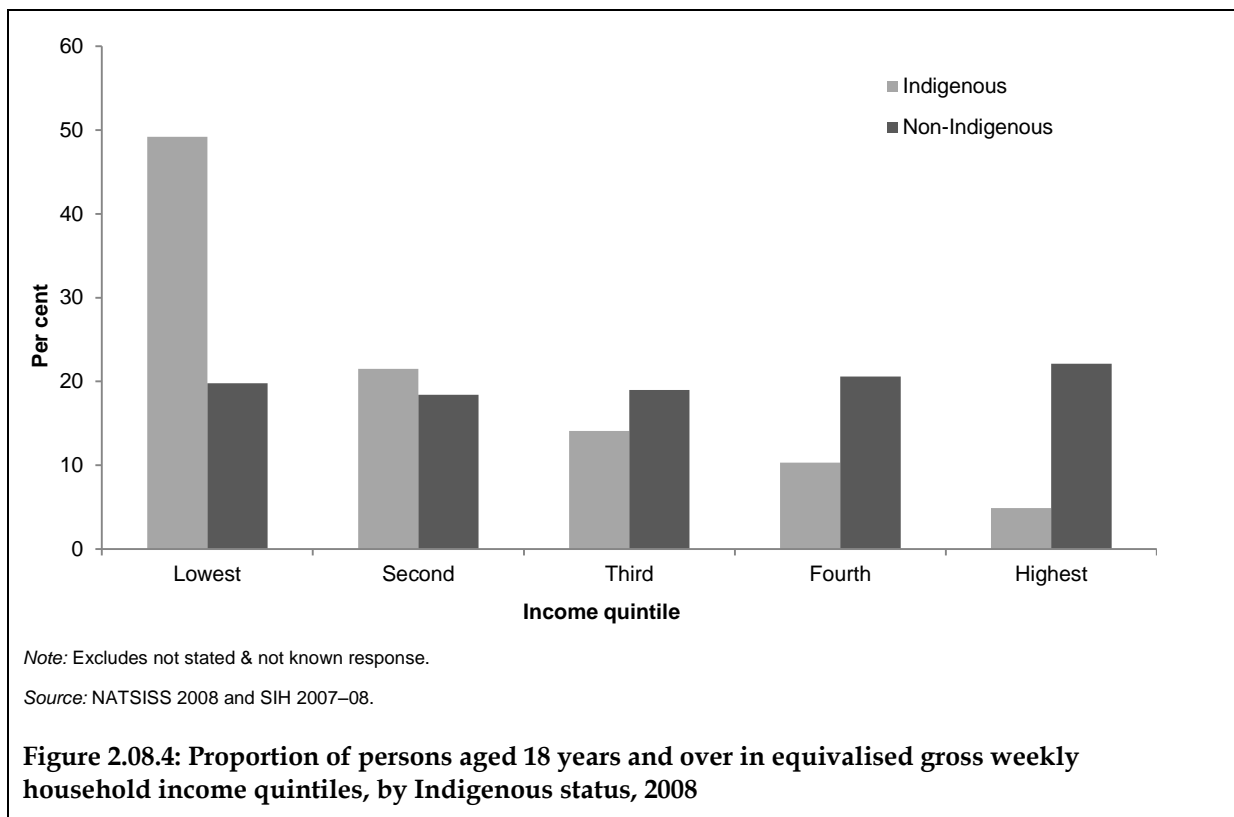
Table 2.08.4: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles, by Indigenous status, 2008

Quintiles	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Lowest	49.2*	19.8
Second	21.5*	18.4
Third	14.1*	19
Fourth	10.3*	20.6
Highest	4.9*	22.1
Total	100.0	100.0

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

Note: Excludes not stated & not known response.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.



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

- New South Wales had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income (44%) and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the highest income quintile (16%) (Table 2.08.5).
- The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over below the 20th percentile (57%) and 50th percentile (80%) of equivalised gross weekly household income (Table 2.08.6). Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest proportions, 39% and 64%, respectively.
- In 2008, 41% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over living in *Major cities* were in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 62% of Indigenous Australians in *Very remote* areas. Around 15% and 7.3% of Indigenous Australians in *Major cities* were in the fourth and highest quintiles of income respectively compared with 5.2% and 2.6% of Indigenous Australians in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.08.7).

Table 2.08.5: Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^{(a)(b)}, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	Income quintile	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Proportion (%) excluding not stated	Number	Proportion (%)
NSW	First	37,266	43.7	51.6	1,064,605	20.9
	Second	15,637	18.3	21.7 ^(d)	979,710	19.2 ^(d)
	Third	10,091	11.8	14.0 ^(d)	878,478	17.2 ^(d)
	Fourth	6,983	8.2	9.7	962,643	18.9
	Fifth	2,223 ^(c)	2.6 ^(c)	3.1 ^(c)	1,210,198	23.7
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>72,200</i>	<i>84.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>5,095,634</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	13,057	15.3			
	Total^(c)	85,257	100.0			
Vic	First	6,701	34.7	44.1	768,293	19.5
	Second	3,331	17.2	21.9 ^(d)	759,566	19.3 ^(d)
	Third	2,337	12.1	15.4 ^(d)	738,634	18.8 ^(d)
	Fourth	1,913	9.9	12.6	848,568	21.6
	Fifth	922	4.8	6.1	816,718	20.8
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>15,203</i>	<i>78.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>3,931,779</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	4,108	21.3			
	Total^(c)	19,312	100.0			
Qld	First	28,232	35.2	43.6	559,547	18.4
	Second	15,408	19.2	23.8	562,488	18.5
	Third	11,212	14.0	17.3	680,936	22.4
	Fourth	6,416	8.0	9.9	636,344	20.9
	Fifth	3,479 ^(c)	4.3 ^(c)	5.4 ^(c)	603,547	19.8
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>64,748</i>	<i>80.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>3,042,861</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	15,470	19.3			
	Total^(c)	80,218	100.0			
WA	First	15,413	39.6	52.0	258,349	16.9
	Second	4,770	12.3	16.1	229,523	15.0
	Third	3,524	9.1	11.9	287,620	18.8
	Fourth	3,241	8.3	10.9	360,547	23.6
	Fifth	2,665	6.8	9.0	391,503	25.6
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>29,614</i>	<i>76.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1,527,541</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	9,311	23.9			
	Total^(c)	38,925	100.0			

Table 2.08.5 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^{(a)(b)}, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	Income quintile	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Proportion (%) excluding not stated	Number	Proportion (%)
SA	First	6,720	41.7	50.0	292,869	24.7
	Second	3,175	19.7	23.6 ^(d)	209,542	17.7 ^(d)
	Third	1,557	9.7	11.6	238,560	20.1
	Fourth	1,669	10.4	12.4	232,380	19.6
	Fifth	328 ^(c)	2.0 ^(c)	2.4 ^(c)	212,685	17.9
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>13,450</i>	<i>83.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1,186,036</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	2,660	16.5			
	Total^(c)	16,111	100.0			
Tas	First	4,536	42.1	44.3	96,021	27.1
	Second	2,560	23.8	25.0 ^(d)	80,372	22.7 ^(d)
	Third	1,485	13.8	14.5 ^(d)	65,282	18.4 ^(d)
	Fourth	1,271	11.8	12.4	62,974	17.7
	Fifth	388 ^(c)	3.6 ^(c)	3.8 ^(c)	50,184	14.1
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>10,240</i>	<i>95.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>354,833</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	536	5.0			
	Total^(c)	10,777	100.0			
ACT	First	407	15.9	21.3	31,176	12.2
	Second	166 ^(c)	6.5 ^(c)	8.7 ^(c)	21,474	8.4
	Third	458 ^(c)	17.9 ^(c)	23.9 ^(c)	33,911	13.2
	Fourth	470	18.3	24.6	60,174	23.5
	Fifth	412	16.1	21.5	109,660	42.8
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>1,913</i>	<i>74.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>256,395</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	650	25.4			
	Total^(c)	2,564	100.0			
NT	First	14,488	38.4	60.2	9,019 ^(c)	9.0 ^(c)
	Second	4,749	12.6	19.7	8,706	8.7
	Third	2,079	5.5	8.6	22,361	22.2
	Fourth	1,916	5.1	8.0	30,227	30.1
	Fifth	846	2.2	3.5	30,190	30.0
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>24,077</i>	<i>63.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100,503</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	13,697	36.3			
	Total^(c)	37,774	100.0			

Table 2.08.5 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^{(a)(b)}, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	Income quintile	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous	
		Number	Proportion (%)	Proportion (%) excluding not stated	Number	Proportion (%)
Australia	First	113,763	39.1	49.2	3,079,878	19.9
	Second	49,795	17.1	21.5	2,851,380	18.4
	Third	32,744	11.3	14.1	2,945,781	19.0
	Fourth	23,880	8.2	10.3	3,193,857	20.6
	Fifth	11,265	3.9	4.9	3,424,685	22.1
	<i>Total stated</i>	<i>231,447</i>	<i>79.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>15,495,581</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	Not known/not stated	59,490	20.4			
	Total^(c)	290,937	100.0			

(a) Equivalised gross household income quintile boundaries for Indigenous persons are: first (0 to \$435); second (\$436 to \$686); third (\$687 to \$952); fourth (\$953 to \$1380); and fifth (\$1,381 or more).

(b) Equivalised gross household income quintile boundaries for non-Indigenous persons are: first (0 to \$423); second (\$424 to \$666); third (\$667 to \$925); fourth (\$926 to \$1,341); and fifth (\$1,342 or more).

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

(d) Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are NOT statistically significant for these categories.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.

Table 2.08.6: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were below the 20th and 50th percentiles of equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles, 2008

	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile
New South Wales	48.5	74.0
Victoria	41.6	66.8
Queensland	39.5	68.0
Western Australia	50.4	69.2
South Australia	47.3	72.9
Tasmania/Australian Capital Territory	38.8	64.4
Northern Territory	56.6	79.8
Australia	46.1	71.3

Note: Excludes those for whom income was unknown or not stated.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.08.7: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each gross weekly household income quintile^(a), by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	First quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile	Total income stated ^(b)	Total number
Indigenous							
Major Cities	40.5*	19.3	17.6	15.3*	7.3	100.0	71,867
Inner Regional	47.4*	25.3	13.7*	9.0*	4.6 ^(c)	100.0	50,362
Outer Regional	52.9*	20.7	13.8*	9.0*	3.6 ^(c)	100.0	53,071
<i>Total non-remote</i>	<i>46.2*</i>	<i>21.4*</i>	<i>15.3*</i>	<i>11.6*</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>175,299</i>
Remote	51.9*	22.6	13.0	8.4*	4.1	100.0	21,093
Very remote	62.1	21.3	8.9	5.2	2.6 ^(c)	100.0	35,055
<i>Total Remote</i>	<i>58.3</i>	<i>21.7</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>56,148</i>
Total	49.2	21.5	14.1	10.3	4.9	100.0	231,447
Non-Indigenous							
Major Cities	18.0*	17.2	18.3	21.2*	25.2*	100.0	10,691,261
Inner Regional	24.5*	22.0	20.5*	19.6*	13.3*	100.0	3,157,174
Outer Regional	22.9*	19.9	21.3*	18.1*	17.9*	100.0	1,489,098
<i>Total non-remote</i>	<i>19.8*</i>	<i>18.4*</i>	<i>19.0*</i>	<i>20.6*</i>	<i>22.1*</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>15,337,533</i>
Remote	22.9 ^(c)	14.3 ^(c)	16.4 ^(c)	20.9*	25.5*	100.0	158,048
Very remote
<i>Total Remote</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
Total	19.9*	18.4*	19.0*	20.6*	22.1*	100.0	15,495,581

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

(a) Gross weekly equivalised cash income of household quintile boundaries are: lowest quintile less than \$329.20; second quintile \$554.80–\$685.50; third quintile \$812.10–\$951.80; fourth quintile \$1,131.40–\$1,380.20; highest quintile \$1,784.80 or more for 2008 NATSISS.

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

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

Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.

Equivalised household income by summary health and population characteristics

- Indigenous Australians with fair/poor self-assessed health status were more likely to be in the lowest quintile of household income than those with excellent/very good health status (Table 2.08.8a).
- Indigenous Australians whose highest year of schooling completed was Year 12 or who had a non-school qualification were more likely to be in the fourth or fifth quintiles of household income than those who reported Year 9 or below as their highest year of schooling or did not have a non-school qualification (Table 2.08.8a).
- Indigenous Australians who were employed or homeowners were also more likely to be in the fourth or fifth quintiles of household income than those who were unemployed or renters (Table 2.08.8a).

Table 2.08.8a: Selected population characteristics by equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles^(a) for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and older, 2008

	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Fourth and fifth	Total
Self-assessed health status							
Excellent/very good	39.2	18.2	16.2	12.6	13.8	26.5	100.0
Good	58.1	17.8	11.4	7.4	5.3	12.7	100.0
Fair/poor	45.8	17.8	13.5	12.4	10.5	22.9	100.0
Financial stress							
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	64.4	17.8	10.2	5.7	2.0	7.7	100.0
Location							
Remote	54.9	19.9	10.8	7.6	6.7	14.4	100.0
Non-remote	43.2	17.3	15.1	12.5	11.8	24.3	100.0
Highest year of school completed							
Year 12	25.4	18.6	19.1	16.2	20.8	37.0	100.0
Year 11	44.6	17.3	14.7	12.9	10.6	23.4	100.0
Year 10	44.7	19.4	14.7	11.9	9.2	21.2	100.0
Year 9 or below	61.7	16.6	9.9	6.8	5.0	11.8	100.0
Whether has non-school qualification							
Has a non-school qualification	30.4	18.9	17.0	16.2	17.4	33.7	100.0
Does not have a non-school qualification	54.9	17.5	12.4	8.5	6.7	15.3	100.0
Employment							
Employed	20.5	20.6	21.5	18.8	18.6	37.4	100.0
Unemployed	74.1	14.7	6.7	3.6	0.9	4.5	100.0
Not in the labour force	75.9	15.0	5.2	2.3	1.6	3.9	100.0
Housing							
Owner	24.4	14.8	18.6	20.6	21.6	42.2	100.0
Renter	55.0	19.4	12.2	7.4	6.0	13.4	100.0
Stressors in last 12 months							
Serious illness or disability	46.5	22.2	13.3	11.3	6.8	18.1	100.0
Other stressors	48.1	17.7	14.4	11.0	8.7	19.7	100.0
<i>Total experienced stressors</i>	<i>43.0</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>25.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
No stressors	46.5	22.2	13.3	11.3	6.8	18.1	100.0
All persons aged 15+ years							
Total number aged 15+ yrs	106,607	41,601	32,581	26,125	24,533	50,658	231,447

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

Note: Excludes not known and not stated responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.08.8b: Equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles^(a), by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and older, 2008

	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	<i>Fourth and fifth</i>
Self-assessed health status						
Excellent/very good	35.2	42.0	47.7	46.4	54.1	50.2
Good	30.9	24.3	19.8	16.1	12.2	14.2
Fair/poor	33.8	33.7	32.5	37.5	33.6	35.6
Financial stress						
Unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important	70.3	50.3	35.3	24.2	9.0	16.8
Location						
Remote	28.9	26.9	18.6	16.4	15.4	15.9
Non-remote	71.1	73.1	81.4	83.6	84.6	84.1
Highest year of school completed						
Year 12	12.3	23.0	30.2	32.0	43.9	37.7
Year 11	13.2	13.1	14.1	15.5	13.5	14.5
Year 10	29.7	33.1	32.1	32.4	26.7	29.7
Year 9 or below	44.8	30.8	23.6	20.1	15.9	18.1
Whether has non-school qualification						
Has a non-school qualification	23.7	37.9	43.5	51.8	59.2	55.4
Does not have a non-school qualification	76.3	62.1	56.5	48.2	40.8	44.6
Employment						
Employed	23.9	61.4	81.8	89.4	93.8	91.5
Unemployed	15.7	8.0	4.6	3.1	0.8	2.0
Not in the labour force	60.4	30.6	13.6	7.5	5.4	6.5
Housing						
Owner	15.4	23.9	38.3	52.9	59.0	55.9
Renter	82.8	74.7	60.0	45.7	39.1	42.5
Stressors in last 12 months						
Serious illness or disability	13.8	16.9	12.9	13.6	8.8	11.3
<i>Total experienced stressors</i>	<i>62.4</i>	<i>58.8</i>	<i>61.2</i>	<i>58.1</i>	<i>49.2</i>	<i>53.8</i>
No stressors	37.6	41.2	38.8	41.9	50.8	46.2
All persons aged 18+ years						
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number aged 18+ yrs	106,607	41,601	32,581	26,125	24,533	50,658

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

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Individual income

As with the gross weekly equivalised household income, the individual income quintile boundaries are based on the total population as derived from the 2004-05 NHS and have been applied to both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

- In 2008, Indigenous people aged 18 years and over were more likely to be in the three lowest individual income quintiles, and the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people was statistically significant for all quintiles. Only 7.8% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were in the highest individual income quintile compared with 21% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.9; Figure 2.08.5).

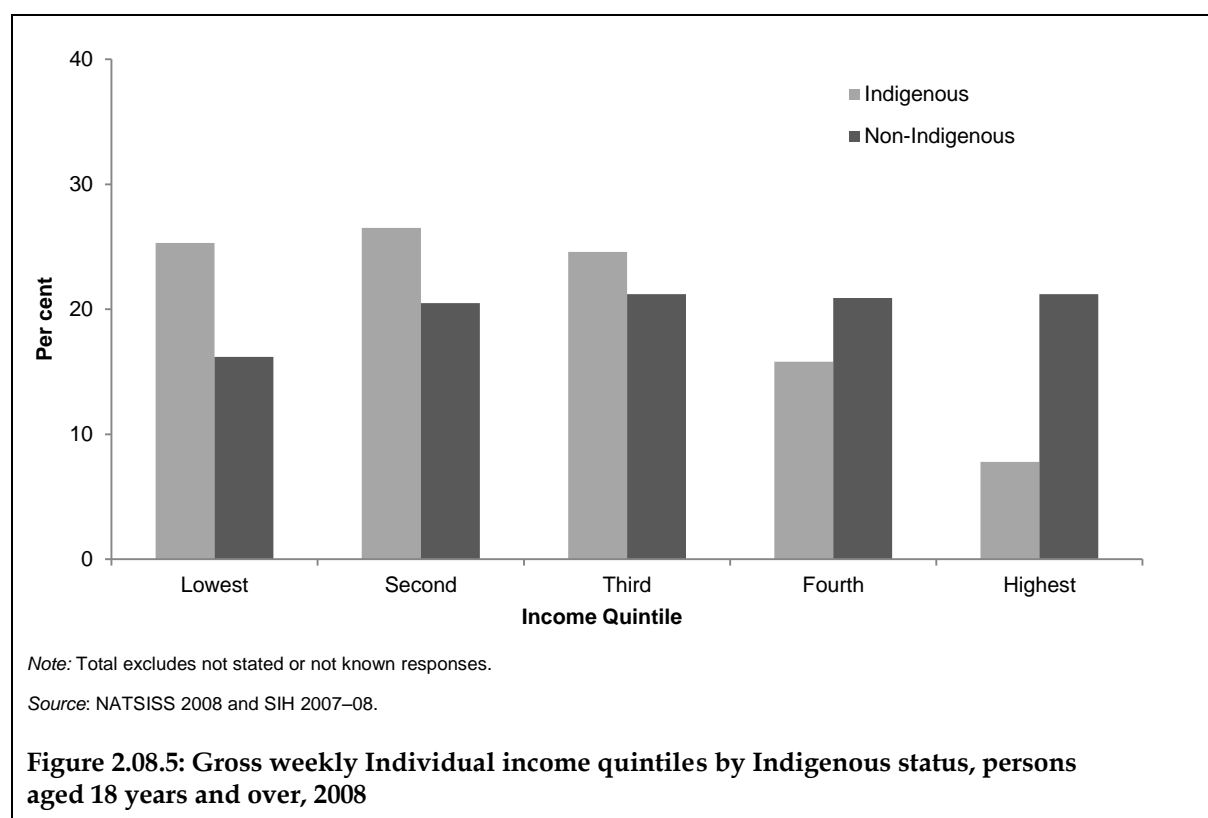
Table 2.08.9: Gross weekly Individual income quintiles by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Income quintile	Indigenous (per cent)	Non-Indigenous (per cent)
Lowest	25.3*	16.2
Second	26.5*	20.5
Third	24.6*	21.2
Fourth	15.8*	20.9
Highest	7.8*	21.2
Total^(a)	100.0	100.0
Total number ^(a)	275,781	15,495,581

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

(a) Total excludes not stated or not known responses.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.



Census data

Household income

Mean equivalised household income

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

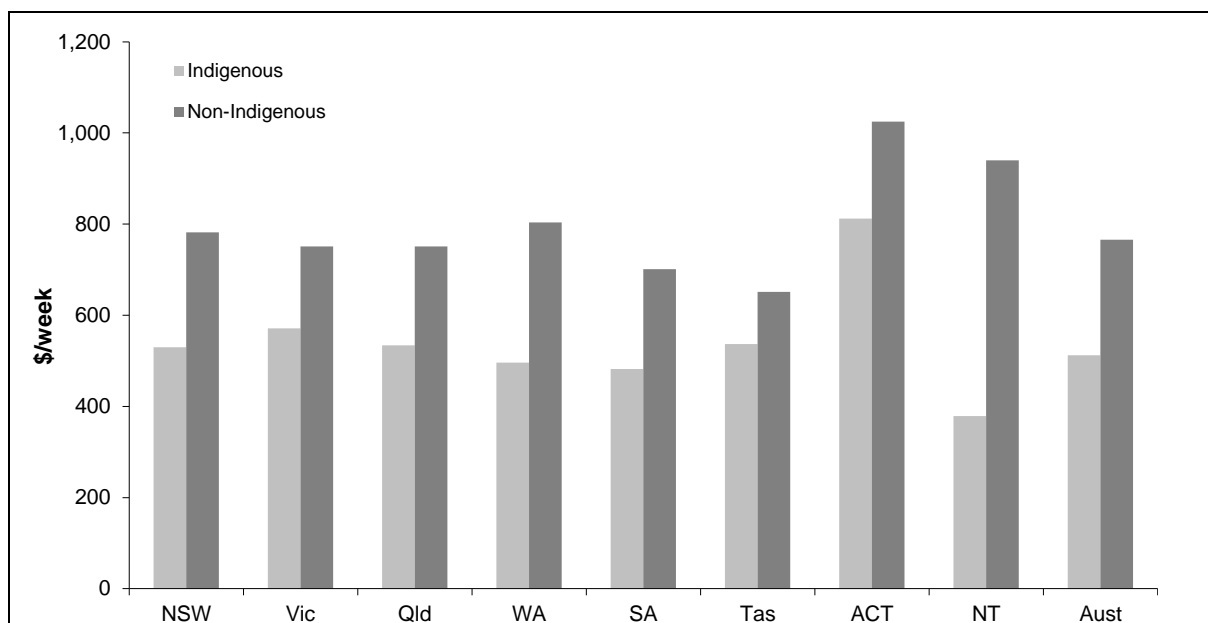
- The mean equivalised gross household income was \$512 per week for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over compared with \$766 per week for non-Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over (Table 2.08.10; Figure 2.08.6).
- The mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous males (\$537) was slightly higher than for Indigenous females (\$490) (ABS unpublished data).
- The mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons varied by state and territory, ranging from \$379 in the Northern Territory to \$812 in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.08.10; Figure 2.08.6).
- The mean equivalised gross household income of Indigenous Australians decreased with remoteness, from \$617 per week in *Major cities* to \$348 per week in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.08.11).

Table 2.08.10: Mean equivalised gross household income (\$ per week), by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over^(a), 2006

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



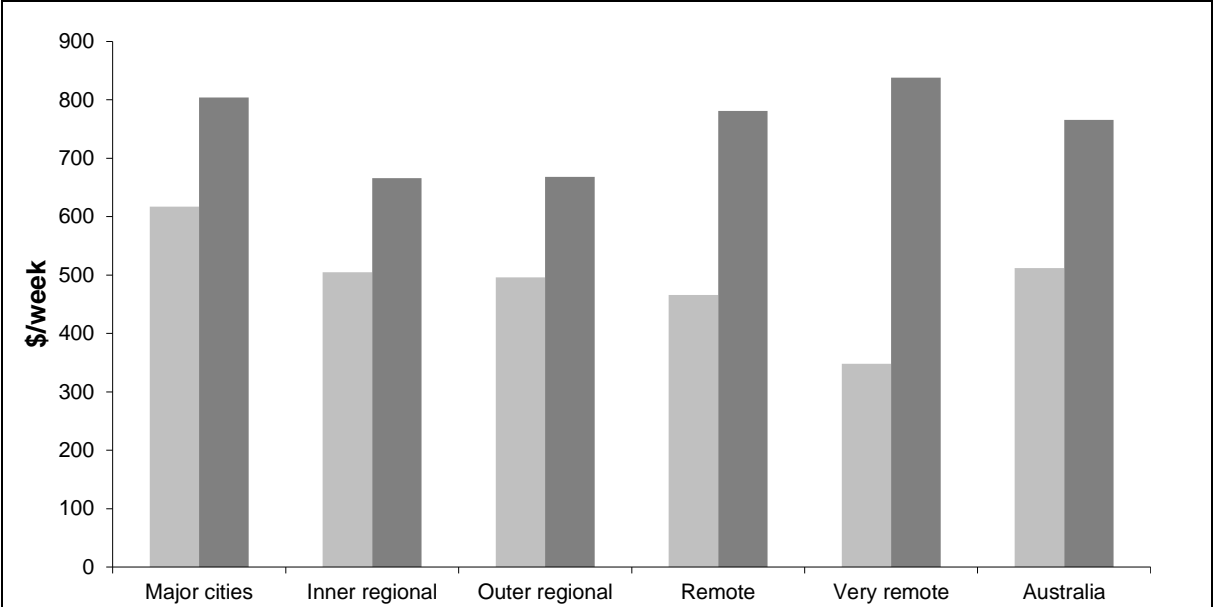
Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

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

Table 2.08.11: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

Remoteness area	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Major cities	\$617	\$804
Inner regional	\$505	\$666
Outer regional	\$496	\$668
Remote	\$466	\$781
Very remote	\$348	\$838
Australia	\$512	\$766

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

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

Time series

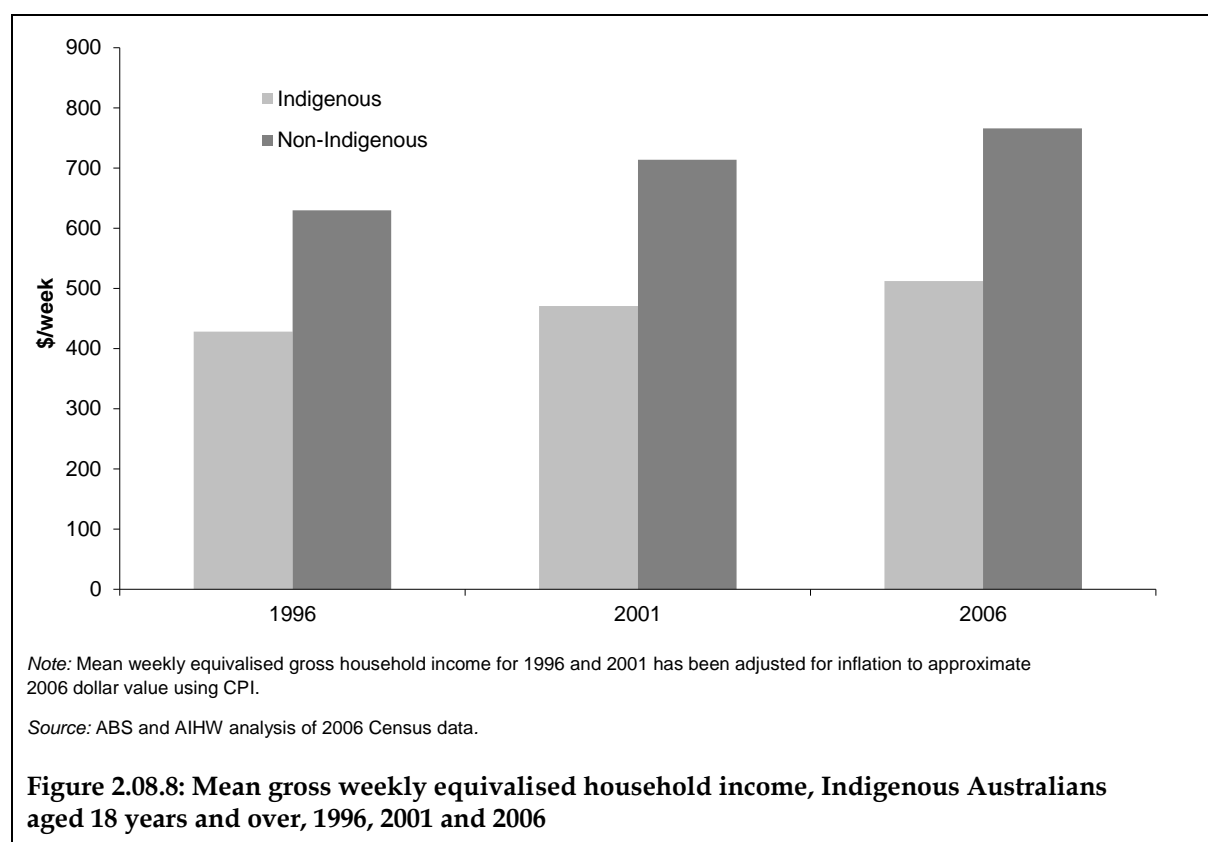
- There was an increase in the mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over between 1996 and 2001 (\$43; 10% increase) and between 2001 and 2006 (\$41; 8.7% increase) (Table 2.08.12; Figure 2.08.8).
- There was also an increase in the mean equivalised gross household income for non-Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over between 1996 and 2001 (\$84; 13% increase) and between 2001 and 2006 (\$52; 7.3% increase) (Table 2.08.12; Figure 2.08.8).

Table 2.08.12: Mean gross weekly equivalised household income, by Indigenous status, ages 18 years and over, 1996, 2001 and 2006

	1996	2001	2006
Indigenous	\$428	\$471	\$512
Non-Indigenous	\$630	\$714	\$766

Note: Mean weekly equivalised gross household income for 1996 and 2001 has been adjusted for inflation to approximate 2006 dollar value using CPI.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Equivalised household income quintiles/percentiles

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

- In 2006, of those who stated their household income, 40% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 20% of non-Indigenous Australians. Only 7.9% of Indigenous Australians were in the highest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 22% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.13; Figure 2.08.9).
- There was little difference in the proportion of Indigenous males and females in each equivalised household income quintile (Table 2.08.13).

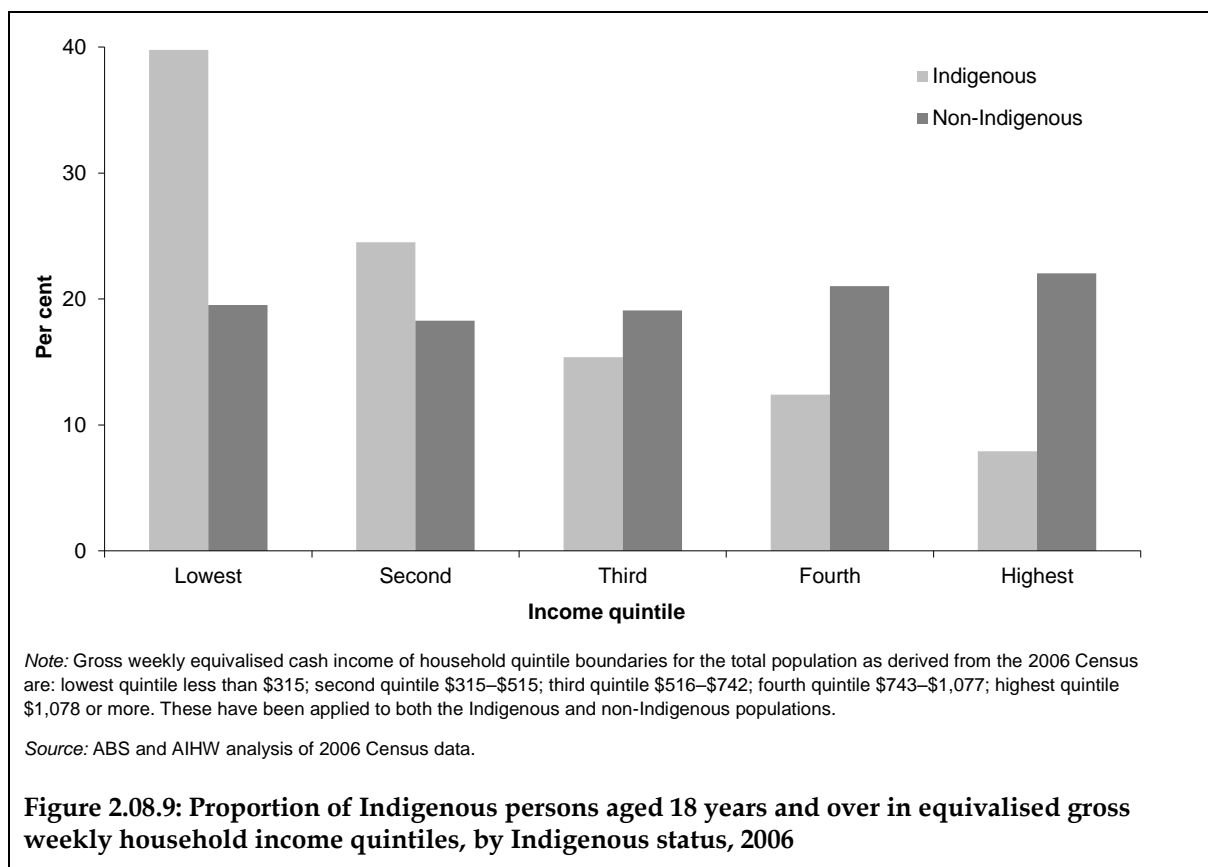
Table 2.08.13: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(a), by Indigenous status and sex, 2006

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

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Equivalised household income quintiles by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2006, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income (59%) and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the highest income quintile (29%) (Table 2.08.14).
- In every state and territory, a higher proportion Indigenous Australians were more likely to be in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income and less likely to be in the highest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income than non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.14).
- In 2006, approximately 40% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over were below the 20th percentile of equivalised gross weekly household income and 72% were below the 50th percentile of equivalised gross weekly household income (Table 2.08.15). The Northern Territory had the highest proportions of Indigenous Australians below the 20th and 50th percentiles (59% and 87%).
- There was little difference in the proportion of Indigenous persons age 18 years and over below the 20th and 50th percentiles of equivalised gross weekly household income in 1996, 2001 and 2006 (Table 2.08.15).
- In 2006, approximately 30% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over living in *Major cities* were in the lowest (1st) quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 60% of Indigenous Australians in *Very remote* areas. Around 18% and 13% of Indigenous Australians in *Major cities* were in the fourth and fifth quintiles of income respectively compared with 3.0% and 2.0% respectively of Indigenous Australians in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.08.16).

Table 2.08.14: Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over^(a) in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(b), by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

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

(continued)

Table 2.08.14 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over^(a) in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(b), by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

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

(continued)

Table 2.08.14 (continued): Number and proportion of persons aged 18 years and over^(a) in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^(b), by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

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

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

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.08.15: Percentage of Indigenous persons^(a) age 18 years and over who were below the 20th and 50th percentiles of equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles, 1996, 2001 and 2006

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.08.16: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile^{(a)(b)}, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2006

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

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

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Individual income

Individual income quintiles were unable to be constructed for the 2006 Census data because of the difficulty in grouping the data in even 20% groups owing to the proportions in each income range. Instead, a break down into income ranges is presented in Table 2.08.17 and Figure 2.08.10.

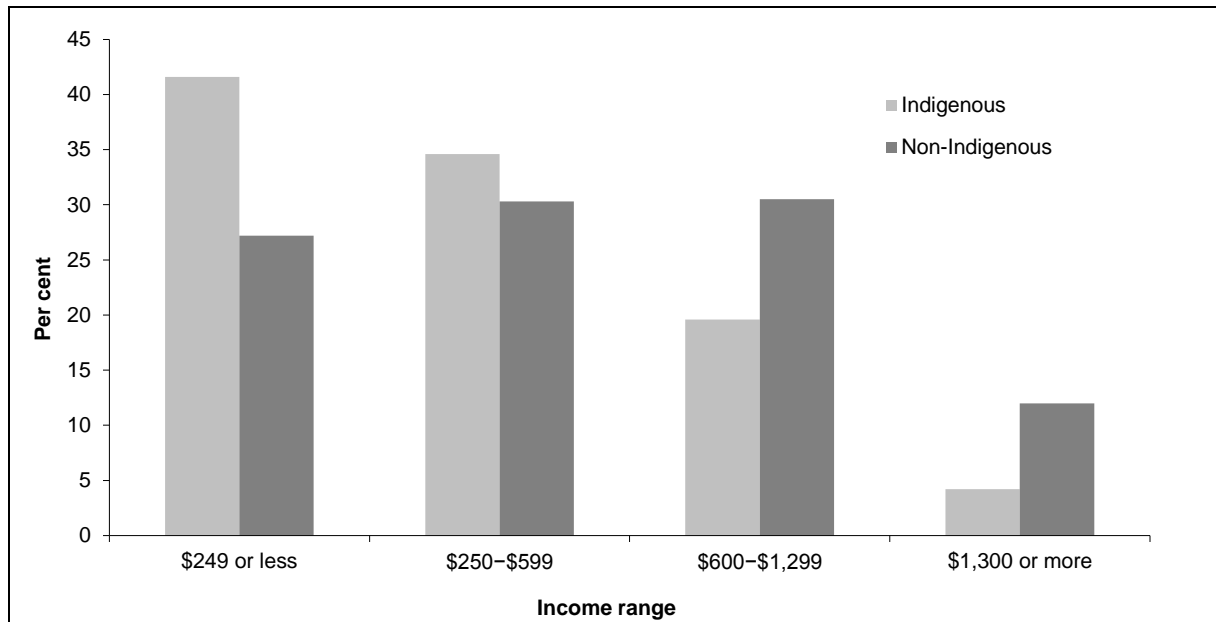
- In 2006 the median gross weekly individual income for Indigenous Australians was \$318 compared with \$504 for non-Indigenous Australians.
- In 2006, Indigenous people aged 18 years and over were more likely than non-Indigenous people of the same age to have a gross weekly individual income of \$249 or less (42% compared with 27%). Only 4.2% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over had a gross weekly individual income of \$1,300 or more compared with 12% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.17; Figure 2.08.10).

Table 2.08.17: Number and percentage gross weekly individual income, by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

Gross weekly income	Indigenous (per cent)	Non-Indigenous (per cent)
\$249 or less	41.6	27.2
\$250-\$599	34.6	30.3
\$600-\$1,299	19.6	30.5
\$1,300 or more	4.2	12.0

Note: The '\$249 or less' category includes those with negative or nil income.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Note: The '\$249 or less' category includes those with negative or nil income.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.08.10: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in gross weekly individual income ranges, by Indigenous status, 2006

Additional information

Financial stress

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on whether Indigenous households could raise \$2,000 in an emergency, and whether the household had days without money for basic living expenses in the 2 weeks before the survey and in the 12 months before the survey.

- In 2008, approximately 47% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were living in households which reported they could not raise \$2,000 within a week in a time of crisis. Indigenous people in remote areas were more likely to report that they could not raise \$2,000 within a week than Indigenous people in *Major cities* and *Regional* areas (64% compared with 40% and 43% respectively).
- Around one-quarter (28%) of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reported they had days without money for basic living expenses in the 12 months before the survey.
- Indigenous Australians who reported they were unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important or had days without money for basic living expenses in the 2 weeks or 12 months before the survey were more likely to be in the lowest quintile of household income than in the higher income quintiles.

Data quality issues

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 per cent 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 as the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may however be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

There was a relatively large level of undercoverage and caution should be exercised when interpreting the survey results. The under-identification of Indigenous persons in non-community areas is estimated to be up to 31% of those screened. This estimate is the remaining level of undercoverage when all other known sources of undercoverage have been removed. Part of this percentage is likely to be due to other factors which are unknown (ABS 2010)

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

Census of Population and Housing

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

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

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

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

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

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

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

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

Survey of Income and Housing (SIH)

Survey data are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Non-sampling errors can occur in surveys owing to questionnaire design problems, respondent difficulty recalling information/lack of appropriate records, and errors made in the recording and processing of the data. Every effort was made to minimise non-sample errors in this survey. However, the surveys had a sample loss and non-response of 1,781 dwellings, 16% of the selected sample and 2,026 households having at least one imputed value in income or child care expenses.

A further limitation of the survey's scope is that households in very remote areas were not covered by the survey. The survey does state that, due to the small population in these areas, it is likely this will have minimal impact.

List of symbols used in tables

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

References

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

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

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