



How are young Indigenous people in Tasmania faring?

Youth is a key transition period in a person's life. It is a time when decisions are made about relationships, education and career paths, employment and finances. The social, economic, environmental and technological changes that have occurred in recent decades mean that young people now face issues that previous generations may not have experienced.

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may face additional obstacles in making a successful transition to adulthood. The effect of inter-generational trauma, racism and prejudice, and socioeconomic disadvantage are all relevant in understanding the experiences of young Indigenous people today.

The new AIHW report, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescent and youth health and wellbeing 2018*, focuses on Indigenous young people aged 10–24. It reports against a set of indicators that cover health and wellbeing outcomes, social and economic determinants of health, health risk factors, and health and welfare services. This fact sheet is one of a series that present key statistics for each state and territory, compared with national average.

Wellbeing and happiness

In 2014–15, around 69% Indigenous people aged 15–24 in Tasmania were happy all or most of the time, which was lower compared with the proportion for all of Australia (76%).

Compared with young Indigenous people across Australia, those in Tasmania were less likely to:

- recognise their homeland or traditional country (33% compared with 61%)
- identify with a clan, tribal or language group (29% compared with 53%)
- participate in selected cultural activities in the previous 12 months (66% compared with 69%).

In Tasmania, a slightly lower proportion of young Indigenous people experienced personal stressors in the previous 12 months (57%) than across Australia (65%). The most common type of stressor experienced among all young Indigenous people in Tasmania was death of family member or close friend (28% in Tasmania and 22% Australia-wide) while not being able to get a job was the most common stressor across Australia (24% in Tasmania and 26% Australia-wide).

Health status

A slightly lower proportion of Indigenous people aged 10–24 in Tasmania (55%) compared with Australia (63%) assessed their health as either 'excellent' or 'very good'.

In 2012–13 around 74% of young Indigenous people in Tasmania reported that they had a long-term health condition compared with 62% in Australia. The most common long-term conditions reported were:

- respiratory diseases (46% in Tasmania compared with 36% across Australia)
- eye and vision problems (30% in Tasmania compared with 20% across Australia)
- other signs and symptoms, such as injury, allergy and fatigue (18% in Tasmania compared with 11% across Australia).

Quick facts

In 2016:



There were 8,501 Indigenous people aged 10–24 in Tasmania. This represented 3.5% of all young Indigenous people in Australia.



There were 241,824 Indigenous people aged 10–24 in Australia. This represented 5.3% of the total youth population.

Social determinants

Study and work

In 2016, around 47% of Indigenous people aged 15–24 in Tasmania were fully engaged in full-time study, full-time work or were combining work and study and 21% were partially engaged in part-time study or part-time work. Around 32% were not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET). Across Australia, young Indigenous people were less likely to be engaged in full-time study, full-time work or combining work and study (40%), partially engaged in part-time study or work (18%) and more likely to be NEET (42%) compared with Indigenous young people in Tasmania.

Housing

In 2016, around 49% of Indigenous people aged 10–24 in Tasmania lived in a home that was owned outright or with a mortgage, a higher proportion than across Australia (34%). Young Indigenous people in Tasmania were less likely to live in social housing (15%) or be homeless (1%) than nationally (30% and 4%, respectively).

Health risk factors

Drug use

In 2014–15, a similar proportion of young Indigenous people in Tasmania and Australia-wide never smoked or did not consume alcohol in the previous 2 weeks or drank but did not exceed short-term alcohol risk guidelines. More young Indigenous people in Tasmania had not used an illicit substance in the previous 12 months than young Indigenous people across Australia.

Body weight

In 2012–13, 63% of Indigenous people aged 10–17 and 46% of those aged 18–24 in the Tasmania were within the normal weight range compared with 54% and 34%, respectively, across Australia.

Health services

Health checks

In 2016, around 7% of Indigenous people aged 15–24 in Tasmania had an Indigenous health check, compared with 22% across Australia.

Hospitalisations





In 2015–16, the rate of hospitalisations of Indigenous people aged 10–24 in Tasmania was 83 per 1,000 population, lower than the rate across Australia (165 per 1,000). Injury and poisoning was the main reason for hospitalisations of this age group, with the rate in Tasmania (14 per 1,000) lower than the Australian rate (37 per 1,000).

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescent and youth health and wellbeing 2018* release, which includes a report, an in brief, state and territory fact sheets, and supplementary data tables.

Together, these provide comprehensive information about the health and welfare of young Indigenous Australians.

For more information see <<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/atsi-adolescent-youth-health-wellbeing-2018>>.

Risk factor	Indigenous people aged 15–24	
	Tasmania	Australia
 Never smoked	55%	56%
 Had not consumed alcohol in the previous 2 weeks or drank but did not exceed short-term alcohol risk guidelines	70%	74%
 Not used illicit substance in previous 12 months	71%	67%
 Normal weight (18–24 years)	46%	34%