

2.16 Transport

The use of transport, including walking, access to motor vehicles and perceived difficulty with transport among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Data sources

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

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).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The 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.

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.

Data analyses

Motor vehicle access

The Census collects details on the number of registered motor vehicles garaged at the household.

- In 2006, Indigenous households had a higher ratio of people aged 17 years and over to vehicles (1.59), compared to non-Indigenous households (1.19) (Table 1.16.1).
- From 2001 to 2006, the ratio of persons aged 17 years and over in a household to vehicles increased for Indigenous and non-Indigenous households.

Motor vehicle access by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2006, the ratio of persons to vehicles for Indigenous households was highest in the Northern Territory (3.5) and lowest in Tasmania (1.1).
- The ratio of persons of driving age to vehicles in Indigenous households was higher in *Very remote* areas (4.3) than in *Major cities* (1.4).
- The Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of Indigenous households with at least one vehicle (50%) and Tasmania had the highest (86%).
- Approximately 75% of Indigenous households in non-remote areas reported having at least one vehicle compared with 52% of Indigenous households in remote areas in 2006. In contrast, in non-Indigenous households, access to motor vehicles was similar in both non-remote and remote areas (87% and 90% respectively).
- Indigenous households in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas were most likely to report having no vehicle (Table 2.16.2, 2.16.3, Figure 2.16.1). In contrast, non-Indigenous households in Major Cities were most likely to report having no vehicle.
- Other households in *Remote* areas were most likely to have access to a vehicle (95%) while Indigenous households were most likely to have access to a vehicle when located in *Major cities*.

Table 2.16.1: Households with at least one vehicle, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

	Ratio of persons 17 years and over in occupied private dwellings to vehicle ^(a)			Proportion of households ^(b) with at least one vehicle		
	Indigenous ^(c)	Other ^(d)	Total	Indigenous ^(c)	Other ^(d)	Total
State/territory						
NSW ^(e)	1.55	1.29	1.29	71.8	84.8	84.5
Vic	1.35	1.18	1.18	75.3	87.4	87.3
Qld	1.56	1.14	1.15	74.5	89.2	88.7
WA	1.57	1.07	1.08	70.0	90.2	89.7
SA	1.55	1.15	1.15	71.5	87.4	87.2
Tas	1.13	1.10	1.10	85.7	87.7	87.6
ACT	1.19	1.16	1.16	82.9	90.7	90.6
NT	3.50	1.10	1.37	49.8	89.1	81.2
Australia ^(f)	1.59	1.19	1.19	71.9	87.2	86.9
Remoteness area						
Major Cities	1.43	1.25	1.25	75.4	86.2	86.0
Inner Regional	1.39	1.08	1.09	77.1	89.5	89.1
Outer Regional	1.49	1.03	1.05	73.0	89.9	89.0
<i>Total non-remote</i>	<i>1.43</i>	<i>1.19</i>	<i>1.19</i>	<i>75.3</i>	<i>87.2</i>	<i>87.0</i>
Remote	2.02	0.96	1.04	62.1	90.3	87.2
Very Remote	4.34	0.98	1.51	44.1	87.6	73.6
<i>Total remote</i>	<i>3.01</i>	<i>0.97</i>	<i>1.15</i>	<i>52.4</i>	<i>89.7</i>	<i>83.2</i>
Australia ^(f)	1.59	1.19	1.19	71.9	87.2	86.9
Total number of households	166,671	6,977,425	7,144,096	166,671	6,977,425	7,144,096

(a) Excludes motorbikes.

(b) Defined as all households (excluding visitor households), in an occupied private dwelling, being Australian usual residents.

(c) An Indigenous household is defined where a family within the household contains one or more persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin or where a lone person is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

(d) Includes households where Indigenous status was not stated.

(e) Includes Territory of Jervis Bay.

(f) Includes Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos Islands.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

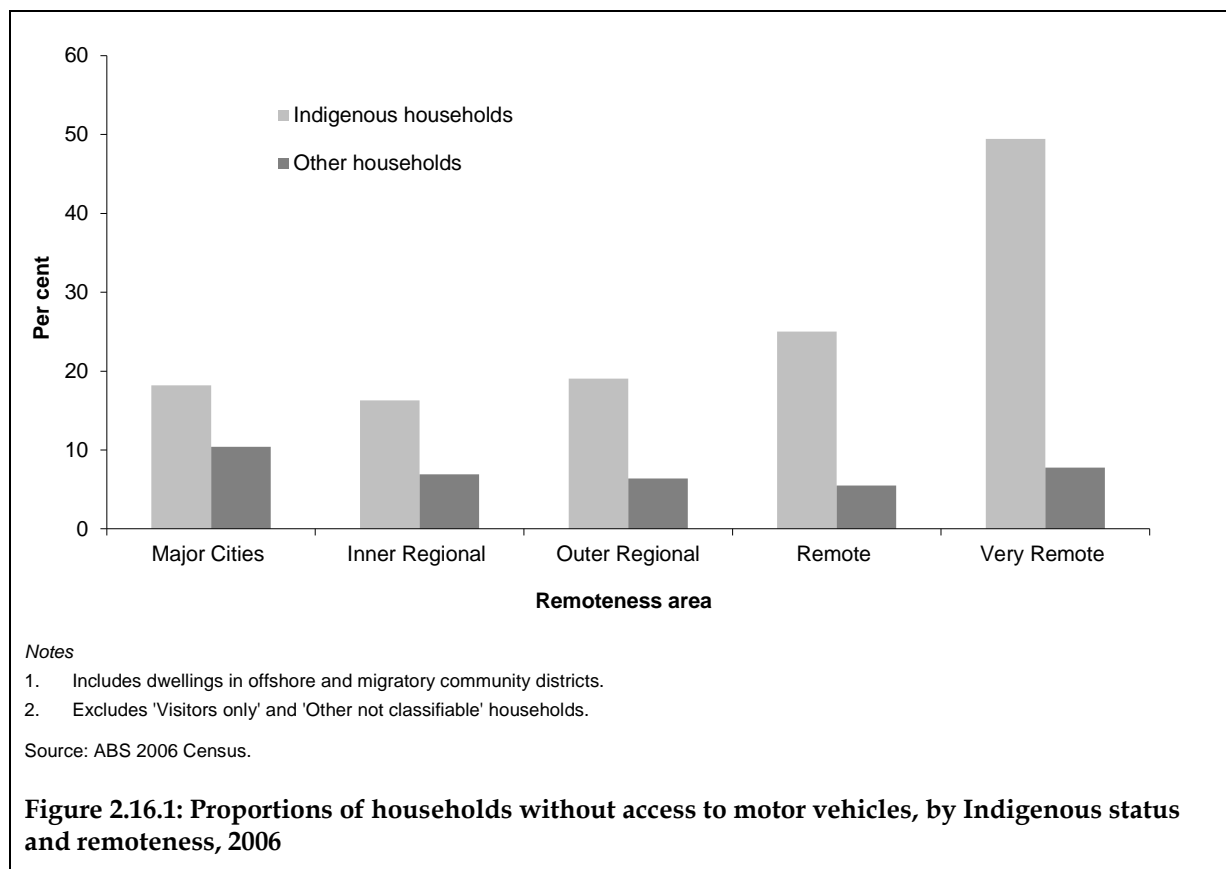


Table 2.16.2: Proportion of households without access to motor vehicles, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2006

	Indigenous households	Other households
Major cities	18.2	10.4
Inner regional	16.3	6.9
Outer regional	19.0	6.4
Remote	25.0	5.5
Very Remote	49.4	7.8

Notes

1. Includes dwellings in Offshore and Migratory Community Districts.
2. Excludes 'Visitors only' and 'Other not classifiable' households.

Source: ABS 2006 Census.

Table 2.16.3: Proportion of households without access to motor vehicles, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	Without motor vehicle access		With motor vehicle access		Total	
	Indigenous households	Other households	Indigenous households	Other households	Indigenous households	Other households
Major cities	51.5	17.6	48.5	82.4	100	100
Inner regional	46.5	10.7	53.5	89.3	100	100
Outer regional	51.7	9.8	48.3	90.2	100	100
<i>Total non-remote</i>	<i>50.2</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>49.8</i>	<i>84.7</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Remote	46.5	..	53.5	..	100	..
Very Remote	39.4	..	60.6	..	100	..
<i>Total remote</i>	<i>42.8</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>57.2</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>..</i>
Total	48.9	..	51.1	..	100	..

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Motor vehicle access over time

- Access to vehicles has decreased over time, with the ratio of persons to vehicles in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous households being higher in 2006 than in 2001 (Figure 2.16.2, Table 2.16.4). The difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates has also increased over the same period.

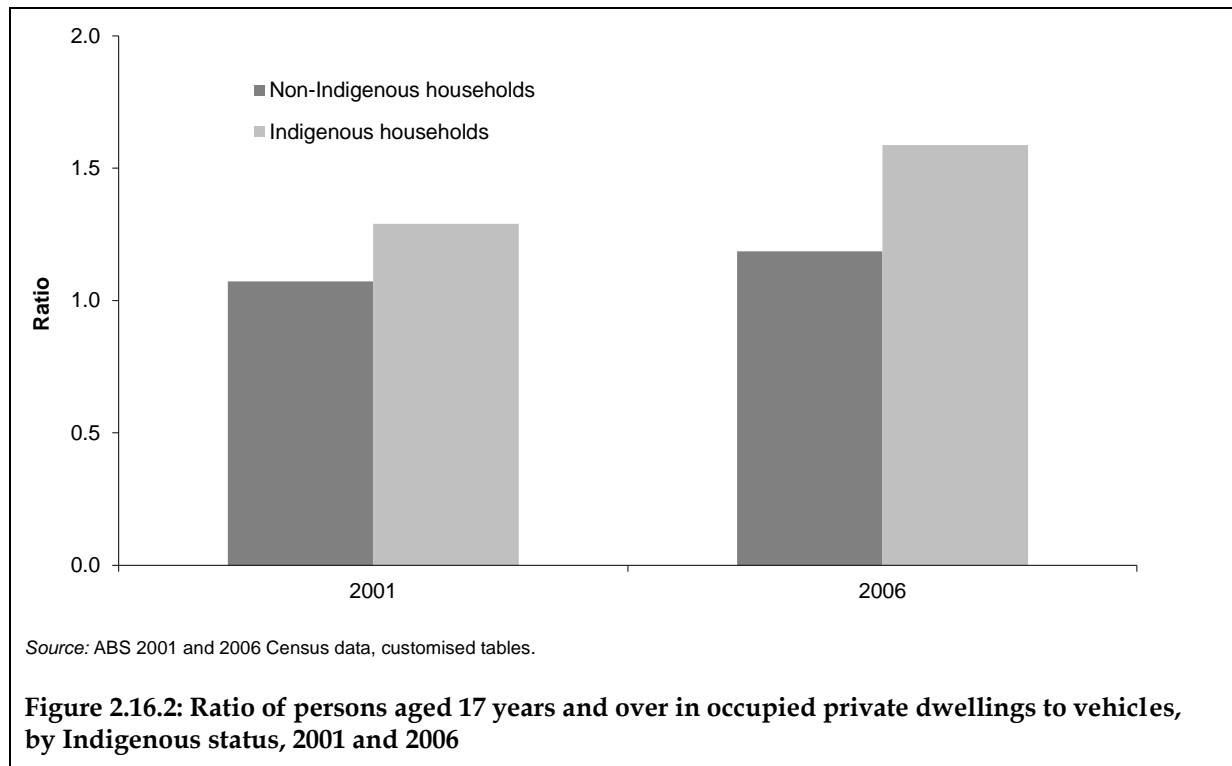


Table 2.16.4: Ratio of persons aged 17 years and over in occupied private dwellings to vehicles, by Indigenous status, 2001 and 2006

	Non-Indigenous households	Indigenous households
2001	1.07	1.29
2006	1.19	1.59

Source: ABS 2001 and 2006 Census data, customised tables.

Transport access by age

- In 2008, around 78% of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over had access to a motor vehicle to drive compared with 86% of non-Indigenous people (Table 2.16.5).
- Indigenous people aged 18-24 years and were least likely to have access to a motor vehicle (70%) out of all age groups, followed by Indigenous people 55 years and over (73%) (Table 2.16.5).

Table 2.16.5: Access to motor vehicles for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and age, 2008

Age group		Access to motor vehicle		Total number of persons
		Proportion	Number	
18-24	Indigenous	70.1*	47,349	67,616
	Non-Indigenous	78.1*	1,506,641	1,928,228
	Ratio	0.9	..	..
25-34	Indigenous	79.7*	55,575	69,931
	Non-Indigenous	89.0*	2,480,039	2,786,493
	Ratio	0.9	..	..
35-44	Indigenous	84.7*	53,958	63,851
	Non-Indigenous	92.7*	2,740,810	2,955,214
	Ratio	1.0	..	..
45-54	Indigenous	82.6*	38,404	46,912
	Non-Indigenous	91.6*	2,542,392	2,775,686
	Ratio	0.9	..	..
55 years and over	Indigenous	73.3*	30,839	42,627
	Non-Indigenous	81.1*	3,848,043	4,747,324
	Ratio	0.9	..	..
Total	Indigenous	78.1*	226,125	290,937
	Non-Indigenous	86.3*	13,117,925	15,192,945
	Ratio	0.9	..	..

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Transport access, difficulty and use

The 2008 NATSISS collected data on access to motor vehicles, perceived level of difficulty with transport, use of transport (including public transport) in the 2 weeks before the survey, modes of transport, and reasons for not using public transport. These data are presented below.

- In 2008, around 78% of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over had access to a motor vehicle to drive compared with 86% of non-Indigenous people (Table 2.16.6a).
- Around 11% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported that they could not get to or often had difficulty getting to the places they needed to, compared with only 4% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.16.6b).
- Approximately 26% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over used public transport in the previous 2 weeks and a further 72% used other forms of transport (Table 2.16.6d).
- Of those who used transport in the previous 2 weeks, the most common mode of transport was a car or 4WD as a passenger (63%), followed by a car/4WD as a driver (55%) and walking (55%) (Table 2.16.6e).
- The main reasons given for not using public transport in the previous 2 weeks were 'prefer to use own transport or walk' (32%) and 'no service available in local area' (32%) (Table 2.16.6c).

Transport difficulty and use by age

- Indigenous Australians aged 18–24 years were more likely to have used public transport in the previous 2 weeks (32%) than those in older age groups (Table 2.16.6d).

Table 2.16.6a: Transport, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

		Can access and/or drive a motor vehicle									
		Can access whenever needed	Can access only in emergency	Total with access to motor vehicle	Cannot access but can drive	Total can access and/or drive	Holds a current drivers licence	Does not hold a current drivers licence	Only holds L-plate licence	Cannot access and cannot drive	Total ^{(a)(b)}
18–24 years	Indig.	58.3	11.8	70.0*	9.3	79.3	45.8	22.7	10.8	20.6	100.0
	Non-Indig.	..	..	78.1*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25–34 years	Indig.	72.2	7.3	79.5*	7.9	87.4	62.5	21.7	3.1	12.4	100.0
	Non-Indig.	..	..	89.0*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35–44 years	Indig.	80.1	4.4	84.5*	5.9	90.4	74.5	14.6	1.3 ^(c)	9.3	100.0
	Non-Indig.	..	..	92.7*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45–54 years	Indig.	78.8	3	81.9*	5.9	87.8	75.5	10.7	1.6 ^(d)	11.4	100.0
	Non-Indig.	..	..	91.6*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.16.6a (continued): Transport, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

		Can access and/or drive a motor vehicle									
		Can access whenever needed	Can access only in emergency	Total with access to motor vehicle	Cannot access but can drive	Total can access and/or drive	Holds a current drivers licence	Does not hold a current drivers licence	Only holds L-plate licence	Cannot access and cannot drive	Total ^{(a)(b)}
55 years +	Indig.	68.3	4.1	72.4*	9.0	81.4	61.9	18.9	0.5 ^(c)	17.4	100.0
	Non-Indig.	..	..	81.1*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	Indig.	71.2	6.5	77.7*	7.6	85.3	63.3	18.2	3.9	14.2	100.0
	Non-Indig.	..	..	86.3*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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

(a) Includes persons who did not state whether they have access to a motor vehicle.

(b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

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

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.6b: Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

		Perceived level of difficulty with transport			Total ^(a)
		Can easily get to the places needed	Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed	Cannot or often have difficulty getting to the places needed	
18–24 years	Indig.	67.9*	19.6	12.5*	100
	Non-Indig.	77.3*	18.6	4.0*	100
	Ratio	0.9	1.1	3.1	..
25–34 years	Indig.	73.3*	14.7	11.7*	100
	Non-Indig.	84.3*	12.3	3.4*	100
	Ratio	0.9	1.2	3.5	..
35–44 years	Indig.	76.8*	12.5*	10.4*	100
	Non-Indig.	88.9*	8.7*	2.4*	100
	Ratio	0.9	1.4	4.3	..
45–54 years	Indig.	79.3*	11.2	8.7*	100
	Non-Indig.	86.4*	9.1	4.5*	100
	Ratio	0.9	1.2	1.9	..
55 years +	Indig.	77.7*	11.1	9.9*	100
	Non-Indig.	82.8*	11.2	5.7*	100
	Ratio	0.9	1	1.8	..
Total	Indig.	74.4*	14.3*	10.8*	100
	Non-Indig.	84.2*	11.5*	4.2*	100
	Ratio	0.9	1.2	2.6	..

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

(a) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.6c: Use of public, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	Where public transport is available in local area main reason did not use public transport					Total with access to public transport	No public transport available in local area	Not known	Total ^(b)
	Prefer to use own transport or walk	No service available at right/convenient time	No services available for destination/takes too long	Other reasons ^(a)					
18–24 years	27.1	3.5	1.2 ^(c)	4.2	36.0	32.1	0.7 ^(c)	68.8	
25–34 years	35.6	3.2	2.5 ^(c)	4.2	45.5	29.4	0.8 ^(c)	75.8	
35–44 years	35.0	2.8	2.3 ^(c)	2.7	42.8	32.3	0.7 ^(d)	75.8	
45–54 years	36.1	3.5	2.1 ^(c)	3.0 ^(c)	44.7	30.7	0.9 ^(d)	76.2	
55 years +	27.8	2.9	2.5 ^(c)	6.6	39.8	34.2	0.5 ^(c)	74.5	
Total	32.4	3.2	2.1	4.0	41.7	31.6	0.7	74.0	

(a) Comprises cost, health reasons, being treated badly/discrimination, concerns about personal safety and other reasons n.f.d.

(b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

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

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.6d: Use of transport in last 2 weeks, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	Use of transport in last 2 weeks					
	Used transport, but not public transport, in last 2 weeks	Walking only form of transport in last 2 weeks	Did not use public transport ^(a)	Used public transport in last 2 weeks	Total not housebound in last 2 weeks ^(b)	Total ^(c)
18–24 years	66.4	2.4	68.8	31.1	99.9	100.0
25–34 years	72.9	2.8	75.8	24.0	99.7	100.0
35–44 years	72.8	2.9	75.8	23.9	99.7	100.0
45–54 years	74.2	2.0 ^(d)	76.2	22.9	99.2	100.0
55 years +	72.6	1.9	74.5	24.3	99.8	100.0
Total	71.5	2.5	74.0	25.5	99.5	100.0

(a) Comprises persons who used transport, but not public transport, and those persons for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

(b) Comprises persons who used transport and those for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

(c) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.6e: Modes of transport, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	Modes of transport									Total ^(b)
	Bus	Tram/light rail	Taxi	Car / 4WD / Truck - as driver	Motorcycle / Motorised scooter	Car / 4WD / Truck - as passenger	Bicycle	Walk	Other ^(a)	
18–24 years	28.3	16.4	24.7	43.2	2.1	71.3	9.2	65.7	6.1	100.0
25–34 years	20.0	10.2	20.6	56.8	2.7 ^(c)	61.9	7.0	58.6	7.8	100.0
35–44 years	19.9	9.8	17.9	63.5	2.2 ^(c)	61.2	7.0	52.8	7.0	100.0
45–54 years	19.6	9.2	16.3	62.9	1.9 ^(c)	58.6	4.2	46.9	6.9	100.0
55 years +	20.8	7.1	14.5	46.2	1.0 ^(d)	60.1	1.5 ^(c)	41.1	6.5	100.0
Total	21.9	10.9	19.4	54.5	2.1	63.2	6.3	54.5	6.9	100.0

(a) Comprises boats/ferries, regular/chartered aircraft and other modes nfd.

(b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

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

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Transport access, difficulty and use by sex

- A higher proportion of Indigenous males than Indigenous females reported having access to a motor vehicle (81% compared with 75%) (Table 2.16.7).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous females reported using public transport in the previous 2 weeks than Indigenous males (23% compared with 28%) (Table 2.16.7).

Table 2.16.7: Transport, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and older, 2008

	Males			Females			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Can access and/or drive a motor vehicle									
Can access whenever needed	73.6	..	..	69.0	..	..	71.2	..	..
Can access only in emergency	7.2	..	..	5.9	..	..	6.5	..	..
<i>Total with access to motor vehicle</i>	<i>80.8**</i>	<i>90.4**</i>	<i>0.9*</i>	<i>75.0**</i>	<i>82.4**</i>	<i>0.9*</i>	<i>77.7</i>	<i>86.3</i>	<i>0.9*</i>
Cannot access but can drive	8.2	..	..	7.1	..	..	7.6	..	..
<i>Total can access and/or drive</i>	<i>89.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>82.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>85.3</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
Holds a current drivers licence	66.6	..	..	60.3	..	..	63.3	..	..
Does not hold a current drivers licence	19.7	..	..	16.7	..	..	18.2	..	..
Only holds L-plate licence	2.7	..	..	5.0	..	..	3.9	..	..
Cannot access and cannot drive	10.6	..	..	17.4	..	..	14.2	..	..
Total^{(a)(b)}	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..
Perceived level of difficulty with transport									
Can easily get to the places needed	76.9**	85.3	0.9*	72.2**	83.2	0.9*	74.4	84.2	0.9*
Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed	13.17	11.18	1.2	15.3	11.7	1.3*	14.3	11.5	1.2*
Cannot or often have difficulty getting to the places needed	9.6**	3.5**	2.7*	12.0**	4.9**	2.5*	10.8	4.2	2.6*
Total^(b)	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0

(continued)

Table 2.16.7 (continued): Transport, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and older, 2008

	Males			Females			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Use of transport in last 2 weeks									
Used transport, but not public transport, in last 2 weeks	73.7	..	..	69.6	..	..	71.5	..	..
Walking only form of transport in last 2 weeks	2.6	..	..	2.4	..	..	2.5	..	..
<i>Did not use public transport^(c)</i>	76.3	..	..	72.0	..	..	74.0	..	..
Public transport is available in local area									
Main reason did not use public transport									
Prefer to use own transport or walk	33.3	..	..	31.6	..	..	32.4	..	..
No service available at right/ convenient time	2.8	..	..	3.5	..	..	3.2	..	..
No services available for destination	1.0	..	..	1.1 ^(d)	..	..	1.1	..	..
Takes too long	1.1 ^(d)	..	..	1.0 ^(d)	..	..	1.0	..	..
Costs too much	0.8 ^(d)	..	..	0.9 ^(d)	..	..	0.9	..	..
Health reasons	1.0 ^(d)	..	..	1.1	..	..	1.1	..	..
Other reasons ^(e)	2.3	..	..	2.0	..	..	2.1	..	..
<i>Total with access to public transport</i>	42.4	..	..	41.2	..	..	41.7	..	..
No public transport available in local area	33.5	..	..	29.9	..	..	31.6	..	..
Not known	0.4 ^(d)	..	..	1.0 ^(d)	..	..	0.7	..	..
<i>Total^(b)</i>	76.3	..	..	72.0	..	..	74.0	..	..
Used public transport in last 2 weeks	23.3	..	..	27.5	..	..	25.5	..	..
<i>Total not housebound in last 2 weeks^(f)</i>	99.6	..	..	99.5	..	..	99.5	..	..
Total^(b)	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	

(continued)

Table 2.16.7 (continued): Transport, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and older, 2008

	Males			Females			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Modes of transport									
Bus	19.4	..	..	24.2	..	..	21.9	..	..
Tram/light rail	10.7	..	..	11.1	..	..	10.9	..	..
Taxi	18.2	..	..	20.4	..	..	19.4	..	..
Car / 4WD / Truck - as driver	57.6	..	..	51.8	..	..	54.5	..	..
Motorcycle / Motorised scooter	3.8	..	..	0.5(d)	..	..	2.1	..	..
Car / 4WD / Truck / as passenger	61.6	..	..	64.5	..	..	63.2	..	..
Bicycle	9.3	..	..	3.5	..	..	6.3	..	..
Walk	54.1	..	..	54.9	..	..	54.5	..	..
Other ^(g)	8.7	..	..	5.3	..	..	6.9	..	..
Total^(b)	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.

** Difference between male and female rates is statistically significant.

(a) Includes persons who did not state whether they have access to a motor vehicle.

(b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

(c) Comprises persons who used transport, but not public transport, and those persons for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

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

(e) Comprises treated badly/discrimination, concerns about personal safety and other reasons nfd.

(f) Comprises persons who used transport and those for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

(g) Comprises boats/ferries, regular/chartered aircraft and other modes nfd.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Transport access, difficulty and use by state/territory

- Indigenous Australians in every state and territory were much more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report having difficulty getting to the places they needed to. Indigenous Australians living in the Northern Territory were five times as likely, and in Western Australia were three times as likely, to have had difficulty getting to the places needed compared to non-Indigenous Australians in these states and territories (Table 2.16.8a-e).
- In all states and territories, except for Tasmania, Indigenous Australians were less likely to have access to motor vehicles (Table 2.16.8a-e).
- Indigenous Australians in Tasmania were least likely to have used public transport in the 2 weeks before the survey compared to those in other states and territories (Table 2.16.8a-e).
- In all states and territories Indigenous Australians described the main reason they did not use public transport was because they prefer to use their own transport or walk. This ranged from 48% in the Australian Capital Territory to 23% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.16.8a-e).

Table 2.16.8a: Transport, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

		Can access and/or drive a motor vehicle									
		Can access whenever needed	Can access only in emergency	Total with access to motor vehicle	Cannot access but can drive	Total can access and/or drive	Holds a current drivers licence	Does not hold a current drivers licence	Only holds L-plate licence	Cannot access and cannot drive	Total ^{(a)(b)}
NSW	Indig.	70.5	5.2	75.7	8.2	84.0	64.7	15.5	3.7	15.6	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	82.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vic	Indig.	77.9	5.3	83.2	6.9	90.1	74.0	11.9	4.2	9.9	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	88.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Qld	Indig.	73.3	6.6	79.9	5.4	85.2	68.0	12.1	5.1	14.5	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	88.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
WA	Indig.	73.3	6.7	80.0	9.4	89.4	57.9	28.2	3.3 ^(c)	10.4	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	91.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SA	Indig.	72.8	6.8	79.6	7.3	86.8	62.9	20.4	3.6	12.5	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	86.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tas	Indig.	83.9	5.0	88.9	3.6 ^(c)	92.5	76.7	11.4	4.4	7.4	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	86.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	1.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.16.8a (continued): Transport, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

		Can access and/or drive a motor vehicle									
		Can access whenever needed	Can access only in emergency	Total with access to motor vehicle	Cannot access but can drive	Total can access and/or drive	Holds a current drivers licence	Does not hold a current drivers licence	Only holds L-plate licence	Cannot access and cannot drive	Total ^{(a)(b)}
ACT	Indig.	83	3.0 ^(c)	86.0	2.9 ^(c)	88.8	78.8	5.5 ^(c)	4.6 ^(c)	11.2	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	91.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
NT	Indig.	57.6	10.4	68.0	11.1	79.1	45.4	31.9	1.9 ^(c)	19.4	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	89.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.8*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	Indig.	71.2	6.5	77.7	7.6	85.3	63.3	18.2	3.9	14.2	100
	Non-Indig.	..	..	86.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ratio	..	..	0.9*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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

(a) Includes persons who did not state whether they have access to a motor vehicle.

(b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.8b: Transport, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

		Perceived level of difficulty with transport			Total ^(a)
		Can easily get to the places needed	Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed	Cannot or often have difficulty getting to the places needed	
NSW	Indigenous	73.3	15.1	11.2	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	80.0	14.5	5.4	100.0
	Ratio	0.9*	1.0*	2.1*	..
Vic	Indigenous	74.8	16.5	8.7	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	85.5	11.0	3.4	100.0
	Ratio	0.9*	1.5*	2.6*	..
Qld	Indigenous	79.5	11.3	8.9	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	85.9	9.8	4.1	100.0
	Ratio	0.9*	1.1	2.2*	..
WA	Indigenous	72.8	16.9	10.2	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	87.9	8.8	3.3	100.0
	Ratio	0.8*	1.9*	3.1*	..
SA	Indigenous	71.3	19.9	8.3	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	87.0	9.2	3.8	100.0
	Ratio	0.8*	2.2*	2.2*	..
Tas	Indigenous	78.7	13.9	7.3	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	88.3	9.0	2.5	100.0
	Ratio	0.9*	1.5*	2.9*	..
ACT	Indigenous	83.5	12.0	4.7 ^(b)	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	90.4	7.4	2.2	100.0
	Ratio	0.9*	1.6	2.2	..
NT	Indigenous	67.3	12.8	18.4	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	85.7	10.3	3.9	100.0
	Ratio	0.8*	1.2	4.8*	..
Australia	Indigenous	74.4	14.3	10.8	100.0
	Non-Indigenous	84.2	11.5	4.2	100.0
	Ratio	0.9*	1.2*	2.6*	..

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

(a) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.8c: Transport, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	Where public transport is available in local area main reason did not use public transport					Total with access to public transport	No public transport available in local area	Not known	Total ^(b)
	Prefer to use own transport or walk	No service available at right/convenient time	No services available for destination/takes too long	Other reasons ^(a)					
NSW	42.0	5.4 ^(c)	1.8 ^(c)	5.5	54.6	16.2	0.8 ^(c)	71.6	
Vic	42.6	3.0	2.9	6.7	55.1	7.8	0.8	63.7	
Qld	26.7	2.4 ^(c)	2.9 ^(c)	2.4 ^(c)	34.4	40.4	0.7	75.5	
WA	28.3	1.0 ^(c)	2.4 ^(c)	2.8	34.5	40.0	0.6	75.1	
SA	29.6	1.0 ^(c)	1.9 ^(c)	5.3	37.8	26.5	0.0	64.3	
Tas	28.9	10.4	1.3 ^(c)	5.4	46.1	36.6	2.0	84.6	
ACT	47.7	8.9 ^(c)	5.4 ^(c)	5.0 ^(c)	67.0	1.2	0.0	68.2	
NT	23.2	0.8 ^(c)	0.5 ^(d)	3.2 ^(c)	27.7	53.9	0.6	82.2	
Australia	32.4	3.2	2.1	4.0	41.7	31.6	0.7	74.0	

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

- (a) Comprises cost, health reasons, being treated badly/discrimination, concerns about personal safety and other reasons nfd.
- (b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.
- (c) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is generally unreliable for use.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.8d: Transport, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	Use of transport in last 2 weeks						Total ^(c)
	Used transport, but not public transport, in last 2 weeks	Walking only form of transport in last 2 weeks	Did not use public transport ^(a)	Used public transport in last 2 weeks	Total not housebound in last 2 weeks ^(b)		
NSW	28.0	1.6 ^(d)	71.6	28.0	99.6	100.0	
Vic	36.2	0.7	63.7	36.2	99.9	100.0	
Qld	24.2	1.8 ^(d)	75.5	24.2	99.7	100.0	
WA	24.8	3.5	75.1	24.8	99.9	100.0	
SA	35.0	1.9	64.3	35.0	99.3	100.0	
Tas	15.2	n.p.	84.6	15.2	99.8	100.0	
ACT	31.8	n.p.	68.2	31.8	100.0	100.0	
NT	16.4	6.7	82.2	16.4	98.6	100.0	
Australia	25.5	2.5	74.0	25.5	99.5	100.0	

(a) Comprises persons who used transport, but not public transport, and those persons for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

(b) Comprises persons who used transport and those for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

(c) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.8e: Transport, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	Modes of transport									Total ^(b)
	Bus	Tram/light rail	Taxi	Car/4WD/Truck - as driver	Motorcycle/Motorised scooter	Car/4WD/Truck - as passenger	Bicycle	Walk	Other ^(a)	
NSW	24.3	12.7	18.4	52.6	2.3 ^(c)	58.8	5.9	48.1	2.7	100.0
Vic	25.0	22.7	19.2	62.3	3.4	56.8	6.9	49.0	4.6	100.0
Qld	19.7	10.4	25.6	58.9	1.9 ^(c)	65.8	6.4	54.2	11.3	100.0
WA	21.3	14.7	17.9	56.6	1.4 ^(c)	64.3	6.5	61.2	6.9	100.0
SA	33.1	11.8	14.8	56.9	1.4 ^(c)	66.4	5.3	61.2	3.5 ^(c)	100.0
Tas	14.1	1.7 ^(c)	10.1	75.8	5.2 ^(c)	59.7	4.7 ^(c)	47.6	5.1	100.0
ACT	31.6	3.7 ^(c)	26.2	73.4	4.6 ^(c)	66.0	14.9 ^(c)	58.1	13.9 ^(c)	100.0
NT	17.4	0.9 ^(c)	14.1	35.3	1.3 ^(c)	69.1	6.6	64.8	9.6	100.0
Australia	21.9	10.9	19.4	54.5	2.1	63.2	6.3	54.5	6.9	100.0

(a) Comprises boats/ferries, regular/chartered aircraft and other modes nfd.

(b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Transport access, difficulty and use by remoteness

- In non-remote areas, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians reported having access to a motor vehicle to drive than Indigenous Australians in remote areas (81% compared with 70%) (Table 2.16.9).
- In remote areas, Indigenous Australians were more likely to report that they could not get to or often had difficulty getting to the places they needed to (18%) than Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas (8%) (Table 2.16.9).
- In remote areas, Indigenous Australians were much more likely to report not having used transport in the previous 2 weeks (7%) than in non-remote areas (1%). In remote areas, unavailability of public transport in local area (83%) was the main reason for not using public transport (Table 2.16.9).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who could not get to places when needed lived in remote areas (18%) rather than non-remote areas (8%) (Table 2.16.10; Figure 2.16.3).

Table 2.16.9: Transport, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Non-remote			Remote			Total		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
Access to motor vehicle	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Access to motor vehicle	80.6	86.2	0.9	69.5	..		77.7	..	..
No access	19.1	13.8	1.4	29.6	..		21.8	..	..
Total^(a)	100.0	100.0		100.0			100.0		..
Perceived level of difficulty with transport									
Can easily get to the places needed	77.4	84.4	0.9	66.0	..		74.4	..	..
Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed	14.1	11.4	1.2	14.8	..		14.3	..	..
Cannot or often have difficulty	8.2	4.1	2.0	18.3	..		10.8	..	..
Total^(b)	100.0	100	..	100.0	..		100.0	..	..
Use of transport in last 2 weeks^(c)									
Used transport in last 2 weeks	98.8	..	..	92.1	..	..	97.0	..	..
Did not use transport in last 2 weeks	0.9	..	..	7.0	..	..	2.5	..	..
Total^(b)	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..
Use of public transport in last 2 weeks^(c)									
Used public transport in last 2 weeks	30.0	..	..	12.7	..	..	25.5	..	..
Used transport but not public transport in last 2 weeks	68.8	..	..	79.4	..	..	71.5	..	..
Did not use any transport in last 2 weeks	0.9	..	..	7.0	..	..	2.5	..	..
Total^(b)	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..
Modes of transport^{(b)(c)}									
Bus	25.7	..	..	11.2	..	..	21.9	..	..
Train, tram/light rail ^(d)	14.4	..	..	..	..	..	14.4	..	..
Taxi	21.4	..	..	13.6	..	..	19.4	..	..

(continued)

Table 2.16.9 (continued): Transport, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Non-remote			Remote			Total		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Car/4WD/motorcycle/motorised scooter as driver	60.2	..	..	40.4	..	..	55.1	..	..
Car/4WD as passenger	60.6	..	..	70.4	..	..	63.2	..	..
Bicycle	6.4	..	..	6.0	..	..	6.3	..	..
Walk	49.3	..	..	69.6	..	..	54.5	..	..
Other	5.7	..	..	10.2	..	..	6.9	..	..
Total	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..
Main reason did not use public transport^{(c)(e)}									
Prefer to use own transport or walk	57.9	..	..	12.7	..	..	44.2	..	..
Costs too much/takes too long	3.3	..	..	1.0 ^(f)	..	..	2.6	..	..
No suitable services ^(g)	7.4	..	..	2.3 ^(f)	..	..	5.8	..	..
Personal reasons ^(h)	2.6	..	..	0.3 ^(f)	..	..	1.9	..	..
Other	3.1	..	..	0.9 ^(f)	..	..	2.4	..	..
<i>Total with access to public transport in local area</i>	<i>74.2</i>	..	..	<i>17.1</i>	..	..	<i>56.9</i>	..	..
No public transport available in local area	25.8	..	..	82.9	..	..	43.1	..	..
Total⁽ⁱ⁾	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	..

(a) Includes persons who did not state whether they have access to a motor vehicle.

(b) Includes persons who were housebound.

(c) Data collected for Indigenous Australians only.

(d) Calculation based on non-remote areas only.

(e) Asked of people who had not used public transport in last 2 weeks but who had access to public transport in their area.

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

(g) No suitable services includes no services available at night/convenient and available for destination.

(h) Personal reasons includes concerns about personal safety, treated badly/discrimination and health reasons.

(i) Total excludes not known responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

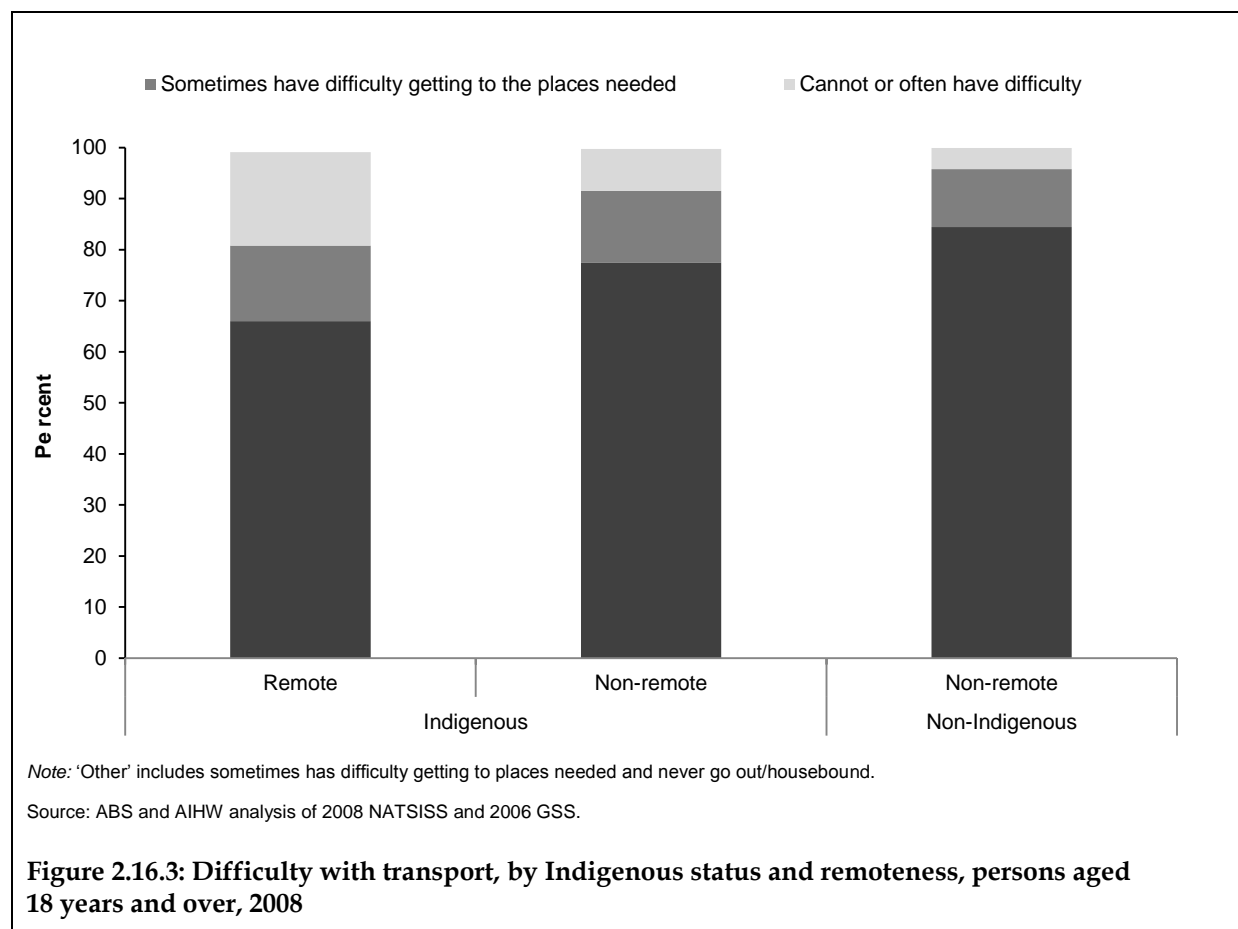
Table 2.16.10: Difficulty with transport, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Remote		Non-remote	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	Per cent			
Can easily get to the places needed	66.0	..	77.4	84.4
Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed	14.8	..	14.1	11.4
Cannot or often have difficulty	18.3	..	8.2	4.1
Other ^(a)	0.9 ^(b)	..	0.3 ^(b)	0.1 ^(b)
Total	100.0		100.0	100.0

(a) 'Other' includes sometimes has difficulty getting to places needed and never go out/housebound.

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

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.



Transport difficulty by selected health and population characteristics

- A higher proportion of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who could not get to places when needed reported fair/poor health status and having a disability or long-term health condition than Australians who could easily get to places when needed (Table 2.16.11a).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians who could not get to places when needed were in the lowest (1st) quintile of household income and reported they could not raise \$2,000 within a week for something important than Indigenous Australians who could easily get to places when needed (Table 2.16.11a).

Table 2.16.11a: Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Can easily get to the places needed		Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed		Often have difficulty getting to the places needed		Can't get to the places needed		Total ^(a)	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.	Indigenous	Indigenous.	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.
Self-assessed health status^(b)	Per cent									
Excellent/very good	39.7*	61.8*	23.5*	41.7*	28.7	38.5	29.5	23.7	36.4	58.4
Good	33.9*	25.8*	36.7	31.3	32.7	26.0	32.7	21.0	34.0	26.3
Fair/poor	26.4*	12.4*	39.8*	27*	38.5	35.5	37.8	55.3	29.5	15.3
Disability or long-term health condition^(b)										
Has disability or long-term health condition	55.0*	35.7*	71.9*	53.1*	74.5	63.5	76.4	75.5	58.9*	38.7*
No disability or long-term conditions	45.0*	64.3*	28.1*	46.9*	25.5	36.5	23.6	24.5	41.1*	61.3*
Household income^(c)										
1st quintile	41.8	..	67.8	..	77.1	..	74.6	..	49.2	..
5th quintile	6.1	..	2.1 ^(d)	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	4.9	..
Index of disparity^(c)										
1st quintile	46.7	..	56.7	..	69.1	..	71.9	..	50.8	..
5th quintile	4.2	..	3.9 ^(d)	..	0.9 ^(e)	..	0.5 ^(e)	..	3.8	..
Financial stress – unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important(c)										
	42.8	..	68.4	..	70.7	..	81.7	..	50	..
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.16.11a (continued): Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

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

- (a) Includes those who never go out/housebound.
- (b) Data for self-assessed health status and disability or long-term health condition are age-standardised.
- (c) Proportions are based on totals which exclude not stated and not known.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (e) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.11b: Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Can easily get to the places needed		Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed		Often have difficulty getting to the places needed		Can't get to the places needed		Total ^(a)	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous.
	Per cent									
Self-assessed health status^(c)										
Excellent/very good	83.4*	89.8*	8.0	8.1	2.2	1.7	6.2*	0.3*	100.0	100.0
Good	75.3*	82.6*	14.4	13.6	2.6	3.3	7.4*	0.6*	100.0	100.0
Fair/poor	66.0	66.9	18.8	21.1	4.2*	7.8*	9.9	3.7*	100.0	100.0
Disability or long-term health condition^(c)										
Has disability or long-term health condition	73.2*	77.9*	15.7	15.1	3.7*	5.1*	6.7*	1.7*	100.0	100.0
No disability or long-term conditions	87.0	89.5	8.4	8.6	1.8	1.5	2.7*	0.3*	100.0	100.0
Household income^(b)										
1st quintile	63.7	..	20.0	..	4.3	..	11.1	..	100.0	100.0
5th quintile	93.3	..	6.2 ^(d)	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	100.0	100.0
Index of disparity^(b)										
1st quintile	68.9	..	15.7	..	3.9	..	10.9	..	100.0	100.0
5th quintile	83.5	..	14.3 ^(d)	..	0.7 ^(e)	..	0.9 ^(e)	..	100.0	100.0
Financial stress – unable to raise \$2,000 within a week for something important^(b)										
	63.7	..	18.5	..	4.2	..	12.8	..	100.0	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.16.11b (continued): Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

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

- (a) Includes those who never go out/housebound.
- (b) Proportions are based on totals which exclude not stated and not known.
- (c) Data for self-assessed health status and disability or long-term health condition are age-standardised.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (e) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.16.12: Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected transport characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Can easily get to the places needed		Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed		Often have difficulty getting to the places needed		Can't get to the places needed/never go out/housebound		Total	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Per cent										
Access to motor vehicle^(a)										
Access to motor vehicle	86.1*	92.4*	62.0	59.1	54.5	44.1	38.2	27.2	77.7	86.3
No access	13.9*	7.6*	38.0	40.9	45.5	55.9	56.3	72.8	21.8	13.7
Total^(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Use of transport in last 2 weeks										
Used transport, but not public transport, in last 2 weeks	75.7	..	59.7	..	62.2	..	57.6	..	71.5	..
Walking only form of transport in last 2 weeks	1.7	..	3.1	..	1.1	..	9.0	..	2.5	..
Did not use public transport ^(c)	77.4	..	62.9	..	63.3	..	66.6	..	74.0	..
Public transport is available in local area				..		..		..		..
Main reason did not use public transport										
Prefer to use own transport or walk	39.2	..	15.3	..	13.7 ^(d)	..	7.4	..	32.4	..
No service available at right/convenient time	2.8	..	4.8	..	5.9 ^(e)	..	3.3 ^(d)	..	3.2	..
No services available for destination/takes too long	1.9	..	2.8 ^(d)	..	2.5 ^(d)	..	2.0 ^(e)	..	2.1	..
Other reasons ^(f)	2.9	..	7.2	..	11.3 ^(d)	..	6.6 ^(d)	..	4.0	..
<i>Total with access to public transport</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>30.1</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>33.4</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>41.7</i>	<i>..</i>
No public transport available in local area	29.8	..	32.6	..	29.6	..	46.4	..	31.6	..
Not known	0.8	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	0.8 ^(e)	..	0.7	..
Total^(b)	77.4	..	62.9	..	63.3	..	66.6	..	74.0	..

(continued)

Table 2.16.12 (continued): Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected transport characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Can easily get to the places needed		Sometimes have difficulty getting to the places needed		Often have difficulty getting to the places needed		Can't get to the places needed/never go out/housebound		Total	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Per cent									
Used public transport in last 2 weeks	22.6	..	37.1	..	36.7	..	27.9	..	25.5	..
<i>Total not housebound in last 2 weeks^(g)</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total^(b)	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) Includes persons who did not state whether they have access to a motor vehicle.

(b) Includes persons who are housebound and/or never went out.

(c) Comprises persons who used transport, but not public transport, and those persons for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

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

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

(f) Comprises cost, health reasons, being treated badly/discrimination, concerns about personal safety and other reasons nfd.

(g) Comprises persons who used transport and those for whom walking was the only form of transport in the last 2 weeks.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

The data on vehicles per household and per person suggest that non-Indigenous Australians have better access to personal transport than Indigenous Australians and would therefore be more readily able to reach a health facility or service. Public transport may compensate for the lack of personal transport, and clinics may provide a transport service for their patients, but these services are not available everywhere. The main reason given by 33% of those who sometimes have difficulty in getting to the places they needed to and did not use public transport in the 2 weeks before the survey was that no service was available at all (Table 2.16.12).

Transport/distance as a barrier to accessing health services

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on reasons Indigenous Australians didn't visit a dentist, doctor, other health professional or hospital when needed, including transport/distance. These data are presented below.

- In 2008, 10% of Indigenous Australians reported that transport/distance was a reason they had problems accessing a service.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous people living in remote areas (19%) than in non-remote areas (7%) reported transport/distance as a reason for not accessing health services.
- Indigenous Australians aged 25–34 years were more likely than those in older age groups to report transport as the main reason they didn't access health services when needed.
- Indigenous females (11%) were more likely than males (8%) to report transport/distance as the main reason they didn't access a doctor or hospital in the previous 12 months when needed (See Indicator 3.12 for more details).

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

The NATSIHS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSIHS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. It 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, imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions may affect some responses.

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

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

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

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 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 these have been adopted in this report.

There was a relatively large level of under-coverage 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.

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 1996. Occasional paper: Population issues, Indigenous Australians. ABS cat. no. 4708.0. Canberra: ABS.

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 2008. ABS Cat. no. 4720.0. Canberra: ABS.

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