Tier 2 Determinants of Health

2.01 Housing

Factors related to housing, such as overcrowding in housing, housing tenure type and homelessness

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection, the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

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 social issues 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 Census of Population and Housing is conducted by the ABS at 5-yearly intervals, and 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 undercount 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 2011 Census is the most recent, however data for the Indigenous population was not yet released at the time of writing this report. Therefore data included in this report come from the 2006 Census. In 2006, the ABS enhanced the sample for the Post-Enumeration Survey to include remote areas. The measured undercount for Indigenous Australians was 11.5%.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection (SAAP NDC) was collected from 1996 to June 2011. It was designed to capture data on government response to homelessness, and focuses on services provided by agencies funded under the

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program which specifically target and provide services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Therefore, service providers who do not receive government funding and general service providers (that is, which are not 'specialist homelessness agencies') are not included in this data collection.

From July 2011, the SAAP NDC was replaced by the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC). The SHSC was developed by the AIHW in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and relevant departments of all state and territory governments. Key differences between the SAAP NDC and SHSC include the expanded scope of agencies included in the SHSC, to agencies funded under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH); the inclusion of children as clients in their own right in SHSC (whereas accompanying children were recorded on their parent's form in SAAP NDC); and the monthly collection of client information and services provided for the SHSC (whereas SAAP NDC information was only collected at the end of a support period).

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

Measures of overcrowding

There is no single standard measure of housing overcrowding in Australia. The Canadian National Occupancy Standard is commonly used to measure overcrowding and is described below.

Canadian National Occupancy Standard

The Canadian National Occupancy Standard is most widely used in Australia. This standard specifies the number of bedrooms required in a dwelling based on the numbers, age, sex and relationships of household members. Households that require one more bedroom to meet the standard are considered to experience 'a moderate degree of overcrowding', whereas households requiring two or more additional bedrooms are said to experience a 'high degree of overcrowding'.

The Canadian National Occupancy Standard states that:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom

- a household of one unattached individual may reasonably occupy a bed-sit (that is, have no bedroom)
- parents or couples may share a bedroom
- children less than 5 years of age of different sexes may reasonably share a bedroom
- children 5 years of age or over of the opposite sex should not share a bedroom
- children less than 18 years of age and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom
- single household members aged 18 years or over should have a separate bedroom (AIHW 2005).

The overcrowding data presented for this indicator are based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.

Data analyses

Overcrowding

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on the number of people and the number of bedrooms in each household. These data are presented in the following tables. Note that tables in this measure show *total* figures for all additional bedrooms required ('one or more additional bedrooms required').

- In 2008, 25% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were living in overcrowded households. In comparison 4% of non-Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were living in overcrowded households (Table 2.01.1).
- There has been no significant change in the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over living in overcrowded households between 2002 (26%) and 2008 (25%) (ABS 2009).

Overcrowding by state/territory

Persons aged 15 years and over

- In 2008, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over living in overcrowded households (58%), followed by Western Australia (29%) and Queensland (26%). The Australian Capital Territory had the lowest proportion of Indigenous persons living in overcrowded households (6%) (Table 2.01.1).

All persons

- In 2008, there were 142,107 Indigenous Australians living in overcrowded households, representing 28% of all Indigenous persons. There were around 1 million non-Indigenous Australians living in overcrowded households in 2008, representing 5% of all other persons (Table 2.01.2).
- The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households (62%) and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest (7%) (Table 2.01.2).

Households

- In 2008, there were 25,940 overcrowded Indigenous households, representing 13% of all Indigenous households, comparatively only 3% of non-Indigenous households were classed as overcrowded. (Table 2.01.3).

- The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of overcrowded Indigenous households (34%) in 2008, followed by South Australia (15%) and Queensland (15%) (Table 2.01.3).

Table 2.01.1: Number and proportion of people aged 15 years and over living in overcrowded households[a], by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	Total requiring additional bedroom(s)								
	NSW	**Vic**	**Qld**	**WA**	**SA**	**Tas**	**ACT**	**NT[b]**	**Australia**
Estimated number of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	14,756	2,473	23,458	12,420	3,506	1,046[c]	177[c]	23,689	81,525
% of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	15.4*	11.4*	26.1*	28.5*	19.6*	8.5[c]	6.3[c]*	57.8*	25.1*
Total number of Indigenous persons[d]	**96,030**	**21,611**	**89,943**	**43,630**	**17,851**	**12,344**	**2,796**	**40,953**	**325,158**
Estimated number of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	283,439	181,252	106,043	29,360[c]	52,831	21,981	1,873[e]	6,549[d]	683,227
% of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	5.3*	4.4*	3.3*	1.8[c]*	4.2*	5.8	0.7[e]*	6.2[c]*	4.2*
Total number of non-Indigenous persons[d]	**5,390,485**	**4,157,001**	**3,211,850**	**1,611,762**	**1,250,778**	**377,275**	**268,674**	**105,462**	**16,373,287**
Rate ratio	**2.9**	**2.6**	**7.9**	**15.8**	**4.7**	**1.5**	**9.0**	**9.3**	**6.0**

* Difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ for this category.

(a) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(b) SIH data for non-Indigenous persons excludes those in households in collection districts defined as very remote, accounting for about 23% of the population in the NT.

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

(d) Persons in households for which housing utilisation could be determined.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 SIH.

Table 2.01.2: Number and proportion of all persons living in overcrowded households[(a)], by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	Total requiring additional bedrooms								
	NSW	**Vic**	**Qld**	**WA**	**SA**	**Tas**	**ACT**	**NT[(b)]**	**Australia**
Estimated number of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	27,066	4,766	41,552	20,660	6,561	2,314	291[(c)]	38,897	142,107
% of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	17.6*	14.0*	28.3*	30.0*	23.3*	12.1	6.7[(c)]*	61.8*	27.5*
Total number of Indigenous persons[(d)]	**153,626**	**34,025**	**146,580**	**68,772**	**28,121**	**19,049**	**4,358**	**62,917**	**517,448**
Estimated number of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	445,071	273,239	174,963	44,452[(c)]	72,376	36,165	4,338[(e)]	11,517[(c)]	1,062,120
% of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	6.6*	5.3*	4.3*	2.2[(c)]*	4.7*	7.6	1.3[(e)]*	8.1[(c*)]	5.2*
Total number of non-Indigenous persons[(d)]	**6,720,240**	**5,144,608**	**4,049,183**	**2,018,355**	**1,535,690**	**473,415**	**331,976**	**142,336**	**20,415,803**
Rate ratio	**2.7**	**2.6**	**6.6**	**13.6**	**5.0**	**1.6**	**5.2**	**7.6**	**5.3**

* Difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ for this category.

(a) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(b) SIH data for non-Indigenous persons excludes those in households in collection districts defined as very remote, accounting for about 23% of the population in the NT.

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

(d) Persons in households for which housing utilisation could be determined.

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

Source: NATSISS 2008 and 2007–08 SIH.

Table 2.01.3: Number and proportion of overcrowded households[(a)], by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	Total households requiring additional bedroom(s)								
	NSW	**Vic**	**Qld**	**WA**	**SA**	**Tas**	**ACT**	**NT**	**Australia**
Indigenous									
Estimated number of overcrowded Indigenous households	6,550	1,166	7,886	1,212	3,324	577	93[(b)]	5,131	25,940
% of overcrowded Indigenous households	10.2	7.4	14.8	10.4	15.1	6.2	4.7[(b)]	34.0	13.4
Total number of Indigenous households	**64,341**	**15,819**	**53,179**	**11,710**	**21,956**	**9,323**	**1,985**	**15,108**	**193,421**
Non-Indigenous									
Estimated number of overcrowded non-Indigenous households	100,302	68,440	40,739	14,195	11,898	n.p.	2,639	n.p.	243,552
% of overcrowded non-Indigenous households	3.8	3.4	2.6	1.8	1.9	n.p.	2.1	n.p.	3.0
Total number of non-Indigenous households	**2,613,275**	**1,995,722**	**1,576,186**	**807,403**	**641,037**	**196,075**	**127,618**	**56,843**	**8,014,159**

(a) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Overcrowding by remoteness

Persons aged 15 years and over

- In 2008, overcrowding increased with remoteness, with 58% of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over living in overcrowded households in *Very Remote* areas, 33% in remote areas and only 17% in non-remote areas (Table 2.01.4).

Persons aged 18 years and over

- For Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and older in 2008, overcrowding also increased with remoteness, with 61% of Indigenous people in *Very remote* areas living in overcrowded households, 38% in *remote* areas and 20% in non-remote areas (Table 2.01.5).

Households

- A similar pattern was observed for the proportion of overcrowded Indigenous households, 36% of Indigenous household in *Very remote* areas were overcrowded, 19% in *remote* areas and 10% in non-remote areas (Table 2.01.6).

Table 2.01.4: Number and proportion of people aged 15 years and over living in overcrowded households[a], by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	Total requiring additional bedrooms							
	Major cities	**Inner regional**	**Outer regional**	**Total non-remote**	**Remote**	**Very remote[b]**	**Total remote**	**Australia**
Estimated number of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	13,895	11,759	16,360	42,014	9,672	29,839	39,511	81,525
% of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	13.3	17.5	22.5	17.2	32.6	58.2	48.8	25.1
Total Indigenous people[c]	**104,186**	**67,306**	**72,743**	**244,235**	**29,684**	**51,239**	**80,923**	**325,158**
Not known (Indigenous only)	1,031	110	223	1,365	155	423	578	1,943
Estimated number of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	542,255	88,767[d]	46,265[d]	677,286	5,941[d]	. .	. .	683,227
% of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	4.8	2.7[d]	2.9[d]	4.2	3.6[d]	. .	. .	4.2
Total number of non-Indigenous persons	**11,285,722**	**3,347,412**	**1,573,742**	**16,206,875**	**166,412**	**. .**	**. .**	**16,373,287**
Rate ratio	**2.8**	**6.5**	**7.8**	**4.1**	**9.1**	**. .**	**. .**	**6.0**

(a) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(b) Persons in households for which housing utilisation could be determined.

(c) SIH data for non-Indigenous persons excludes those in households in collection districts defined as *Very remote*, accounting for about 23% of the population in the NT.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 SIH.

Table 2.01.5: Number and proportion of people aged 18 years and over living in overcrowded households[a], by Indigenous status and remoteness area, 2008

	Total requiring additional bedrooms							
	Major cities	**Inner regional**	**Outer regional**	**Total non-remote**	**Remote**	**Very remote[b]**	**Total remote**	**Australia**
Estimated number of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	25,674	21,582	29,291	76,547	17,860	47,700	65,560	142,107
% of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	15.5*	19.3*	25.7*	19.5*	37.5*	61.0	52.1	27.5*
Total Indigenous people[c]	**165,473**	**112,040**	**114,118**	**391,631**	**47,607**	**78,210**	**125,817**	**517,448**
Not known (Indigenous only)	1,398[d]	141[e]	376[e]	1,914[d]	305[d]	682[d]	987[d]	2,902
Estimated number of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	812,770	145,679[d]	92,889[d]	1,051,338	10,783[d]	. .	. .	1,062,120
% of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households	5.8*	3.5[d]*	4.7[d]*	5.2*	4.7[d]*	. .	. .	5.2*
Total number of non-Indigenous persons	**13,998,187**	**4,193,069**	**1,994,000**	**20,185,256**	**230,547**	**. .**	**. .**	**20,415,803**
Rate ratio	**2.7**	**5.5**	**5.5**	**3.8**	**8.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**5.3**

* Differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates are statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

(a) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(b) SIH data for non-Indigenous persons excludes those in households in collection districts defined as *Very remote*, accounting for about 23% of the population in the NT.

(c) Persons in households for which housing utilisation could be determined.

(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.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 SIH.

Table 2.01.6: Number and proportion of overcrowded households[a], by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	Total households requiring additional bedrooms							
	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Total non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Total remote	Australia
Indigenous								
Estimated number of overcrowded Indigenous households	6,359	4,745	5,665	16,769	3,020	6,152	9,172	25,940
% of overcrowded Indigenous households	8.8	10.5	13.2	10.4	19.3	35.9	28.0	13.4
Total number of Indigenous households	**72,579**	**45,027**	**43,059**	**160,664**	**15,614**	**17,142**	**32,756**	**193,421**
Not known (Indigenous only)	822[b]	n.p.	n.p.	1,172	147[b]	180[b]	326[b]	1,498
Non-Indigenous								
Estimated number of overcrowded non-Indigenous households	196,536	27,645	17,431	241,612	n.p.	—	n.p.	243,552
% of overcrowded non-Indigenous households	3.6	1.6	2.3	3.0	n.p.	—	n.p.	3.0
Total number of non-Indigenous households	**5,426,041**	**1,750,880**	**752,834**	**7,929,755**	**n.p.**	**n.p.**	**84,404**	**8,014,159**

(a) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Overcrowding by selected health and socioeconomic characteristics

The 2008 NATSISS and the 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information on the number of people and the number of bedrooms in each household as well as data on selected socioeconomic characteristics for Indigenous Australians. Non-Indigenous comparisons for the 2004–05 NATSIHS are available from the 2004–05 National Health Survey.

- In 2008, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were more likely to be living in overcrowded households if their household income was in the lowest (1st) income quintile rather than the highest (5th) income quintile (30% compared with 8%); if the highest year of school they completed was Year 9 or below rather than Year 12 (29% compared with 19%); and if they were unemployed or not in the labour force than if they were employed (27% and 31% compared with 20%) (Table 2.01.7).
- A similar pattern was observed in 2004–05; Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were more likely to be living in overcrowded households if their household income was in the lowest (1st) quintile rather than the highest (5th) quintile (27% compared with 1.1%); if the highest year of school completed was Year 9 or below than if Year 12 was the highest year of school completed (28% compared with 15%); and if they were unemployed or not in the labour force than if they were employed (34% and 29% compared with 18%) (Table 2.01.8).
- Of those Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over living in an overcrowded household in 2008, 79% did not have a non-school qualification and 47% were not in the labour force (Table 2.01.9).

Table 2.01.7: Proportion[(a)] of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over living in overcrowded households[(b)], Indigenous people, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008

	In overcrowded household	Not in overcrowded household	Total number
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent/very good	22.2*	77.8*	141,955
Good	23.6*	76.4*	110,913
Fair/poor	21.9*	78.1*	72,291
Household income[(c)(d)]			
1st quintile (lowest)	29.8*	70.2*	130,290
5th quintile (highest)	8.0*[(e)]	92.0*	11,579
Highest year of school completed			
Year 12	18.5*	81.5*	65,889
Year 9 or below	29.1*	70.9*	101,410
Whether has non-school qualification			
Has a non-school qualification	16.5*	83.5*	105,060
Does not have a non-school qualification	29.2*	70.8*	220,098
Employment			
Employed	20.4*	79.6*	168,109
Unemployed	27.2*	72.8*	33,104
Not in the labour force	30.8*	69.2*	123,945
Total	**25.1***	**74.9***	**325,158**

* Differences between rates for Indigenous persons in overcrowded households and households that were not overcrowded are statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

(a) Proportions of self-assessed health status only are age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

(b) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(c) Equivalised income of household.

(d) Total excludes not known and not stated.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.01.8: Proportion[(a)] of people aged 15 years and over living in overcrowded households[(b)], by Indigenous status, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2004–05

	Indigenous Australians		Non-Indigenous Australians	
	Overcrowded	Not overcrowded	Overcrowded	Not overcrowded
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/very good	20.7	79.3	4.3	95.7
Good	25.1	74.9	5.1	94.9
Fair/poor	21.6	78.4	6.0	94.0
Household income				
1st quintile (lowest)	26.9	73.1	7.0	93.0
5th quintile (highest)	1.1	98.9	2.1	97.9
Highest year of school completed				
Year 12	14.6	85.4	4.4	95.6
Year 9 or below	27.9	72.1	10.0	90.0
Whether has non-school qualification				
Has a non-school qualification	18.3	81.7	4.4	95.6
Does not have a non-school qualification	25.5	74.5	5.4	94.6
Employment				
Employed	18.3	81.7	4.1	95.9
Unemployed	34.4	65.6	6.2	93.8
Not in the labour force	29.0	71.0	7.0	93.0

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

(b) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Table 2.01.9: Proportion[(a)] of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and living in overcrowded households[(b)], by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008

	In overcrowded household	Not in overcrowded household
Self-assessed health status		
Excellent/very good	36.9	38.2
Good	35.2	33.5
Fair/poor	27.9	28.3
Household income[(c)(d)]		
1st quintile (lowest)	69.5*	44.7*
5th quintile (highest)	1.7[(e)*]	5.2*
Highest year of school completed		
Year 12	16.3*	24.0*
Year 9 or below	39.4*	32.2*
Whether has non-school qualification		
Has a non-school qualification	21.3*	36.0*
Does not have a non-school qualification	78.7*	64.0*
Employment		
Employed	42.1*	54.9*
Unemployed	11.0	9.9
Not in the labour force	46.8*	35.2*
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

* For Indigenous persons, differences between rates for those in overcrowded households and in households that were not overcrowded are statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

(a) Proportions of self-assessed health status only are age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

(b) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(c) Equivalised income of household.

(d) Total excludes not known and not stated.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Overcrowding by tenure type

The 2008 NATSISS and 2006 Census collected information on overcrowding by housing tenure type. The 2006 Census collected comparable information on housing tenure for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons and households. The 2008 NATSISS collected information on Indigenous Australians only.

- In 2008, 79% of Indigenous overcrowded households were renters and 20% were owner/purchasers (Table 2.01.10).
- The Northern Territory had the largest percentage of Indigenous Australian renters (93%) and lowest percentage of home owners (6%) who were living in overcrowded households in 2008. Tasmania had the lowest percentage (54%) of Indigenous Australian renters and highest percentage of home owners (46%) living in overcrowded households (Table 2.01.10).
- In 2006, household overcrowding varied by tenure type. Approximately 40% of Indigenous households in co-operative/community/church group housing, 16% of

state/territory housing authority households, 11% of private and other renter households and 6.9% of home owners or purchaser households were overcrowded (Table 2.01.11).

- Comparatively, 3.6% of non-Indigenous households in housing co-operative /community/church group housing, 4.9% of state/territory housing authority households, 5.6% of private renter households and 2.0% of home owners or purchaser households were overcrowded in 2006 (Table 2.01.11).

Table 2.01.10: Overcrowded Indigenous households[(a)], by state/territory and tenure type, 2008

	NSW/ ACT[(b)]	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Australia
Owner/purchaser	31.3[(c)]	21.2[(c)]	15.7[(c)]	18.7[(c)]	29.0[(c)]	45.8[(c)]	5.6[(c)]	19.6
Renter (excludes boarders)	67.1	78.3	83.9	80.5	69.8	54.2	93.0	79.4
Total[(d)(e)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(b) ACT has been combined with NSW but this has had little effect on the NSW rate.

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

(d) Total excludes not stated responses.

(e) Total includes other tenure types.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.01.11: Number and proportion of overcrowded households[a], by Indigenous status, tenure type and state/territory, 2006

Tenure type	NSW & ACT	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Australia[b]
				Number of overcrowded Indigenous households				
Home owner/purchaser	1,323	318	1,081	366	194	187	218	3,687
Renter								
State or territory housing authority	1,353	323	1,511	894	390	133	366	4,970
Housing co-operative/community/church group	478	50	1,253	811	223	6	2,743	5,567
Private and other[c]	1,930	411	1,997	392	198	174	232	5,337
Not stated	68	12	91	21	12	n.p.	26	233
Total rented	*3,829*	*796*	*4,852*	*2,118*	*823*	*316*	*3,367*	*16,107*
Other tenure types[d]	138	40	246	109	31	22	163	752
Total dwellings[e]	**5,339**	**1,170**	**6,232**	**2,615**	**1,064**	**530**	**3,775**	**20,734**
				Per cent of overcrowded Indigenous households[f]				
Home owner/purchaser	6.6	6.0	7.9	7.2	6.1	4.8	11.6	6.9
Renter								
State or territory housing authority	11.4	12.3	21.5	20.5	14.5	10.7	24.9	15.9
Housing co-operative/community/church group	17.9	15.6	33.0	41.7	36.9	8.7	60.8	39.9
Private and other[c]	11.0	10.1	12.8	9.5	9.1	9.2	16.4	11.4
Not stated	14.9	13.3	24.1	17.9	14.5	7.7	43.3	19.0
Total rented	*11.8*	*11.2*	*18.1*	*20.1*	*14.9*	*9.8*	*45.1*	*17.3*
Other tenure types[d]	11.2	11.4	20.7	19.4	14.6	11.4	39.9	18.1
Total dwellings[e]	**9.8**	**9.0**	**14.8**	**16.0**	**11.8**	**7.2**	**38.5**	**13.6**

(continued)

Table 2.01.11 (continued): Number and proportion of overcrowded households[(a)], by Indigenous status, tenure type and state/territory, 2006

Tenure type	NSW & ACT	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Australia[(b)]
				Number of overcrowded non-Indigenous households				
Home owner/purchaser	38,645	27,167	14,395	5,183	6,066	1,980	858	94,314
Renter								
State or territory housing authority	5,378	3,338	1,877	595	941	413	138	12,692
Housing co-operative/community/church group	539	199	215	35	153	34	13	1,188
Private and other[(c)]	38,008	19,276	14,355	3,921	3,826	1,135	610	81,134
Not stated	431	255	219	74	80	22	7	1,091
Total rented	*44,356*	*23,068*	*16,666*	*4,625*	*5,000*	*1,604*	*768*	*96,105*
Other tenure types[(d)]	1,986	1,244	1,022	331	289	102	106	5,086
Total dwellings[(e)]	**86,058**	**52,334**	**32,418**	**10,308**	**11,515**	**3,722**	**1,752**	**198,151**
				Per cent of overcrowded non-Indigenous households[(f)]				
Home owner/purchaser	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.7	3.7	2.0
Renter								
State or territory housing authority	5.3	6.7	4.9	2.6	2.6	4.8	5.0	4.9
Housing co-operative/community/church group	4.7	3.0	3.9	1.3	2.8	3.5	3.7	3.6
Private and other[(c)]	7.4	5.7	4.4	2.9	4.1	4.0	4.7	5.6
Not stated	7.1	7.0	5.7	4.8	4.9	4.3	5.9	6.3
Total rented	*7.0*	*5.8*	*4.5*	*2.8*	*3.7*	*4.2*	*4.7*	*5.5*
Other tenure types[(d)]	4.2	3.8	3.5	1.9	2.1	2.6	5.4	3.5
Total dwellings[(e)]	**3.8**	**3.1**	**2.5**	**1.6**	**2.1**	**2.3**	**4.2**	**3.0**

(continued)

Table 2.01.11 (continued): Number and proportion of overcrowded households[(a)], by Indigenous status, tenure type and state/territory, 2006

(a) Based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for Housing Appropriateness.

(b) Includes other territories.

(c) Includes dwellings being rented from a real estate agent, parent/other relative or other person, dwellings being rented through a 'Residential park (includes caravan parks and marinas)', 'Employer—government (includes Defence Housing Authority)' and 'Employer—other employer' (private).

(d) Includes dwellings being purchased under a rent/buy scheme, occupied rent-free, occupied under a life tenure type and other tenure type not further defined.

(e) Includes tenure type not stated.

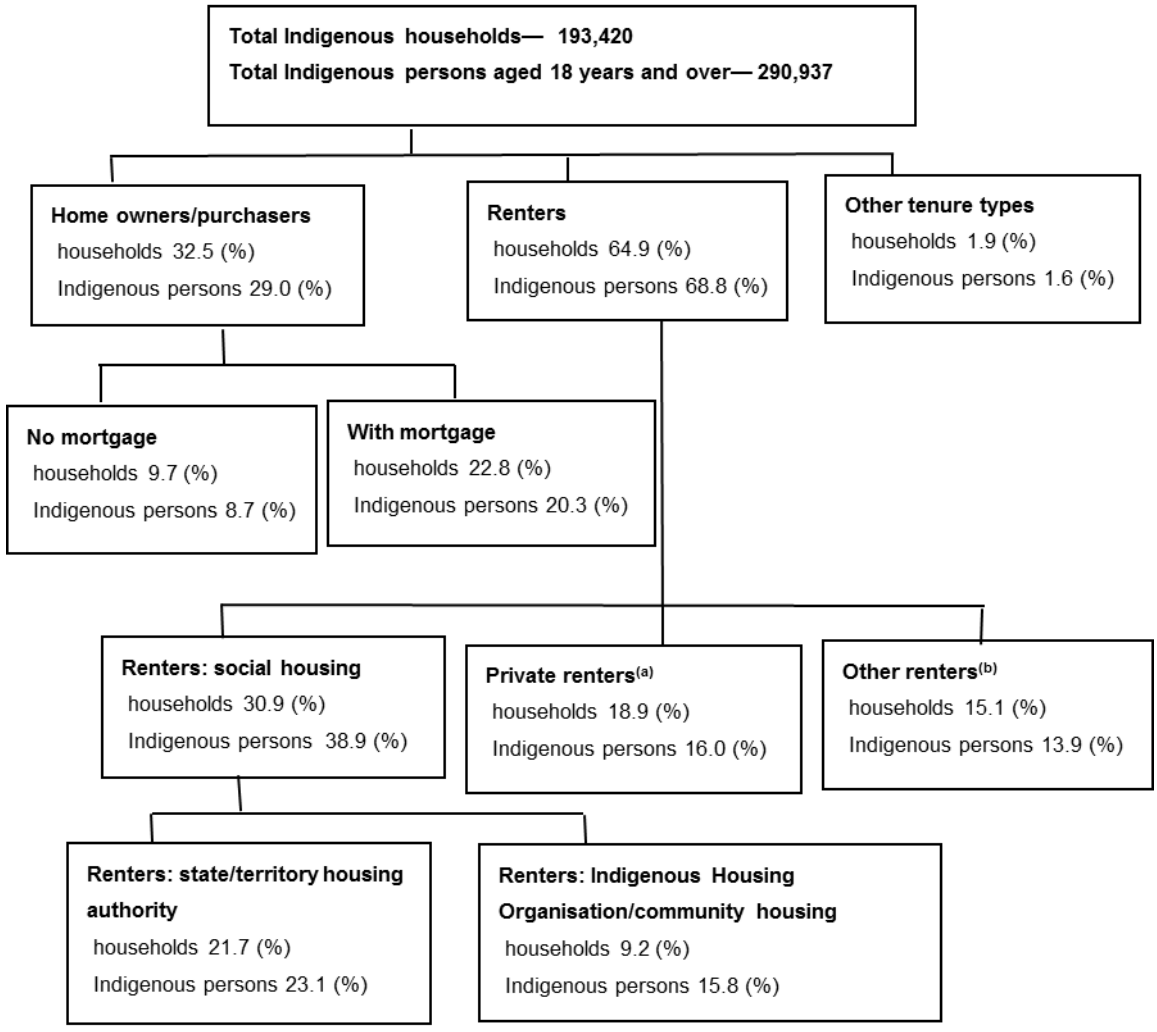
(f) Proportions have been calculated on all occupied private dwellings excluding those where number of bedrooms was not stated. Includes not stated state/territory.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Tenure type

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on housing tenure type for Indigenous Australians. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available from the 2007–08 National Health Survey and the 2007–08 Survey of Income and Housing.

- Among the estimated 193,420 Indigenous households in 2008, approximately one third were home owners or purchasers and two thirds were renters (Figure 2.01.1). This can be compared with non-Indigenous households where 66% were home owners or purchasers, and 29% were renters (Table 2.01.12).
- Home ownership provides a relatively secure form of housing tenure but there are much lower rates of home ownership among Indigenous households. This is indicative of the lower socioeconomic status of many Indigenous households and the fact that many Indigenous people who live in remote areas live on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community land where individual home ownership is generally not possible. In 2008, 10% of Indigenous households owned their homes outright and 23% were purchasing their homes (Table 2.01.12).
- In 2008, the majority of Indigenous households lived in some form of rental accommodation (66%). The largest group were renters from private and other landlord types (33%), followed by renters from a state and territory housing authority (22%). In 2008, approximately 29% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over were home owners and 69% were renters. In comparison, 65% of non-Indigenous adults were home owners, and 29% were renters (Table 2.01.12).



(a) Includes real estate agents.

(b) Includes unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords, and landlord type not known.

Note: Persons are aged 18 years and over.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Figure 2.01.1: Indigenous households, by tenure type, 2008

Table 2.01.12: Households and persons, by tenure type and Indigenous status, 2008

	Persons[a]				Households			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Home owners								
Owned without a mortgage	25,232	8.7*	4,246,171	27.3*	17,460	9.9*	2,339,553	29.3*
Being purchased[b]	59,180	20.5*	5,890,139	37.9*	39,811	22.6*	2,908,524	36.5*
Total home owners	*84,411*	*29.2**	*10,136,310*	*65.2**	*57,271*	*32.5**	*5,248,076*	*65.8**
Renters								
Private and other landlord types[c]	84,866	29.3*	3,937,478	25.3*	58,822	33.4*	1,994,561	25*
State/territory housing authority	67,127	23.2*	447,694	2.9*	38,258	21.7*	312,530	3.9*
Housing co-operative or church group	1,804[d]	0.6[d]*	45,313	0.3*	992[d]	0.6[d]*	34,372	0.4*
Indigenous Housing Organisation/ Community housing	46,062	15.9*	..	..	16,845	9.6*	. .	. .
Total renters[e]	*200,297*	*69.2**	*4,430,486*	*28.5**	*115,274*	*65.5**	*2,341,463*	*29.4**
Other tenure types[f]	4,619	1.6	987,032	6.3	3,436	2.0	383,890	4.8
Total[g]	**289,327**	**100.0**	**15,553,828**	**100.0**	**175,981**	**100.0**	**7,973,429**	**100.0**
Not stated	1,610	. .	. .	. .	990	. .	. .	. .

* Difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates is statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(b) Includes with a mortgage and participants in rent/buy schemes.

(c) Includes real estate agents, unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords.

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

(e) Includes landlord type not known and boarders.

(f) Includes Other tenure types n.f.d.; persons living under life tenure schemes; and those living rent-free.

(g) Excludes tenure type not stated.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Time series

- Between 1994 and 2008, there was an increase in the proportion of Indigenous households from 25.5 % to 32.4% and persons aged 18 years and over who were home owners from 21.5 % to 29.2%. Over the same period, there was also an increase in the proportion of households from 21.1% to 30.0% and persons who were private or other renters from 23.0 % to 33.2%, and a decline in the proportion of renters of state/territory housing (Table 2.01.13).

Tenure type by remoteness

- In 2008, household tenure type varied by remoteness, reflecting the availability of different housing options for Indigenous people and their lower socioeconomic status.
- Among Indigenous households in remote areas of Australia, a third (33%) were renters of Indigenous Housing Organisation or community housing, 25% were renters of state or territory housing and 16% were home owners (Table 2.01.14).
- In comparison, among Indigenous households in non-remote areas, 36% were home owners followed by private or other renters (34%) and renters of state and territory housing (21%) (Table 2.01.14).

Tenure type by state/territory

- In 2008, the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of Indigenous households who were home owners (21%) and the highest proportion living in Indigenous Housing Organisation or community housing (25%) (Table 2.01.15).
- The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were home owners/purchasers was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (53%) and Tasmania (52%) (Table 2.01.16).

Table 2.01.13: Indigenous households and persons, by tenure type, 1994, 2002 and 2008

	Persons[a]						Households					
	1994		2002		2008		1994		2002		2008	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Home owners												
Owned without a mortgage	20,837	10.9	25,248	10.0	25,232	8.7	13,831	12.7	17,833	10.8	17,460	9.9
Owner with a mortgage	20,195	10.6	41,456	16.5	59,180	20.5	13,881	12.8	32,610	19.7	39,811	22.5
Total home owners	*41,032*	*21.5*	*66,703*	*26.5*	*84,412*	*29.2*	*27,712*	*25.5*	*50,443*	*30.5*	*57,271*	*32.4*
Renters												
Private and other landlord types[b]	40,346	21.1	60,842	24.2	86,669	30.0	24,952	23.0	46,780	28.2	58,822	33.2
State/territory housing authority	63,583	33.3	53,184	21.2	67,127	23.2	37,796	34.8	37,673	22.7	38,258	21.6
Community or cooperative housing (Indigenous housing organisation/community housing)	31,559	16.5	60,788	24.2	46,063	15.9	11,900	11.0	24,493	14.8	17,837	10.1
Total renters[c]	*136,384*	*71.5*	*175,031*	*69.6*	*200,297*	*69.2*	*75,029*	*69.1*	*108,946*	*65.7*	*115,274*	*65.1*
Other[d]	10,016	5.2	9,664	3.9	4,618	1.6	4,210	3.9	6,163	3.7	3,436	1.9
Total[e]	**187,432**	**100.0**	**251,398**	**100.0**	**289,327**	**100.0**	**106,951**	**100.0**	**165,552**	**100.0**	**175,981**	**100.0**
Not stated	3,411	. .		. .	1,610	. .	1,628	. .	122	. .	990	. .

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(b) Includes real estate agents, unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords.

(c) Includes landlord type not stated.

(d) Includes persons living under life tenure schemes, those living rent-free and participants in rent/buy schemes.

(e) Includes tenure type not stated.

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

Table 2.01.14: Households and persons, by Indigenous status, tenure type and remoteness, 2008

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous			
	Persons[a]		Households		Persons[a]		Households	
Tenure type	Non-remote	Remote	Non-remote	Remote	Non-remote	Remote	Non-remote	Remote
	Per cent				Per cent			
Home owners								
Owned without a mortgage	9.9	5.4	10.0	8.6	27.3	30.2	29.3	32.0
Owner with a mortgage[b]	25.8	5.0	26.1	7.3	37.9	32.8	36.5	32.0
Total home owners	*35.7*	*10.4*	*36.1*	*16.0*	65.2	62.9	65.8	64.0
Renters								
Private and other landlord types[c]	32.3	15.9	34.4	19.7	21.2	23.4	21.9	23.2
State/territory housing authority	23.0	23.8	21.2	24.8	2.9	2.0	3.9	2.7
Indigenous Housing Organisation/ Community housing	5.9	44.8	4.5	32.6	0.3	—	0.4	—
Other	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.1	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.2
Total renters[d]	*63.3*	*86.3*	*62.5*	*79.5*	24.7	25.5	26.8	26.1
Other[e]	1.0	3.3	1.4	4.6	10.1	11.5	7.3	9.9
Total[f]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
(b) Includes rent/buy/shared equity scheme.
(c) Includes real estate agents, unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords.
(d) Includes landlord type not stated.
(e) Includes Other; persons living under life tenure schemes; those living rent-free; and participants in rent/buy schemes.
(f) Excludes tenure type not stated.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 SIH.

Table 2.01.15: Proportion of households, by tenure type, Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

		Home owners			Renters							
		Owned without a mortgage	Being purchased	*Total home owners*	Private and other renter[a]	State/territory housing authority	Housing co-operative or church group	Indigenous Housing Organisation/ Community housing	*Total renters*[b]	Other tenure types[c]	Total[d]	Total[d]
NSW	**Indig.**	12.0	21.5	*33.5*	35.0	21.2	0.6*[e]	7.8	*64.6*	2.0[f]	**100.0**	**58,707**
	Non-Indig.	27.8	35.1	*62.8*	26.6	4.6	0.6*[f]	. .	*31.8*	5.4	**100.0**	**2,602,138**
Vic	**Indig.**	11.0	32.4	*43.3*	29.5	19.3	0.6*[f]	6.2	*55.8*	0.9[f]	**100.0**	**14,155**
	Non-Indig.	31.6	37.4	*69.0*	23.3	2.8	0.3*[f]	. .	*26.4*	4.6	**100.0**	**1,991,527**
Qld	**Indig.**	7.9	21.2	*29.2*	40.0	17.5	1.0*[e]	10.3	*69.3*	1.5[f]	**100.0**	**47,928**
	Non-Indig.	27.2	2.8	*0.1*	30.0	36.0	0.1*[e]	. .	*30.1*	3.9	**100.0**	**1,560,980**
WA	**Indig.**	6.9	20.8	*27.7*	30.2*	28.8	n.p.	10.7	*69.9*	n.p	**100.0**	**20,525**
	Non-Indig.	25.6	39.4	*65.1*	25.01*	3.1	0.7[e]	. .	*28.9*	6.1	**100.0**	**802,625**
SA	**Indig.**	8.7	26.5	*35.2*	22.5*	34.2	n.p.	7.0	*63.8*	n.p.	**100.0**	**10,505**
	Non-Indig.	32.0	36.3	*68.3*	19.62*	7.3	0.5	. .	*27.4*	4.4	**100.0**	**640,186**
Tas	**Indig.**	23.6	26.6*	*50.2*	26.7	17.2	n.p.	1.3	*45.7*	n.p.	**100.0**	**8,647**
	Non-Indig.	37.1	32.45*	*69.6*	19.3	5.4	1.7[e]	. .	*26.3*	4.1	**100.0**	**192,350**
ACT	**Indig.**	12.0	35.6*	*47.6*	32.5	18.3	n.p.	1.1	*52.2*	n.p.	**100.0**	**1,835**
	Non-Indig.	26.7	39.32*	*66.1*	23.4	6.4	0.2[e]	. .	*30.0*	3.9	**100.0**	**127,172**
NT	**Indig.**	3.6*	17.8	*21.4*	25.2*	24.7	n.p.	25.1	*75.3*	n.p.	**100.0**	**13,679**
	Non-Indig.	7.8*[f]	48.9	*56.8*	35.2*	n.p.	—	. .	*39.1*	4.1[e]	**100.0**	**56,451**
Australia	**Indig.**	9.9	22.6	*32.5*	33.4	21.7	0.6*	9.6	*65.5*	2.0	**100.0**	**175,981**
	Non-Indig.	29.3	36.5	*65.8*	25.0	3.9	0.43*	. .	*29.4*	4.8	**100.0**	**7,973,429**

(continued)

Table 2.01.15 (continued): Proportion of households, by tenure type, indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are NOT statistically significant at the p < 0.05 level for these categories.

(a) Includes real estate agents, unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords.
(b) Includes landlord type not stated.
(c) Includes persons living under life tenure schemes, those living in rent-free schemes and other tenure types n.f.d.
(d) Excludes tenure type not stated.
(e) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is generally unreliable for use.
(f) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.01.16: Proportion of persons[a], by tenure type, indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

		Home owners			Renters							
		Owned without a mortgage	Being purchased	*Total home owners*	Private and other renter[b]	State/territory housing authority	Housing co-operative or church group	Indigenous Housing Organisation/ Community housing	*Total renters*[c]	Other tenure types[d]	Total[e]	Total[e]
NSW	**Indig.**	11.8*	22.2*	*34.0**	32.8*	21.6*	0.4[f]	9.6	*64.5*	1.5*[g]	**100.0**	**84,966**
	Non-Indig.	26.1*	36.3*	*62.5**	26.4*	3.4*	0.4[g]	. .	*30.1*	7.4*	**100.0**	**5,106,453**
Vic	**Indig.**	10.5*	33.5*	*44.0**	27.6	19.4*	0.8[f]	7.2	*55.2*	0.8*[g]	**100.0**	**19,079**
	Non-Indig.	29.0*	38.9*	*67.9**	23.6	2.2*	0.2[g]	. .	*26.0*	6.1*	**100.0**	**3,966,725**
Qld	**Indig.**	7.3*	18.8*	*26.1**	34.9*	20.4*	1.4[f]	15.7	*72.7*	1.2*[g]	**100.0**	**79,662**
	Non-Indig.	26.9*	37.5*	*64.5**	28.5*	2.0*	0.1[f]	. .	*30.6*	5.0*	**100.0**	**3,040,931**
WA	**Indig.**	6.4*	18.1*	*24.5**	25.0	29.2*	n.p.	19.0	*73.4*	n.p.	**100.0**	**38,729**
	Non-Indig.	24.3*	41.2*	*65.5**	24.4	2.2*	0.5*[g]	. .	*27.1*	7.4*	**100.0**	**1,529,520**
SA	**Indig.**	8.1*	22.9*	*30.9**	18.8	36.8*	n.p.	12.2	*68.0*	n.p.	**100.0**	**16,014**
	Non-Indig.	30.9*	36.8*	*67.7**	20.9	5.6*	0.4*[g]	. .	*26.8*	5.4*	**100.0**	**1,194,166**
Tas	**Indig.**	23.6*	28.0	*51.6**	25.3	16.5*	n.p.	n.p.	*43.9*	n.p.	**100.0**	**10,777**
	Non-Indig.	35.2*	35.4	*70.6**	19.5	4.3*	1.0[f]	. .	*24.8*	4.6*	**100.0**	**352,052**
ACT	**Indig.**	11.8*	40.9	*52.7**	28.1	17.6*	n.p.	n.p.	*47.0*	n.p.	**100.0**	**2,564**
	Non-Indig.	26.5*	40.6	*67.1**	23.2	4.4*[g]	0.2[f]	. .	*27.8*	5.2*	**100.0**	**255,733**
NT	**Indig.**	2.0[g]	11.2*	*13.2**	20.9	24.9*	n.p.	38.6	*84.6*	n.p.	**100.0**	**37,536**
	Non-Indig.	9.0[g]	48.9*	*57.9**	34.1	n.p.	0.0	. .	*36.9*	5.2	**100.0**	**108,248**
Australia	**Indig.**	**8.7***	**20.5***	***29.2****	**29.3***	**23.2***	**0.6**	**15.9**	***69.2***	**1.6***	**100.0**	**289,327**
	Non-Indig.	**27.3***	**37.9***	***65.2****	**25.3***	**2.9***	**0.3**	**. .**	***28.5***	**6.3***	**100.0**	**15,553,828**

(continued)

Table 2.01.16 (continued): Proportion of persons[(a)], by tenure type, indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p < 0.05 level for these categories.

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
(b) Includes real estate agents, unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords.
(c) Includes landlord type not stated.
(d) Includes persons living under life tenure schemes, those living in rent-free schemes and other tenure types n.f.d.
(e) Excludes tenure type not stated.
(f) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is generally unreliable for use.
(g) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and 2007–08 NHS.

Tenure type by age

- In 2008, the highest proportion of Indigenous home owners were aged 45–54 years (40%), whereas non-Indigenous Australians aged 55 years and over were most likely to be home owners (83%) (Table 2.01.17).
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 18–34 years were more likely to be renting in 2008 (76% and 50% respectively) than those in the older age groups (Table 2.01.17).
- Across all age groups, Indigenous Australians were more likely to be renting and less likely to be home owners than non-Indigenous Australians in 2008 (Table 2.01.17).

Table 2.01.17: Proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons,[a] by tenure type and age group, 2008

	18–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Total 18 years and over		Total aged 15 years and over	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Home owners												
Owned without a mortgage	4.2	3.6	6.6*	10.2*	11.3*	27.0*	23.4*	60.8*	8.7*	27.3*	8.5*	26.8*
Being purchased	17.7*	32.4*	25.6*	59.3*	29.1*	52.2*	12.5*	21.8*	20.3*	37.9*	21.0*	38.6*
Total home owners	*22.0**	*36.0**	*32.4**	*69.6**	*39.6**	*79.2**	*36.0**	*82.7**	*29.2**	*65.2**	*29.5**	*65.4**
Renters												
Private and other renter[b]	35.2*	48.5*	29.8*	23.7*	22.1*	15.5*	17.7*	9.5*	29.3*	25.3*	29.3*	25.1*
State/territory housing authority	24.5*	1.7*	20.4*	3.2*	21.1*	2.7*	25.4*	3.9*	23.2*	2.9*	23.4*	3.0*
Housing co-operative or church group	0.7[c]	0.1[c]	0.2[d]	0.1[d]	0.8[d]	0.3[c]	0.7[d]	0.6	0.6[c]	0.3	0.6[c]	0.3
Indigenous Housing Organisation/ Community housing	15.7	. .	15.5	. .	15.2	. .	18.1	. .	15.9	. .	15.4	. .
Total renters[e]	*76.3**	*50.3**	*66.2**	*27.0**	*59.3**	*18.5**	*62.1**	*14.0**	*69.2**	*28.5**	*68.9**	*28.4**
Other tenure types[f]	1.8*[c]	13.6*	1.4*	3.4*	1.1*[c]	2.3*	1.9*[c]	3.4*	1.6*	6.3*	1.6*	6.3*
Total[g]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total[g]	**136,925**	**4,782,702**	**63,344**	**2,987,518**	**46,713**	**2,864,016**	**42,345**	**4,919,592**	**289,327**	**15,553,828**	**325,305**	**16,374,202**

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ for these categories.

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
(b) Includes real estate agents, unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords.
(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.
(e) Includes landlord type not stated.
(f) Includes persons living under life tenure schemes, those living in rent-free schemes and other tenure types n.f.d.
(g) Excludes tenure type not stated.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and 2007–08 NHS.

Tenure type by selected health and population characteristics

- In the 2008 NATSISS, of the Indigenous Australians that reported excellent/very good health, 33% were home owners and 65% were renters. Of those Indigenous Australians reporting fair/poor health, 26% were home owners and 73% were renters. According to results from the NHS in 2007–08, of the non-Indigenous Australians who reported excellent/very good health 66% were home owners and 28% were renters. Of those non-Indigenous Australians reporting fair/poor heath, 64% were home owners and 30% renters. (Table 2.01.18).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, 39% of Indigenous Australian home owners reported excellent/very good health compared with 68% of non-Indigenous Australian home owners. Conversely, amongst renters, 73% of Indigenous Australians reported fair/poor heath compared with 37% of non-Indigenous renters (Table 2.01.18).
- In 2008, of the Indigenous Australians who spoke a language other than English at home, 95% were renters and 3% were home owners. This compared with 38% and 52% of non-Indigenous Australians, respectively. Of the Indigenous Australians who were in the lowest index of advantage/disadvantage, 19% were home owners and 80% were renters. This compared with 57% and 38% of non-Indigenous Australians, respectively (Table 2.01.19).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians who were renters than home owners or purchasers spoke a language other than English, were in the lowest (1st) quintile of household income, were unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important, were unemployed, had a dwelling with major structural problems or had moved in the last 12 months (Table 2.01.20).

Table 2.01.18: Summary health characteristics and housing tenure, by Indigenous status, 2008

		Excellent/very good		Fair/poor		Total Persons 18+	
		Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
				Persons[a][b]			
Home owners							
Owned without a mortgage	%	8.4	24.1	10.7	35.9	8.7	27.3
	Age standardised	*15.2*	*26.9*	*10.7*	*23.3*	*11.5*	*25.9*
Being purchased[c]	%	24.4	41.7	15.5	27.6	20.5	37.9
	Age standardised	*23.3*	*41.0*	*14.9*	*29.7*	*19.8*	*38.5*
Total home owners	*%*	*32.7*	*65.8*	*26.2*	*63.5*	*29.2*	*65.2*
	Age standardised	*38.6*	*67.9*	*25.6*	*53.1*	*31.3*	*64.4*
Renters							
Private and other landlord types[d]	%	29.3	26.1	28.1	21.2	29.3	25.3
	Age standardised	*24.6*	*24.4*	*28.7*	*29.2*	*26.6*	*26.0*
State/territory housing authority	%	18.6	1.2	29.1	7.9	23.2	2.9
	Age standardised	*17.2*	*1.3*	*29.2*	*7.1*	*23.3*	*2.8*
Housing co-operative or church group	%	0.7[e]	0.2[f]	0.8[e]	0.7	*0.6	0.3
	Age standardised	0.9[f]	0.2[f]	0.7[f]	0.6	0.7	0.3
Indigenous Housing Organisation/ Community housing	%	16.3	..	14.6	..	15.9	..
	Age standardised	16.8	..	14.5	..	16.4	..
Total renters[g]	*%*	*65.2*	*27.5*	*72.6*	*29.7*	*69.2*	*28.5*
	Age standardised	*59.8*	*25.9*	*73.2*	*36.7*	*67.1*	*29.1*
Other tenure types[h]	%	2.1[f]	6.7	1.2[f]	6.9	1.6	6.3
	Age standardised	1.6	6.2	1.2	10.0	1.6	6.4
Total[i]	**%**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(continued)

Table 2.01.18 (continued): Summary health characteristics and housing tenure, by Indigenous status, 2008

		Excellent/very good		Fair/poor		Total Persons 18+	
		Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
				Households[(j)]			
Home owners							
Owned without a mortgage	%	9.7	26.5	11.6	36.6	9.9	29.3
Being purchased[(c)]	%	27.0	41.0	17.2	25.4	22.6	36.5
Total home owners	*%*	*36.7*	*67.4*	*28.9*	*62.0*	*32.5*	*65.8*
Renters							
Private and other landlord types[(d)]	%	33.8	25.6	30.6	22.2	33.4	25.0
State/territory housing authority	%	17.5	1.6	29.0	10.0	21.7	3.9
Housing co-operative or church group	%	0.6[(f)]	0.2[(f)]	0.8[(e)]	0.9	0.6	0.4
Indigenous Housing Organisation/ Community housing	%	8.6	..	9.5	..	9.6	..
Total renters[(g)]	*%*	*60.9*	*27.5*	*69.8*	*33.0*	*65.5*	*29.4*
Other tenure types[(h)]	%	2.5[(f)]	5.1	1.3[(f)]	4.9	2.0	4.8
Total[(i)]	**%**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
(b) Households with person(s) aged 18 years and over.
(c) Includes with a mortgage and participants in rent/buy schemes.
(d) Includes real estate agents, unrelated persons, relatives, owner/managers of caravan parks, employers and other landlords.
(e) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.
(f) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(g) Includes landlord type not known and boarders.
(h) Includes life tenure schemes; rent-free; and other tenure types n.f.d.
(i) Excludes tenure type not stated.
(j) Households with person(s) aged 18 years and over.

Note: Age standardised data were calculated using 2001 Australian Estimated Resident population.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.01.19: Tenure type by selected population characteristics, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, 2008

	Home owner/purchaser[a]		Renter		Total[b]	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
			Per cent			
Main language spoken at home						
English	33.3	66.8	65.1	27.4	100.0	100.0
Language other than English	3.1	51.6	95.3	37.7	100.0	100.0
Household income						
1st quintile	15.4	63.3	83.0	31.3	100.0	100.0
5th quintile	64.4*	73.2*	34.6*	22.5*	100.0	100.0
Index of disparity						
1st quintile (lowest)	18.9	56.9	79.5	38.2	100.0	100.0
5th quintile (highest)	45.5	67.3	54.3	25.9	100.0	100.0
Financial stress						
Unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	12.1	. .	86.6	. .	100.0	100.0
Employment[c]						
Employed	38.3	63.8	59.7	30.1	100.0	100.0
Unemployed	19.0	37.3	79.9	48.1	100.0	100.0
Subtotal in labour force	*35.1*	*62.8*	*63.0*	*30.8*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Not in labour force	17.9	60.1	80.9	32.7	100.0	100.0
Housing						
Dwelling has major structural problems	17.4	. .	81.2	. .	100.0	100.0
Repairs and maintenance carried out in last 12 months	30.5	. .	67.9	. .	100.0	100.0
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)	15.5	. .	83.6	. .	100.0	100.0
Mobility						
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	11.5	. .	86.3	. .	100.0	100.0
Total	**29.2**	**. .**	**69.2**	**. .**	**100.0**	**100.0**

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are NOT statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

(a) Includes participants of rent/buy scheme (or shared equity scheme).

(b) Includes persons living under life tenure schemes, those living rent-free and other tenure type; excludes those for whom tenure type was not stated.

(c) For persons aged 15–64 years.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.01.20: Tenure type by selected population characteristics, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status, 2008

	Home owner/purchaser[a]		Renter		Total[b]	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
			Per cent			
Main language spoken at home						
English	98.5	91.4	81.3	85.5	86.4	89.1
Language other than English	1.5	8.6	18.7	14.5	13.6	10.9
Household income						
1st quintile	26.0	15.4	58.8	18.3	49.1	16.3
5th quintile	10.8	23.4	2.4[c]	17.2	4.9	21.4
Index of disparity						
1st quintile (lowest)	32.0	14.7	59.0	22.7	50.8	16.9
5th quintile (highest)	5.8	23.0	3.0[c]	20.4	3.8	22.3
Financial stress						
Unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	20.4	. .	63.7		50.4	. .
Employment[c]						
Employed	71.1	77.9	46.3	73.5	53.8	76.0
Unemployed	7.0	1.7	12.3	4.4	10.7	2.9
Subtotal in labour force	*78.1**	*79.6**	*58.6*	*77.9*	*64.5*	*78.9*
Not in labour force	21.9*	20.4*	41.4	22.1	35.5	21.1
Housing						
Dwelling has major structural problems	17.0	. .	33.3	. .	28.4	. .
Repairs and maintenance carried out in last 12 months	62.7	. .	60.6	. .	61.2	. .
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)	13.2	. .	29.9	. .	24.8	. .
Mobility						
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	8.6	. .	27.4	. .	22.0	. .
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are NOT statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

(a) Includes participants of rent/buy scheme (or shared equity scheme).

(b) Includes persons living under life tenure schemes, those living rent-free and other tenure type; excludes those for whom tenure type was not stated.

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

(d) For persons aged 15–64 years.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and 2007–08 NHS.

Homelessness

Census data

The ABS collects information on the number of homeless people on Census night. The ABS defines people as homeless if their accommodation falls below the minimum community standard of a small rental flat with a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom and some security of tenure.

- The 2006 Census indicates that there were 4,116 Indigenous people who were homeless on Census night (Table 2.01.21):
  - This included 2,283 with no conventional accommodation (in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough)
  - 662 in hostels, refuges or night shelters
  - 1,171 residing temporarily with others.
- The national rate of Indigenous homelessness was 90 per 10,000 (Table 2.01.21).
- The highest rates of Indigenous homelessness were found in the Northern Territory (213 per 10,000) and Western Australia (111 per 10,000), while Tasmania had the lowest rate (45 per 10,000) (Table 2.01.21).
- Across Australia, the rate of homelessness for Indigenous Australians was 3.8 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.01.21).
- South Australia had the largest difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates, with the rate of Indigenous homelessness more than five times the rate of non-Indigenous homelessness (Table 2.01.21).

Table 2.01.21: Number and rate of Indigenous people who are homeless, simple definition, by state/territory, 2006

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Number				
Primary homeless									
No conventional accommodation	250	55	469	402	152	24	4	927	2,283
Secondary homeless									
Hostel, refuge, night shelter	206	38	198	76	39	9	14	82	662
Friends/ relatives	315	70	352	171	67	43	19	134	1,171
Total number	**771**	**163**	**1,019**	**649**	**258**	**76**	**37**	**1,143**	**4,116**
					Rate				
Number per 10,000	56	54	80	111	101	45	96	213	90
Rate ratio	2.9	3.6	2.1	3.3	5.3	1.8	4.2	1.6	3.8

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

SAAP clients

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services are provided to people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Those using SAAP services represent a sub set of homeless people, as not all homeless people will use a SAAP service.

Characteristics of clients

- In 2010–11 an estimated 135,043 people who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless received some form of assistance from SAAP (Table 2.01.22).
- Of these, 25,149 (19%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders clients (Table 2.01.22).
- Indigenous females are almost two and a half times as likely as Indigenous males to seek SAAP assistance (Table 2.01.22).
- Indigenous SAAP clients were younger than non-Indigenous clients (Table 2.01.22):
  - There were a higher proportion of Indigenous females in all age categories under 35 years compared with non-Indigenous females, as well as among Indigenous males in all age categories under 25 years compared with non-Indigenous males.
  - The mean age for Indigenous male (32 years) and female (30 years) SAAP clients was below the mean age for non-Indigenous male (35 years) and female (32 years) SAAP clients.

Table 2.01.22: SAAP clients: sex and age, by Indigenous status and age, 2010–11

Total SAAP clients	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
Sex and age	**Per cent**	**Number**	**Per cent**	**Number**	**Per cent**	**Number**
Male						
0–14 years	4.3	318	2.1	894	2.4	1,212
15–19 years	17.9	1,326	15.8	6,892	16.1	8,218
20–24 years	14.6	1,081	12.5	5,463	12.8	6,544
25–34 years	21.9	1,616	21.3	9,282	21.4	10,898
35–44 years	22.6	1,670	23.3	10,137	23.2	11,808
45–64 years	17.5	1,294	22.1	9,611	21.4	10,905
65+ years	1.2	86	2.9	1,285	2.7	1,370
Total	**100.0**	**7,392**	**100.0**	**43,564**	**100.0**	**50,955**
Total ASR per 1000[(a)]	**28.3**	**. .**	**4.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
Female						
0–14 years	2.9	507	2.5	1,678	2.6	2,185
15–19 years	16.5	2,930	16.2	10,747	16.3	13,677
20–24 years	19.4	3,437	15.3	10,123	16.1	13,560
25–34 years	28.2	5,006	25.7	17,044	26.2	22,050
35–44 years	20.3	3,597	23.0	15,253	22.4	18,850
45–64 years	12.0	2,129	15.4	10,231	14.7	12,360
65+ years	0.9	151	1.9	1,255	1.7	1,406
Total	**100.0**	**17,757**	**100.0**	**66,331**	**100.0**	**84,088**
Total ASR per 1000(a)	**62.6**	**. .**	**6.2**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
Persons						
0–14 years	3.3	825	2.3	2,572	2.5	3,397
15–19 years	16.9	4,256	16.1	17,639	16.2	21,895
20–24 years	18.0	4,518	14.2	15,586	14.9	20,103
25–34 years	26.3	6,623	24.0	26,325	24.4	32,948
35–44 years	20.9	5,267	23.1	25,391	22.7	30,658
45–64 years	13.6	3,424	18.1	19,842	17.2	23,265
65+ years	0.9	237	2.3	2,540	2.1	2,776
Total	**100.0**	**25,149**	**100.0**	**109,894**	**100.0**	**135,043**
Total ASR per 1000[(a)]	**45.6**	**. .**	**5.1**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
Mean age						
Male	. .	32	. .	35	. .	34
Female	. .	30	. .	32	. .	32
Median age						
Male	. .	31	. .	34	. .	34
Female	. .	28	. .	31	. .	30

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

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions in 'Indigenous status' (weighted): 7,506 clients.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

State and region

- In 2010–11, most SAAP support periods for Indigenous clients were in New South Wales (27%) followed by Queensland (23%). For the non-Indigenous clients, most support periods were in Victoria (36%) followed by New South Wales (28%) (Table 2.01.23).
- In 2010–11, 40% of Indigenous SAAP clients were living in *Major cities* compared with 72% of non-Indigenous SAAP clients (Table 2.01.23).
- There were correspondingly higher proportions of Indigenous SAAP clients living in *Outer regional*, *Remote* and *Very remote* locations (24.6%, 7.3% and 10.1%) compared with non-Indigenous clients (8.2%, 0.8% and 0.3% respectively) (Table 2.01.23).

Table 2.01.23: SAAP support periods: Indigenous status, by region and state/territory, Australia, 2010–11 (per cent)

									Total	
Region	**NSW**	**Vic**	**Qld**	**WA**	**SA**	**Tas[(a)]**	**ACT**	**NT[(b)]**	**Per cent**	**Number**
Indigenous										
Major city	50.3	55.7	31.8	41.7	50.4	—	100.0	—	40.3	13,142
Inner regional	29.4	29.2	13.6	6.2	3.4	85.7	—	—	17.7	5,781
Outer regional	16.4	15.1	41.6	13.9	28.7	13.6	—	36.1	24.6	8,022
Remote	3.2	n.p.	9.8	14.1	5.1	n.p.	—	17.1	7.3	2,382
Very remote	0.6	n.p.	3.1	24.1	12.5	n.p.	—	46.8	10.1	3,303
Total (row %)	**27.4**	**13.4**	**22.9**	**14.0**	**9.8**	**1.7**	**1.0**	**9.9**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total (number)	**8,950**	**4,357**	**7,455**	**4,574**	**3,205**	**544**	**318**	**3,226**	**. .**	**32,629**
Non-Indigenous										
Major city	75.2	80.9	57.3	75.7	74.5	—	100.0	—	72.1	108,219
Inner regional	19.3	14.7	22.4	15.1	8.2	90.5	n.p.	—	18.6	27,872
Outer regional	5.3	4.4	17.9	6.1	14.5	8.4	n.p.	78.2	8.2	12,336
Remote	0.2	0.0	1.6	2.5	2.5	1.1	—	9.1	0.8	1,146
Very remote	0.0	—	0.8	0.6	0.3	—	—	12.6	0.3	446
Total (row %)	**28.2**	**38.1**	**15.2**	**6.1**	**7.4**	**2.9**	**1.3**	**0.9**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total (number)	**42,329**	**57,110**	**22,835**	**9,147**	**11,087**	**4,322**	**1,916**	**1,273**	**. .**	**150,019**

(a) Hobart is classified as Inner Regional.

(b) Darwin is classified as Outer Regional.

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (unweighted): 10,603 support periods.
2. 'Region' in this report is based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure (ABS 2007). SAAP agencies are categorised based on the postcode supplied by the relevant state or territory community services department. Please note that this postcode forms part of the mailing address of the agency and may not match the actual location of the agency. For more information please see 'Region' in Appendix 2.
3. To ensure confidentiality, some cells in this table have been suppressed. While these cases are not presented separately, they are included in the totals.
4. Unweighted data. Figures could not be weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent at the remoteness level. Note that only those records for which consent was obtained were included in this table.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Main reason for seeking assistance

- In 2010–11, the most common main reason for seeking assistance among Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients was domestic/family violence (24% and 21% support periods respectively) (Table 2.01.24).
- The broad category 'Interpersonal relationships' was recorded as the main reason for seeking assistance for almost half (45%) of Indigenous SAAP clients and 41% of non-Indigenous SAAP clients (Table 2.01.24).
- Compared with the non-Indigenous SAAP clients, Indigenous SAAP clients were more likely to state that their main reason for seeking assistance was for 'Time out from family/other situation' (8.4% of support periods compared with 6.5%) and overcrowding issues (6.6% compared with 2.7%) (Table 2.01.24).
- In 2010–11, Indigenous SAAP clients were less likely to report having financial problems than non-Indigenous SAAP clients (14.3% and 18.8% support periods respectively) (Table 2.01.24).

Table 2.01.24: SAAP support periods: Indigenous status, by main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 2010–11

Main reason for seeking assistance	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Per cent
Interpersonal relationships					
Time out from family/other situation	3,319	8.4	11,318	6.2	6.6
Relationship/family breakdown	3,509	8.9	18,592	10.2	9.9
Interpersonal conflict	767	1.9	4,450	2.4	2.3
Sexual abuse	140	0.4	655	0.4	0.4
Domestic/family violence	9,386	23.7	38,542	21.1	21.5
Physical/emotional abuse	480	1.2	1,743	1	1
Financial					
Gambling	29	0.1	372	0.2	0.2
Budgeting problems	1,722	4.4	12,695	6.9	6.5
Rent too high	431	1.1	2,615	1.4	1.4
Other financial difficulty	3,484	8.8	18,831	10.3	10.0
Accommodation					
Overcrowding issues	2,622	6.6	4,910	2.7	3.4
Eviction/asked to leave	2,075	5.2	13,095	7.2	6.8
Emergency accommodation ended	587	1.5	4,410	2.4	2.2
Previous accommodation ended	2,407	6.1	14,456	7.9	7.6
Health					
Mental health issues	364	0.9	3,916	2.1	1.9
Problematic drug/alcohol/substance use	1,296	3.3	6,431	3.5	3.5
Psychiatric illness	110	0.3	1,334	0.7	0.7
Other health issues	516	1.3	1,984	1.1	1.1
Other reasons					
Gay/lesbian/transgender issues	43	0.1	498	0.3	0.2
Recently left institution	631	1.6	2,168	1.2	1.3
Recent arrival to area with no means of support	1,110	2.8	3,160	1.7	1.9
Itinerant	1,521	3.8	4,643	2.5	2.8
Other	3,044	7.7	12,276	6.7	6.9
Total					
Total (row per cent)	17.8	. .	82.2		100.0
Total (number)	**39,593**	**100**	**183,094**	**100**	

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 19,238 support periods.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Accompanying children

- In 2001–11, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children made up 26% of all children accompanying SAAP clients (Table 2.01.25).
- Close to half (48%) of the accompanying Indigenous children were aged 0–4 years, a quarter (28%) were aged 5–9 years. Non-Indigenous children had a very similar percentage breakdown by age (Table 2.01.25).

Table 2.01.25: Children accompanying SAAP clients, by Indigenous status and age, 2010–11

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
Age group	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
0–4	10,031	47.9	26,024	42.6	36,055	44.0
5–9	5,808	27.7	16,749	27.4	22,557	27.5
10–14	3,816	18.2	13,045	21.4	16,861	20.6
15–17	1,287	6.1	5,289	8.7	6,576	8.0
Total	**20,942**	**100.0**	**61,106**	**100.0**	**82,048**	**100.0**

Note: Number excluded due to errors and omissions(weighted):5,928.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Unmet requests for SAAP accommodation

The Demand for Accommodation Collection attempts to measure unmet need for SAAP accommodation in two separate weeks during the year. This collection counted those who were seeking accommodation but whose request for accommodation could not be met for one week in December 2010 and May 2011.

- There was an average of 67 Indigenous people per day with valid unmet requests for assistance in December 2010 and May 2011 (Table 2.01.26).
- There were more Indigenous females (40) with unmet requests for SAAP accommodation than Indigenous males (27) (Table 2.01.26).
- Queensland (24) had the most valid unmet requests for SAAP accommodation per day followed by New South Wales (15.9) (Table 2.01.26).

Table 2.01.26: Valid unmet requests for average number of SAAP accommodation per day of Indigenous clients with accompanying children, 3–9 December 2010 and 6–12 May 2011

	NSW	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Males	6.4	10.4	5	3.6	0.4	0.3	1.4	27.4
Females	9.5	13.1	6.4	4.6	0.6	0.1	5.4	39.8
Persons	15.9	23.5	11.4	8.2	1.1	0.4	6.8	67.2

Note: Data for Victorian is not included in this table as comparable data for Victoria to the other jurisdictions could not be collected in 2009–10 or 2010–11.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (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 unexplained 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).

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.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

The SAAP collection is an administrative data collection and therefore cannot be used as an indicator for the Australian population. Due to the definition of homelessness for SAAP, there is no way to distinguish whether a person who receives SAAP support was at imminent risk of homelessness or was actually homeless. Therefore, SAAP cannot be used as an indicator for the Australian homeless population.

SAAP also requires valid consent to be given each time a client is supported (support period) in order to collect all the client level and support period level information. However, if consent is not given then only a limited about of information can be collected about the particular client and their support period and this client cannot be linked with any other support periods they may have had.

The Indigenous status question for SAAP requires consent to collect information and is answered by the client and must be recorded as stated by the client, irrespective of the workers perception based on appearance or other factors. This may lead to an undercount of Indigenous SAAP clients if the client does not give consent or does not identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

A weighting model has been developed to adjust for agency non-participation, client non-consent and client mixed consent in SAAP data. These weights are applied to the majority of SAAP tables and help reflect the true usage of SAAP services across Australia.

From July 2011, the SAAP NDC was replaced by the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC). The SHSC was developed by the AIHW in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and relevant departments of all state and territory governments.

First results of the new SHSC from the first quarter of data collection—July to September 2011 were released in April 2012. This reported that almost one-fifth (19%) of clients who provided information on their Indigenous status were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, while 12% of clients did not have information on Indigenous status recorded (AIHW 2012). This is higher than the 5% of not stated responses reported for the last year of the SAAP NDC. However it should be noted that analysis of the September quarter 2011 SHSC data identified some implementation issues. In particular, the rate of invalid/'don't know'/missing responses was high for many data items. It is expected that rates of missing/not stated information will greatly reduce over the next few quarters of data collection as implementation issues are resolved.

With respect to agency participation rates in the new SHSC, 93% of relevant agencies returned support period data for at least one month in the September quarter 2011. This compares favourably with the SAAP agency participation rate, which was 90% in 2010–11 and 92% on average between 2001–02 and 2010–11.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

The NATSIHS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The 2004–05 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 and very 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).

List of symbols used in tables

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

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2.02 Access to functional housing with utilities

Connection to water, sewerage and electricity services in Indigenous communities and functionality of Indigenous housing facilities required to support Healthy Living Practices

Data sources

Data on water, sewerage and electricity services come from the 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS). Data on the functionality of housing facilities required to support Healthy Living Practices come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).

Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey

The Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS) collects data from all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing organisations and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. The latest CHINS was enumerated from 1 March to 30 June 2006. The data were collected through personal interviews with key community and Indigenous Housing Organisation (IHO) representatives knowledgeable about housing and infrastructure issues. The survey collected information on all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2006 CHINS on behalf of, and with full funding from, the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA). Information collected includes:

- details of current housing stock, dwelling management practices and selected income and expenditure arrangements of Indigenous organisations that provide housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- details of housing and related infrastructure, such as water, electricity, sewerage, drainage, rubbish collection and disposal, as well as other facilities such as transport, communication, education, sport and health services, available in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The 2006 information was collected on 496 Indigenous housing organisations which managed a total of 21,854 permanent dwellings. Information was also collected on 1,187 discrete Indigenous communities with a combined population of 92,960. Most of these communities were in *Very remote* regions of Australia, with 73% (865) having a population fewer than 50 people.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force

participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

Healthy Living Practices

The National Indigenous Housing Guide (FaHCSIA 2003) lists nine Healthy Living Practices to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases. These are:

1. Washing people
2. Washing clothes and bedding
3. Removing waste safely
4. Improving nutrition: the ability to store, prepare and cook food
5. Reducing crowding and the potential for the spread of infectious disease
6. Reducing negative contact between people and animals, vermin or insects
7. Reducing the negative impact of dust
8. Controlling the temperature of the living environment
9. Reducing trauma (or minor injury) around the house and living environment.

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing is conducted by the ABS at 5-yearly intervals, and 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 undercount 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 2011 Census is the most recent, however data for the Indigenous population was not yet released at the time of writing this report. Therefore data included in this report come from the 2006 Census. In 2006, the ABS enhanced the sample for the Post-Enumeration Survey to include remote areas. The measured undercount for Indigenous Australians was 11.5%.

Data analyses

Connection to services

The CHINS collects data on water, sewerage and electricity in discrete Indigenous communities. Data from the 2006 survey are presented below.

Water supply

- Of the 1,187 discrete Indigenous communities surveyed in the 2006 CHINS, 9 reported they had no organised water supply, compared with 21 communities in 2001. In 2006, communities with no organised water supply had a total population of 20 people (0.02%) compared with 90 people (0.1%) in 2001 (Table 2.02.1).
- 1.2% of discrete Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory were not connected to an organised water supply (Table 2.02.1).
- Approximately 59% of discrete Indigenous communities (694 communities), with a reported population of 48,511 people, reported bore water as their main source of water supply (Table 2.02.3).
- Out of 375 discrete Indigenous communities for which data on water interruptions were collected, there were 69 that experienced five or more interruptions to water supply in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.02.1).

Drinking water failed testing

- Drinking water failed water-quality tests for 24% of the reported usual population and 29% of all discrete Indigenous communities not connected to a town water supply for which water-testing data were collected. Nationally, 4,796 people in discrete Indigenous communities, not connected to a nearby town supply, lived in communities where drinking water was not sent away for testing in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.02.4).
- Of communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing, the proportion of communities for which drinking water failed testing in the 12 months before the survey ranged from 16% in Queensland to 80% in New South Wales (Table 2.02.4).
- Non-remote areas had the highest proportion of discrete communities not connected to nearby town supplies whose drinking water failed testing (55%) in the 2006 CHINS (Table 2.02.2).
- In 2006, in Australia overall, a slightly lower proportion of discrete Indigenous communities with a population of 50 or more reported their drinking water failed testing in the previous 12 months (29%) than in 1999 (34%) and 2001 (33%) (Table 2.02.5).
- In 2006, Queensland and Western Australia had a lower proportion of communities that reported failed drinking water testing in the previous 12 months than in 1999 and 2001. In New South Wales in 2006 a much higher proportion of communities reported their drinking water failed testing in the previous 12 months than in 1999 and 2001 (Table 2.02.5).

Table 2.02.1: Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia[a]			
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n	Per cent
Communities with no organised water supply[b]	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	1.1	7	1.1	9	0.8	20	0.02
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised water supply[c][d]	17	1.5	31	0.7	67	2.1	21	2.1	83	1.2	219	1.3	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 5 or more interruptions[e][f][g]	2	3.8	8	19.5	18	18.6	6	14.6	34	24.3	69	18.4	21,291	25.6
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply greater than 24 hours[e][f][g]	10	18.9	9	22.0	14	14.4	14	34.1	33	23.6	80	21.3	15,665	18.8
Communities with drinking water not tested[g][h][i]	1	16.7	8	27.6	3	5.7	11	45.8	22	22.7	45	21.3	4,796	8.6
Communities with drinking water failed testing[g][h][j]	4	80.0	3	15.8	19	38.0	4	30.8	16	21.3	48	29.3	12,059	21.6
Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire[e]	**53**	**. .**	**41**	**. .**	**97**	**. .**	**41**	**. .**	**140**	**. .**	**375**	**. .**	**83,318**	**n.a.**
Total no. of communities[b]	**57**	**. .**	**124**	**. .**	**271**	**. .**	**91**	**. .**	**641**	**. .**	**1,187**	**. .**	**92,960**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.02.1 (continued): Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

(a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

(b) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(c) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised water supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised water supply.

(d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.

(e) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on water interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(f) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete communities for which data on water interruptions were collected.

(g) In the 12 months before the survey.

(h) Excludes communities connected to town supply.

(i) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply.

(j) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

Sources: SCRGSP 2007; ABS 2007; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.2: Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness, 2006

	Non remote		Remote		Very remote		*Subtotal Remote/Very-remote*		Australia			
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	*No.*	*Per cent*	No.	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n	Per cent
Communities with no organised water supply[(a)]	0	0.0	1	1.0	8	0.8	*9*	*0.8*	9	0.8	20	0.02
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised water supply[(b)]	20	n.a.	36	n.a.	163	n.a.	*199*	*n.a.*	219	1.3	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 5 or more interruptions[(c)(d)(e)]	4	6.3	18	42.9	47	17.4	*65*	*20.8*	69	18.4	21,291	25.6
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply greater than 24 hours[(c)(d)(e)]	12	19.0	13	31.0	55	20.4	*68*	*21.8*	80	21.3	15,665	18.8
Communities with drinking water not tested [(e)(f)(g)]	2	16.7	4	33.3	39	21.0	*43*	*21.7*	45	21.3	4,796	8.6
Communities with drinking water failed testing [(e)(f)(h)]	6	54.5	1	12.5	41	28.3	*42*	*27.5*	48	29.3	12,059	21.6
Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire [(c)]	**63**	**. .**	**42**	**. .**	**270**	**. .**	***312***	***. .***	**375**	**. .**	**83,318**	**. .**
Total[(a)]	**75**	**. .**	**104**	**. .**	**1,008**	**. .**	***1,112***	***. .***	**1,187**	**. .**	**92,960**	**. .**

(a) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(b) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised water supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised water supply.

(c) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on water interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(d) Proportion calculated as a proportion of all discrete communities for which data on water interruptions were collected.

(e) In the 12 months before the survey.

(f) Excludes communities connected to a town supply.

(g) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply.

(h) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

Sources: SCRGSP 2007; ABS 2007; FaHCSIA and ABS analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.3: Main source of drinking water, discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia[(a)]			
	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n.	Per cent
Connected to town supply	51	89.5	11	8.9	43	15.9	19	20.9	84	13.1	209	17.6	28,084	30.2
Bore water	2	3.5	32	25.8	197	72.7	48	52.7	414	64.6	694	58.5	48,511	52.2
Rain water tank(s)	2	3.5	24	19.4	0	0.0	6	6.6	8	1.2	41	3.5	2,378	2.6
River/reservoir	2	3.5	24	19.4	5	1.8	3	3.3	22	3.4	57	4.8	11,667	12.6
Well or spring	0	0.0	21	16.9	2	0.7	1	1.1	15	2.3	39	3.3	887	1.0
Carted water	0	0.0	4	3.2	2	0.7	0	0.0	21	3.3	27	2.3	637	0.7
Other organised water supply	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	0.4	1	1.1	0	0.0	3	0.3	104	0.1
No organised water supply	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	1.1	7	1.1	9	0.8	20	0.02
Total	**57**	**100.0**	**124**	**100.0**	**271**	**100.0**	**91**	**100.0**	**641**	**100.0**	**1,187**	**100.0**	**92,960**	**100.0**

(a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Source: ABS 2007.

Table 2.02.4: Testing of drinking water in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006[(a)(b)]

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia[(c)]			
	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n.	Per cent
Did not fail testing[(d)(e)]	1	20.0	9	47.4	30	60.0	9	69.2	51	68.0	100	61.0	29,104	58.2
Failed testing[(d)(e)]	4	80.0	3	15.8	19	38.0	4	30.8	16	21.3	48	29.3	12,059	24.1
Total communities water sent away for testing[(f)(g)]	5	83.3	19	65.5	50	94.3	13	54.2	75	77.3	164	78.1	50,043	n.a.
Not tested [(g)]	1	16.7	8	27.6	3	5.7	11	45.8	22	22.7	45	21.4	4,796	n.a.
Not stated whether water sent away for testing[(g)]	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.9	1,100	2.0
Total not connected to town supply[(h)]	6	11.3	29	70.7	53	54.6	24	58.5	97	69.3	211	56.3	55,939	67.1
Connected to town supply[(h)]	47	88.7	10	24.4	37	38.1	17	41.5	43	30.7	155	41.3	26,791	32.2
Connected to town supply not stated[(h)]	0	0.0	2	4.9	7	7.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	2.4	588	0.7
Total[(b)]	**53**	**100.0**	**41**	**100.0**	**97**	**100.0**	**41**	**100.0**	**140**	**100.0**	**375**	**100.0**	**83,318**	**100.0**

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(c) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

(d) Excludes communities connected to town supply.

(e) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

(f) Total includes don't know if failed testing.

(g) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply.

(h) A town supply is a water supply which is shared with a nearby town. The community is not responsible for the water supply, it is normally maintained by a Water Authority or Shire Council. Town supply not necessarily community's main source of drinking water.

Sources: ABS 2007; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.5: Percentage of discrete Indigenous communities[(a)] where drinking water failed testing[(b)] in previous 12 months, by state/territory, 1999, 2001 and 2006

		NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Australia[(c)]
1999	Number of communities	3	11	16	3	24	58
	Per cent	30.0	42.3	37.2	27.3	30.8	34.3
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**10**	**26**	**43**	**11**	**78**	**169**
2001	Number of communities	5	7	26	4	13	56
	Per cent	62.5	30.4	48.1	25.0	19.4	33.1
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**8**	**23**	**54**	**16**	**67**	**169**
2006	Number communities	4	3	16	3	15	43
	Per cent	100.0	16.7	35.6	30.0	21.4	28.9
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**4**	**18**	**45**	**10**	**70**	**149**

(a) Communities with a population of 50 or more with an organised water supply (where the main source is not town water supply) that had their water tested.

(b) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

(c) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Sources: AIHW analysis of ABS 2002; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Water restrictions and interruptions

- Of the discrete Indigenous communities not connected to a town water supply that completed the long community questionnaire in 2006, 76 (21%) experienced water restrictions in the 12 months before the CHINS (Table 2.02.6).
- Of the 182 communities that reported water interruptions in 2006, 29 reported only one interruption, whereas 69 reported interruptions on five or more occasions in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.02.6).
- Approximately 28% of discrete Indigenous communities not connected to a town water supply that completed the long community questionnaire in 2006 reported the duration of the longest water interruption in the last 12 months as 1 day, and 0.5% reported the longest water interruption as more than 112 days (Table 2.02.7).

Table 2.02.6: Water restrictions and interruptions in discrete Indigenous communities[(a)(b)(c)], by reported usual population, 2006

	Communities with a population of							
	Less than 50	50–99	100–199	200 or more	All communities		Reported usual population	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%
Water restrictions								
Experienced water restrictions due to								
Drought	7	8	12	7	34	9.3	8,267	10.0
Normal dry season	0	4	4	12	20	5.5	8,129	9.8
Lack of storage containment	0	3	2	6	11	3.0	6,853	8.3
Poor water quality	0	4	3	1	8	2.2	3,634	4.4
Other reason	3	4	5	7	19	5.2	7,222	8.7
Total communities experienced water restrictions[(d)]	*8*	*19*	*21*	*28*	*76*	*20.8*	*25,557*	*30.9*
Did not experience water restrictions	46	97	68	79	290	79.2	57,173	69.1
Water interruptions								
Experienced water interruptions due to								
Equipment breakdown	14	38	38	55	145	39.6	36,139	43.7
Ran out of water	2	6	5	6	19	5.2	3,879	4.7
Poor water quality	0	3	3	4	10	2.7	2,706	3.3
Lack of power	0	3	6	9	18	4.9	6,825	8.2
Planned interruption	4	18	18	26	66	18.0	18,943	22.9
Other water interruption	3	2	1	6	12	3.3	3,235	3.9
Total communities experienced water interruptions[(d)]	*17*	*52*	*47*	*66*	*182*	*49.7*	*44,563*	*53.9*
Did not experience water interruption	37	64	42	41	184	50.3	38,167	46.1
Frequency of water interruption								
Once	4	8	9	8	29	7.9	5,366	6.5
Twice	2	13	8	15	38	10.4	7,403	8.9
Three times	4	8	8	6	26	7.1	4,178	5.1
Four times	2	4	7	7	20	5.5	6,325	7.6
Five times or more	5	19	15	30	69	18.9	21,291	25.7
All communities	**54**	**116**	**89**	**107**	**366**	**100.0**	**82,730**	**100.0**

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(c) Excludes communities connected to town supply.

(d) Component may not add to totals because more than one response may be specified.

Source: ABS 2007.

Table 2.02.7: Duration of longest water interruption in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006 [(a)(b)(c)]

		1 day	2 days	3–7 days	8–14 days	15–28 days	29–56 days	57–112 days	>112 days	No restrictions	Total
Number of communities											
NSW	Number	6	3	4	1	0	0	1	1	37	53
Qld	Number	11	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	19	39
WA	Number	22	7	5	1	0	1	0	0	54	90
SA	Number	6	6	4	0	1	1	1	1	21	41
NT	Number	56	14	16	2	1	0	0	0	51	140
Australia[(d)]	Number	**102**	**35**	**32**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**184**	**366**
Proportion of communities											
NSW	Per cent	11.3	5.7	7.5	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	69.8	100.0
Qld	Per cent	28.2	12.8	7.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.7	100.0
WA	Per cent	24.4	7.8	5.6	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	60.0	100.0
SA	Per cent	14.6	14.6	9.8	0.0	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	51.2	100.0
NT	Per cent	40.0	10.0	11.4	1.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.4	100.0
Australia[(d)]	**Per cent**	**27.9**	**9.6**	**8.7**	**1.4**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**50.3**	**100.0**

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(c) Excludes communities connected to town supply.

(d) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Sources: ABS 2007; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Electricity source and supply

- In 2006, community generators were the main source of electricity reported for 377 Indigenous communities (32%) followed by state grid or transmitted supply reported for 274 communities (23%) (Table 2.02.8). Communities with a reported population of 50 or more were more likely to be connected to a state grid or a transmitted supply than smaller communities.
- No organised electricity supply was reported for 32 discrete Indigenous communities in 2006 (2.7% of all communities surveyed) (Table 2.02.8).
- The proportion of communities with no organised electricity supply ranged from 0.0% in New South Wales to 4.0% in Queensland (Table 2.02.9).
- All dwellings not connected to an organised electricity supply were located in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas, with the highest numbers in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.02.10).

Table 2.02.8: Main source of electricity, all discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	State grid/transmitted supply	Community generators	Domestic generators	Solar	Solar hybrid	Other organised electricity supply	No organised electricity supply	Total[a]
				Communities with a population of less than 50				
State/territory								
NSW	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Qld	7	10	43	10	0	1	5	85
WA	29	56	71	3	11	1	5	189
SA	17	13	9	3	8	0	1	63
NT	61	138	49	86	83	3	20	510
Australia[b]	**132**	**217**	**172**	**102**	**102**	**5**	**31**	**865**
				Communities with a population of 50 or more				
State/territory								
NSW	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Qld	15	23	0	0	0	1	0	39
WA	26	49	4	0	0	0	0	82
SA	14	10	1	0	1	1	1	28
NT	46	77	1	3	4	0	0	131
Australia[b]	**142**	**160**	**6**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**1**	**322**
				All communities				
State/territory								
NSW	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
Qld	22	33	43	10	0	2	5	124
WA	55	105	75	3	11	1	5	271
SA	31	23	10	3	9	1	2	91
NT	107	215	50	89	87	3	20	641
Australia[b]	**274**	**377**	**178**	**105**	**107**	**8**	**32**	**1,187**

(a) Includes main source of electricity not stated.

(b) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Source: ABS 2007.

Table 2.02.9: Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia[a]			
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Reported usual population	Per cent
Communities with no organised electricity supply[b]	0	0.0	5	4.0	5	1.8	2	2.2	20	3.1	32	2.7	284	0.3
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised electricity supply[c][d]	1	0.1	16	0.3	18	0.6	19	1.9	28	0.4	82	0.5	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 20 or more interruptions[e][f][g]	1	1.9	4	9.8	19	19.6	2	4.9	15	10.7	41	10.9	13,342	16.0
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply longer than 24 hours[e][f][g]	7	13.2	14	34.1	27	27.8	15	36.6	32	22.9	96	25.6	23,952	28.7
Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire [e]	**53**	**. .**	**41**	**. .**	**97**	**. .**	**41**	**. .**	**140**	**. .**	**375**	**. .**	**83,318**	**. .**
Total no. of communities[b]	**57**	**. .**	**124**	**. .**	**271**	**. .**	**91**	**. .**	**641**	**. .**	**1,187**	**. .**	**92,960**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.02.9 (continued): Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

(a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

(b) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(c) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised electricity supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised electricity supply.

(d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.

(e) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(f) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected.

(g) In the 12 months before the survey.

Sources: ABS 2007; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.10: Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness area, 2006

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Remote		Very remote		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Communities												
Communities with no organised electricity supply[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1.0	31	3.1	32	2.7
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised electricity supply[(b)]	—	—	1	—	4	n.a.	14	n.a.	63	n.a.	82	0.5
Communities experiencing 20 or more interruptions[(c)(d)(e)]	—	—	—	—	1	2.4	6	14.3	34	12.6	41	10.9
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply longer than 24 hours[(c)(d)(e)]	1	25.0	2	11.8	8	19.0	16	38.1	69	25.6	96	25.6
Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire[(c)]	**4**	**. .**	**17**	**. .**	**42**	**. .**	**42**	**. .**	**270**	**. .**	**375**	**. .**
Total no. of communities[(a)]	**4**	**. .**	**19**	**. .**	**52**	**. .**	**104**	**. .**	**1,008**	**. .**	**1,187**	**. .**
Reported usual population												
Communities with no organised electricity supply[(a)]	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	0.04	280	0.5	284	0.3
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised electricity supply[(b)]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 20 or more interruptions[(c)(d)(e)]	—	—	—	—	180	1.8	1,491	15.6	11,671	19.0	13,342	16.0
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply longer than 24 hours[(c)(d)(e)]	70	17.1	344	18.9	4,641	46.2	1,812	18.9	17,085	27.8	23,952	28.7
Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire[(c)]	**410**	**. .**	**1,824**	**. .**	**10,041**	**. .**	**9,587**	**. .**	**61,456**	**. .**	**83,318**	**. .**
Total no. of communities[(a)]	**410**	**. .**	**1,835**	**. .**	**10,315**	**. .**	**10,775**	**. .**	**69,625**	**. .**	**92,960**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.02.10 (continued): Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness area, 2006

(a) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(b) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised electricity supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised electricity supply.

(c) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected.

(e) In the 12 months before the survey.

Sources: ABS 2007; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Electricity interruptions

- In 2006, interruptions to the electricity supply in the 12 months before the CHINS occurred in 76% (246) of the 322 discrete Indigenous communities with a reported population of 50 or more (Table 2.02.11). This was slightly lower than in 2001 and 1999 when interruptions were reported for 82% and 81% respectively.
- In 2006, approximately one-third (32%) of communities experienced less than 5 electricity interruptions, and 12% experienced 20 or more interruptions in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.02.11).
- In 2006, approximately 26% of communities experienced interruptions to electricity supply lasting longer than 24 hours. This was higher than that reported in 2001 (13%) and 1999 (14%) (Table 2.02.12).
- In 2008, 4.7% of Indigenous households experienced major electrical problems. The proportion was higher in remote areas (7.0%) than non-remote areas (4.3%) (Table 2.01.13).

Table 2.02.11: Electricity interruptions[a], communities with a population of 50 or more, 1999, 2001 and 2006

	2006					2001							1999			
	Communities with a population of					Communities with a population of										
Electricity interruptions	**50–99**	**100–199**	**200 or more**	**Total**	**Per cent**	**50–99**	**100–199**	**200 or more**	**Total**	**Per cent**	**Reported usual pop'n**	**Per cent**	**Total**	**Per cent**	**Reported usual pop'n**	**Per cent**
1–4 times	37	31	35	103	32.0	35	32	33	100	30.6	25,403	26.7	120	34.5	25,159	26.4
5–9 times	21	19	21	61	18.9	19	11	39	69	21.1	23,508	24.7	55	15.8	25,812	27.1
10–14 times	10	7	13	30	9.3	6	7	21	34	10.4	13,246	13.9	33	9.5	10,345	10.8
15–19 times	4	2	7	13	4.0	2	1	5	8	2.4	2,750	2.9	16	4.6	5,221	5.5
20 times or more	10	9	20	39	12.1	13	13	28	54	16.5	17,113	18.0	57	16.4	18,490	19.4
Total with electricity interruption[b]	*82*	*68*	*96*	*246*	*76.4*	*75*	*64*	*128*	*267*	*81.7*	*82,670*	*87.0*	*281*	*80.7*	*84,027*	*88.1*
Did not experience electricity interruption	34	20	11	65	20.2	26	16	17	59	18.0	12,276	12.9	62	17.8	10,897	11.4
All communities[c][d]	**123**	**92**	**107**	**322**	**100.0**	**102**	**80**	**145**	**327**	**100.0**	**94,996**	**100.0**	**348**	**100.0**	**95,423**	**100.0**

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) Includes 'Number of electricity interruptions' not stated.

(c) Includes communities with no organised electricity supply.

(d) Includes 'Whether experienced electricity interruption' not stated.

Source: ABS 2002, 2007.

Table 2.02.12: Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing interruptions to electricity supply longer than 24 hours in the previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006

		Non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Australia
1999	Number of communities	7	6	34	47
	Per cent	10.4	13.3	14.4	13.5
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**67**	**45**	**236**	**348**
2001	Number of communities	9	5	28	42
	Per cent	14.5	12.5	12.4	12.8
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**62**	**40**	**225**	**327**
2006	Number of communities	10	13	59	82
	Per cent	20.0	35.1	25.1	25.5
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**50**	**37**	**235**	**322**

(a) Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more.

Sources: AIHW analysis of the 1999 and 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Surveys; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.13: Number and proportion of Indigenous households with major electrical problems, by remoteness area, state/territory and SEIFA quintiles, 2008

	Households with major electrical problems		Total households[(a)]	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Remoteness				
Major cities	2,764	3.8	72,579	100.0
Inner regional	1,551	3.5	45,027	100.0
Outer regional	2,565	6.0	43,059	100.0
Total non-remote	*6,879*	*4.3*	*160,664*	*100.0*
Remote	855	5.5	15,614	100.0
Very remote	1,449	8.5	17,142	100.0
Total remote	*2,304*	*7.0*	*32,756*	*100.0*
Total	**9,183**	**4.7**	**193,421**	**100.0**
State/territory				
NSW	2,120*	3.3*	64,341	100.0
Vic	585	3.7	15,819	100.0
Qld	3,039	5.7	53,179	100.0
WA	669	5.7	11,710	100.0
SA	1,292*	5.9*	21,956	100.0
Tas	339*	3.6*	9,323	100.0
ACT	1,077*	7.1*	15,108	100.0
NT	63	3.1	1,985	100.0
Australia	**9,183**	**4.7**	**193,421**	**100.0**
SEIFA				
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	5,262	6.1	86,205	100.0
2nd quintile	1,423	3.5	41,073	100.0
3rd quintile	1,311*	3.7*	35,159	100.0
4th/5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	949*	3.4*	27,727	100.0
Total households[(b)]	**9,183**	**4.7**	**193,421**	**100.0**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Total includes not stated and households with no electrical problems.

(b) Includes not stated.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Sewerage systems

- In 2006, the majority of discrete Indigenous communities had septic tanks for their sewerage (695 communities or 59%) (Table 2.02.14).
- Approximately 1,969 people living in discrete Indigenous communities in 2006 did not have an organised sewerage system. A further 3,703 people relied on pit toilets for their sewerage (Table 2.02.18).

- The proportion of discrete Indigenous communities in *Very remote* areas without an organised sewerage system dropped from 86 communities (8.3%) in 2001 to 20 communities (2.0%) in 2006 (Table 2.02.15).
- The number of discrete Indigenous communities connected to a town sewerage system increased from 89 (7.3%) in 2001 to 121 (10.2%) in 2006 (Table 2.02.15).
- Approximately 2.1% of all discrete Indigenous communities (25 communities) in 2006 had no organised sewerage system. This ranged from 1.1% (7 communities) in the Northern Territory to 4.0% (5 communities) in Queensland. A further 17% (202 communities) relied on pit toilets (Table 2.02.17).
- In 2006, 4.0% of communities in *Non-remote* areas, 1.9% in *Remote* areas and 2.0% in *Very remote* areas had no organised sewerage system (Table 2.02.18).

Sewerage system overflows and leakages

- In 2006, 38% of all discrete Indigenous communities (142 out of 375) which provided data on sewerage system leakages and overflows reported overflows or leakages in the 12 months before the survey. Of these 142 communities, 82 (22%) reported 1–4 overflows/leakages and 14 (3.7%) reported 20 or more overflows/leakages (Table 2.02.16).
- The proportion of communities with a population of 50 or more which experienced 10 or more sewerage overflows or leakages in the 12 months before the survey was lower in 2006 than in 2001 and 1999 across all remoteness areas (Table 2.02.19).

Table 2.02.14: Number of discrete Indigenous communities with different types of sewerage systems, by state/territory, 2006

	Town system	Community waterborne	Septic tanks: common effluent disposal	Septic tanks: leach drains	Pit toilets	Pan toilets	Other organised system	No organised system	Total no. communities[(a)]
Communities with a population of less than 50									
NSW	13	—	3	1	—	—	—	2	18
Queensland	1	—	3	35	27	—	8	4	82
WA	3	8	14	147	9	1	—	7	194
SA	—	3	14	32	9	—	—	2	62
NT	8	1	20	286	148	—	1	6	509
Australia[(b)]	25	12	54	501	193	1	9	21	865
Communities with a population of 50 or more									
NSW	29	2	6	3	—	—	—	—	39
Queensland	12	13	7	9	—	—	—	—	38
WA	14	33	14	28	1	—	—	1	83
SA	4	6	13	8	2	—	—	—	29
NT	39	39	8	44	6	—	—	—	130
Australia[(b)]	98	96	48	92	9	—	—	1	322
All communities									
NSW	42	2	9	4	—	—	—	2	57
Queensland	13	13	10	44	27	—	8	4	120
WA	17	41	28	175	10	1	—	8	277
SA	4	9	27	40	11	—	—	2	91
NT	47	40	28	330	154	—	1	6	639
Australia[(b)]	121	108	102	593	202	1	9	22	1,187

(a) Components may not add to totals as more than one response may be specified.

(b) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Source: ABS 2007.

Table 2.02.15: Number of discrete Indigenous communities with different types of sewerage systems, by remoteness area, 2001 and 2006

	Town system	Community waterborne	Septic tanks: common effluent disposal.	Septic tanks: leach drains	Pit toilets	Pan toilets	Other organised system	No organised system	Total no. communities [(a)]
Non-remote									
2001	38	7	16	14	—	—	—	2	77
2006	43	10	12	13	—	—	—	3	75
Remote									
2001	26	10	15	46	7	2	—	3	109
2006	30	9	7	57	7	—	—	2	104
Very remote									
2001	25	79	73	537	217	1	12	86	1,030
2006	48	89	82	523	195	1	9	20	1,008
Remote/Very remote									
2001	*51*	*89*	*88*	*583*	*224*	*3*	*12*	*89*	*1,139*
2006	*78*	*98*	*89*	*580*	*202*	*1*	*9*	*22*	*1,112*
All communities									
2001	**89**	**96**	**104**	**597**	**224**	**3**	**12**	**91**	**1,216**
2006	**121**	**108**	**101**	**593**	**202**	**1**	**9**	**25**	**1,187**

(a) Components may not add to totals as more than one response may be specified.

Source: ABS 2007.

Table 2.02.16: Discrete Indigenous communities reporting sewerage system leakages and overflows[(a)(b)], by type of sewerage system, 2006

	Frequency of sewerage system leakages or overflows						
	1–4 times	5–9 times	10–19 times	20 times or more	Total with overflows	No overflows	Total communities[(b)(c)]
Number of communities							
Town system	26	6	3	2	37	73	110
Community waterborne	26	7	3	5	41	60	101
Septic tanks: common effluent disposal	12	3	6	1	22	37	62
Septic tanks: leach drains	24	13	7	7	51	60	113
Pit toilets	2	0	0	1	3	5	10
Pan toilets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other organised system	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No organised system	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total[(d)(e)]	**82**	**29**	**17**	**14**	**142**	**219**	**375**
Proportion of communities							
Town system	23.6	5.5	2.7	1.8	33.6	66.4	100.0
Community waterborne	25.7	6.9	3.0	5.0	40.6	59.4	100.0
Septic tanks: common effluent disposal	19.4	4.8	9.7	1.6	35.5	59.7	100.0
Septic tanks: leach drains	21.2	11.5	6.2	6.2	45.1	53.1	100.0
Pit toilets	20.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	30.0	50.0	100.0
Pan toilets	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other organised system	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
No organised system	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	**21.9**	**7.7**	**4.5**	**3.7**	**37.9**	**58.4**	**100.0**

(continued)

Table 2.02.16 (continued): Discrete Indigenous communities reporting sewerage system leakages and overflows [(a)(b)], by type of sewerage system, 2006

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(c) Includes whether experienced sewerage system leakage not stated.

(d) Includes type of sewerage system not stated.

(e) Components may not add to total as more than one response may be specified.

Source: FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.17: Sewerage in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia[(a)]	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
No organised sewerage system[(b)]	2	3.5	5	4.0	8	3.0	3	3.3	7	1.1	25	2.1
Pit toilets[(b)(c)]	—	—	27	21.8	10	3.7	11	12.2	154	24.0	202	17.0
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised sewerage system[(d)(e)]	17	1.5	26	0.6	175	5.5	12	1.2	151	2.1	381	2.2
Communities experiencing 10 or more overflows or leakages[(f)(g)(h)]	3	5.7	3	7.3	7	7.2	4	9.8	13	9.3	31	8.3
Communities experiencing overflows or leakages for longer than 48 hours[(f)(g)(h)]	10	18.9	11	26.8	23	23.7	11	26.8	24	17.1	81	21.6
Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire[(f)]	**53**	**. .**	**41**	**. .**	**97**	**. .**	**41**	**. .**	**140**	**. .**	**375**	**. .**
Total no. of communities[(b)]	**57**	**. .**	**124**	**. .**	**271**	**. .**	**90**	**. .**	**641**	**. .**	**1,187**	**. .**

(a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

(b) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(c) May not be main type of sewerage system; more than one type could be specified.

(d) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised sewerage system, including those in communities with and without community-organised sewerage system.

(e) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.

(f) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(g) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected.

(h) In the 12 months before the survey.

Source: FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.18: Sewerage in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness, 2006

	Non-remote		Remote		Very remote		Remote/Very remote		Australia			
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Reported usual population	Per cent
No organised sewerage system[(a)]	3	4.0	2	1.9	20	2.0	*22*	*2.0*	25	2.1	1,969	2.1
Pit toilets[(a)(b)]	—	—	7	6.7	195	19.3	*202*	*18.2*	202	17.0	3,703	4.0
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised sewerage system[(c)(d)]	34	n.a	45	n.a	302	n.a	*347*	*n.a.*	381	2.2	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 10 or more overflows or leakages[(e)(f)(g)]	4	6.3	1	2.4	26	9.6	*27*	*8.7*	31	8.3	5,341	6.4
Communities experiencing overflows or leakages for longer than 48 hours[(e)(f)(g)]	14	22.2	9	21.4	58	21.5	*67*	*21.5*	81	21.6	14,376	17.3
Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire[(e)]	**63**	**. .**	**42**	**. .**	**270**	**. .**	***312***	**. .**	**375**	**. .**	**83,318**	**. .**
Total no. of communities[(a)]	**75**	**. .**	**104**	**. .**	**1,008**	**. .**	***1,112***	**. .**	**1,187**	**. .**	**92,960**	**. .**

(a) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(b) May not be main type of sewerage system; more than one type could be specified.

(c) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised sewerage system, including those in communities with and without community-organised sewerage system.

(d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.

(e) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(f) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected.

(g) In the 12 months before the survey.

Source: FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.02.19: Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing 10 or more sewerage system overflows or leakages in previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006

		Non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Australia
1999	Number of communities	8	5	39	52
	Per cent	11.9	11.1	16.5	14.9
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**67**	**45**	**236**	**348**
2001	Number of communities	5	4	31	40
	Per cent	8.1	10.0	13.8	12.2
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**62**	**40**	**225**	**327**
2006	Number of communities	3	1	25	30
	Per cent	6.0	2.7	10.6	9.3
	Total number of communities[(a)]	**50**	**37**	**235**	**322**

(a) Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more.

Sources: AIHW analysis of the 1999 and 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Surveys; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Healthy Living Practices

Connection to services does not necessarily mean that the housing facilities (for example, toilets, baths, showers, washing machines, cooking facilities and refrigerators) are functional. The 2008 NATSISS collected information on the functionality of key household facilities required to support Healthy Living Practices. This included the functionality of facilities required to support the following four Healthy Living Practices—washing people; washing clothes and bedding; removing waste safely; and improving nutrition: the ability to store, prepare and cook food. These data were self-reported by people in the households.

- In 2008, approximately 99% of Indigenous households reported that they had working facilities for washing people, 94% reported working facilities for washing clothes/bedding, 94% reported working facilities for storing/preparing food and 98% reported working sewerage systems (Table 2.02.20).
- The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous households that reported that they did not have working facilities for washing people (4.1%), washing clothes/bedding (12%), storing/preparing food (17%) or working sewerage facilities (3.9%) (Table 2.02.20).
- The proportion of Indigenous households that reported that they did not have working facilities for washing people, washing clothes/bedding, storing/preparing food and working sewerage facilities was higher in remote areas (3.0%, 11%, 15% and 2.5% respectively) than in non-remote areas (1.2%, 5.0%, 4.4% and 1.4% respectively) (Table 2.02.21).
- Indigenous households in the most disadvantaged areas based on SEIFA index were more likely to not have working facilities for washing people, washing clothes/bedding, storing/preparing food and working sewerage facilities than those in the least disadvantaged areas (Table 2.02.22).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous households with three or more dependent children aged 0–4 years reported that they did not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding or for storing/preparing food (12% and 14% respectively) than Indigenous households with no dependent children (5.7% and 5.5% respectively). The proportion of Indigenous households without working facilities for washing people and working sewerage facilities was similar for households with none, 1, 2 and 3 or more dependent children aged 0–4 years (Table 2.02.23).
- Access to functional facilities to support the first four Healthy Living Practices was greater in households that were not overcrowded and did not have structural problems (Table 2.02.24).
- Access to functional facilities to support the first four Healthy Living Practices was lower for those households that usually did not consume vegetables or fruit each day compared with households that consumed at least one serve of fruit or vegetables each day (Table 2.02.25).
- In 2008, 50,439 Indigenous households had major structural problems. The proportion of households that had major structural problems was greater in remote (34%), than non-remote areas (25%) (Table 2.02.26).

Table 2.02.20: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by state/territory, 2008

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Has working facilities for washing people[(a)]	Per cent	98.5	98.3	99.6	98.6	96.3	98.3	99.7	95.9	98.5
Does not have working facilities for washing people	Per cent	1.5	1.7	0.4	1.4	3.7	1.7	0.3	4.1	1.5
Has working facilities for washing clothes/bedding[(b)]	Per cent	94.2	93.9	95.5	94.2	91.3	96.4	98.3	87.9	94.0
Does not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding	Per cent	5.8	6.1	4.5	5.8	8.7	3.6	1.7	12.1	6.0
Has working facilities for storing/preparing food[(c)]	Per cent	94.4	95.7	95.8	93.1	91.6	96.6	96.8	82.6	93.8
Does not have working facilities for storing/preparing food	Per cent	5.6	4.3	4.2	6.9	8.4	3.4	3.2	17.4	6.2
Has working sewerage facilities[(d)]	Per cent	98.5	97.9	99.3	99.3	96.2	98.3	99.7	96.1	98.4
Does not have working sewerage facilities	Per cent	1.5	2.1	0.7	0.7	3.8	1.7	0.3	3.9	1.6
Total	**Per cent**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total reported[(e)]	**Number**	**64,028**	**15,700**	**52,758**	**21,713**	**11,611**	**9,323**	**1,961**	**14,956**	**192,049**
Not stated	Number	314	119	421	242	99	0	25	152	1,371
Total households	**Number**	**64,341**	**15,819**	**53,179**	**21,956**	**11,710**	**9,323**	**1,985**	**15,108**	**193,421**

(a) Comprises households with a working bath or shower.

(b) Comprises households with working washing machine and/or laundry tub.

(c) Comprises households with working stove/oven/cooking facilities and a kitchen sink and a working refrigerator.

(d) Comprises households with a working toilet.

(e) Excludes households for which information about working facilities was not reported.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.02.21: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by remoteness, 2008

		Non-remote				Remote			
	Unit	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Total	Remote	Very remote	Total	Total
Has working facilities for washing people[(a)]	Per cent	98.9	98.2	99.0	98.8	99.0	95.2	97.0	98.5
Does not have working facilities for washing people	Per cent	1.1	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.0	4.8	3.0	1.5
Has working facilities for washing clothes/bedding[(b)]	Per cent	95.3	94.7	95.0	95.0	92.3	86.0	89.0	94.0
Does not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding	Per cent	4.7	5.3	5.0	5.0	7.7	14.0	11.0	6.0
Has working facilities for storing/preparing food[(c)]	Per cent	96.4	94.4	95.5	95.6	91.3	79.2	85.0	93.8
Does not have working facilities for storing/preparing food	Per cent	3.6	5.6	4.5	4.4	8.7	20.8	15.0	6.2
Has working sewerage facilities[(d)]	Per cent	99.3	97.3	98.9	98.6	98.8	96.2	97.5	98.4
Does not have working sewerage facilities	Per cent	0.7	2.7	1.1	1.4	1.2	3.8	2.5	1.6
Total	**Per cent**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total reported[(e)]	**Number**	**71,926**	**44,934**	**42,759**	**159,619**	**15,467**	**16,963**	**32,430**	**192,049**
Not stated	Number	652	93	300	1,045	147	180	326	1,371
Total households	**Number**	**72,579**	**45,027**	**43,059**	**160,664**	**15,614**	**17,142**	**32,756**	**193,421**

(a) Comprises households with a working bath or shower.

(b) Comprises households with working washing machine and/or laundry tub.

(c) Comprises households with working stove/oven/cooking facilities and a kitchen sink and a working refrigerator.

(d) Comprises households with a working toilet.

(e) Excludes households for which information about working facilities was not reported.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.02.22: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by SEIFA index of advantage - disadvantage 2008

	Unit	1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	2nd quintile	3rd quintile	4th/5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	Total[(a)]
Has working facilities for washing people[(b)]	%	44.3	21.4	18.3	14.4	100.0
Does not have working facilities for washing people	%	66.1	10.6*	n.p.	n.p.	100.0
Has working facilities for washing clothes/bedding[(c)]	%	44.2	21.5	18.2	14.6	100.0
Does not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding	%	51.1	16.2*	16.8*	10.4*	100.0
Has working facilities for storing/preparing food[(d)]	%	43.3	21.8	18.7	14.7	100.0
Does not have working facilities for storing/preparing food	%	64.3	11.6	9.5*	9.3*	100.0
Has working sewerage facilities[(e)]	%	44.5	21.3	18.1	14.4	100.0
Does not have working sewerage facilities	%	51.9	14.3*	20.8*	n.p.	100.0
Total	**%**	**44.6**	**21.2**	**18.1**	**14.3**	**100.0**
Total reported[(f)]	**No.**	**85,712**	**40,727**	**34,839**	**27,541**	**192,049**
Not stated	No.	493*	346*	320*	n.p.	1,371
Total households	**No.**	**86,205**	**41,073**	**35,159**	**27,727**	**193,421**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Total includes not stated.

(b) Comprises households with a working bath or shower.

(c) Comprises households with working washing machine and/or laundry tub.

(d) Comprises households with working stove/oven/cooking facilities and a kitchen sink and a working refrigerator.

(e) Comprises households with a working toilet.

(f) Excludes households for which information about working facilities was not reported.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.02.23: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by number of dependent children aged 0–4 years in household, 2008

	Number of dependent children aged 0–4 years in household									
	None		1		2		3+		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Has working facilities for washing people[a]	140,363	98.6	32,749	97.9	12,562	97.9	3,413	99.1	189,087	98.5
Does not have working facilities for washing people	1,954	1.4	711	2.1	265	2.1	32	0.9	2,963	1.5
Has working facilities for washing clothes/bedding[b]	134,187	94.3	31,376	93.8	11,976	93.4	3,028	87.9	180,566	94.0
Does not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding	8,131	5.7	2,085	6.2	852	6.6	417	12.1	11,484	6.0
Has working facilities for storing/preparing food	134,419	94.5	30,916	92.4	11,848	92.4	2,967	86.1	180,150	93.8
Does not have working facilities for storing/preparing food[c]	7,898	5.5	2,544	7.6	980	7.6	477	13.9	11,899	6.2
Has working sewerage facilities[d]	140,353	98.6	32,740	97.8	12,574	98.0	3,365	97.7	189,032	98.4
Does not have working sewerage facilities	1,964	1.4	720	2.2	253	2.0	79	2.3	3,017	1.6
Total reported[e]	**142,317**	**100.0**	**33,460**	**100.0**	**12,827**	**100.0**	**3,445**	**100.0**	**192,049**	**100.0**
Not stated	937	. .	282	. .	145	. .	7	. .	1,371	. .
Total households	**143,254**	**. .**	**33,742**	**. .**	**12,973**	**. .**	**3,452**	**. .**	**193,421**	**. .**

(a) Comprises households with a working bath or shower.

(b) Comprises households with working washing machine and/or laundry tub.

(c) Comprises households with working stove/oven/cooking facilities and a kitchen sink and a working refrigerator.

(d) Comprises households with a working toilet.

(e) Excludes households for which information about working facilities was not reported.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.02.24: Proportion of Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008

	Washing people	Washing clothes/bedding	Storing/preparing food	Sewerage facilities
Overcrowding[(a)]				
Overcrowded household	13.4	13.1	12.3	13.4
Not an overcrowded household	86.6	86.9	87.7	86.6
Housing				
Housing does have structural problems	25.9	24.7	24.7	25.9
Housing does not have structural problems	74.2	75.3	75.3	74.1
Total households	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATISS.

Table 2.02.25: Proportion of Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008

	Washing people	Washing clothes/bedding	Storing/preparing food	Sewerage facilities
Nutrition (children aged 14 years and younger)[(a)]				
Number of serves of vegetables consumed daily				
Does not usually eat vegetables	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
1 serve or less	30.3	29.9	30.4	30.4
2 serves	28.8	28.7	28.5	28.7
3 serves	23.4	23.8	23.3	23.3
4 serves	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8
5 serves or more	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1
Number of serves of fruit consumed daily				
Does not usually eat fruit	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
1 serve or less	34.8	35.3	35.1	34.9
2 serves	38.3	37.9	37.8	38.2
3 serves	15.7	15.6	15.8	15.6
4 serves	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1
5 serves or more	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3
Total persons	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Nutrition data represents non-remote participants only.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.02.26: Indigenous households: major structural problems by remoteness, Australia 2008

	Non-remote		Remote		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Has major structural problems:						
Rising damp (non-remote only)	8,136	5.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Major cracks in wall/floors	18,680	11.7	4,534	14.0	23,213	12.1
Sinking/moving foundations	10,131	6.3	1,500	4.6	11,631	6.1
Sagging floors	7,115	4.5	1,901	5.9	9,016	4.7
Walls or windows that aren't straight	10,351	6.5	3,498	10.8	13,849	7.2
Wood rot/termite damage	8,627	5.4	2,703	8.3	11,330	5.9
Major electrical problems	6,879	4.3	2,304	7.1	9,183	4.8
Major plumbing problems	8,133	5.1	3,223	9.9	11,356	5.9
Major roof defect	6,644	4.2	1,842	5.7	8,486	4.4
Other major structural problems	3,086	1.9	1,388	4.3	4,474	2.3
***Total has major structural problems*[(a)]**	***39,302***	***24.6***	***11,138***	***34.3***	***50,439***	***26.3***
No major structural problems	120,318	75.4	21,292	65.7	141,610	73.7
Total[(b)]	**159,619**	**100.0**	**32,430**	**100.0**	**192,049**	**100.0**

(a) Sum of components will equal more than 100% as more than one type of problem can be reported.

(b) Excludes not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Data quality issues

Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS)

The 2006 CHINS collected information on a variety of topics from discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia and on Indigenous organisations that provide rental housing to Indigenous people. In 2006, CHINS information was collected on 496 Indigenous organisations, which managed a total of 21,854 permanent dwellings. The majority of those dwellings were located in the Northern Territory (6,448), Queensland (6,230), New South Wales (4,176) and Western Australia (3,462) (ABS 2007).

The CHINS survey covers only discrete Indigenous communities. In 2006, the CHINS collected information from 1,187 discrete Indigenous communities. This included approximately 92,960 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders or 18% of the total Indigenous population. CHINS data is collected every 5 years. The data are collected from key personnel in Indigenous communities and housing organisations that are knowledgeable about housing and infrastructure issues.

The estimates are not subject to sampling error because the CHINS was designed as a complete enumeration of discrete Indigenous communities. However, data could not be obtained from a small number of communities. In addition, the community population was often estimated by community representatives without reference to records. Therefore, the data is subject non-sampling error.

Further information on the CHINS can be found in the publication *Housing and infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Australia 2006* (ABS 2007).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings, such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities, were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data

elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared with other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: User's 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 unexplained 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 under-counted (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 under-counts 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

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2.03 Environmental tobacco smoke

The number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–14 years who live in households with regular smokers and number and proportion of households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years in which there were regular smokers

Data sources

Data for this indicator come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

Data analyses

Children living in households with smokers

- In 2007–08, there were around 122,000 Indigenous children aged 0–14 years living in households with a daily smoker. This represented 65% of all Indigenous children aged 0–14 years. In comparison, 32% of non-Indigenous children aged 0–14 years lived in households with a daily smoker (Table 2.03.1).
- In 2007–08, there were around 57,000 households with Indigenous children aged 0–14 years in which there were daily smokers. This represented 64% of all households with Indigenous children (Table 2.03.1).
- Approximately 22% of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years were living in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors compared with 6.6% of non-Indigenous children of the same age (Table 2.03.1).

Table 2.03.1: Whether children aged 0–14 years are living in households with current daily smoker(s), by Indigenous status of children, 2007–08

	Indigenous children aged 0–14 years		Non-Indigenous children aged 0–14 years		Households with Indigenous children aged 0–14 years	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Current daily smoker in household						
No	65,410	34.9*	2,649,170	67.8*	32,837	36.2*
Yes	122,182	65.1*	1,258,451	32.2*	56,996	63.8*
Total	**187,591**	**100.0**	**3,907,621**	**100.0**	**89,383**	**100.0**
Not stated	*5,658*	. .	. .	. .	*2,255*	. .
Household member smokes inside the house						
No[(a)]	145,804	78.4*	3,649,133	93.4*	70,377	79.6*
Yes	40,157	21.6*	258,488	6.6*	18,078	20.4*
Total	**185,961**	**100.0**	**3,907,621**	**100.0**	**88,455**	**100.0**
Not stated	*7,288*	. .	. .	. .	*3,183*	. .

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

(a) Includes households in which there were no current daily smokers.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Children living in households with smokers by state/territory

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years who lived in households with daily smokers ranged from 53% in the Australian Capital Territory to 77% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.03.2).
- The proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years who lived in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors ranged from 13% in the Australian Capital Territory to 29% in Tasmania (Table 2.03.2).
- The proportion of households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years in which there were daily smokers who smoked at home indoors ranged from 15% in the Australian Capital Territory to 29% in Tasmania (Table 2.03.3).

- In Queensland, Indigenous children were 2.5 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to live in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors. In New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, Indigenous children were three times as likely, in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, four times as likely and in Western Australia five times as likely as non-Indigenous children to live in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors (Table 2.03.2).

Table 2.03.2: Children aged 0–14 years living in households with smokers, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Proportion of children living with current daily smoker(s)[(a)]	Indigenous	%	61.5	65.0	63.9	66.7	65.9	67.4	52.9	76.6	65.1
	Non-Indigenous	%	31.9	29.6	35.3	34.2	29.9	37.7	28.4	35.5	32.2
	Rate ratio		1.9*	2.2*	1.8*	1.9*	2.2*	1.8*	1.9*	2.2*	2.0*
Proportion of children living with regular smokers who smokes at home indoors[(a)]	Indigenous	%	22.5	21.4	21.6	17.6	15.3	28.5	13.4	25.4	21.6
	Non-Indigenous	%	8.3	5.1	8.6	3.4	3.7	8.0	3.9	0.0	6.6
	Rate ratio		2.7*	4.2*	2.5*	5.1*	4.1*	3.6*	3.4*	. .	3.3*
Total number of children aged 0–14 years[(b)]	**Indigenous**	**No.**	**57,941**	**12,430**	**56,785**	**25,405**	**10,281**	**6,736**	**1,567**	**22,104**	**193,249**
	Non-Indigenous	**No.**	**1,292,502**	**970,599**	**792,573**	**394,744**	**277,107**	**88,120**	**62,751**	**29,226**	**3,907,621**

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

(a) Proportions exclude not stated responses.

(b) Includes households in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.03.3: Households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years: current daily smoker status, by state/territory, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
Proportion living with current daily smoker(s)[(a)]	61.3	62.2	64.0	64.4	65.2	65.2	58.7	70.8	63.7
Proportion living with a current daily smoker who smokes at home indoors[(a)]	23.9	20.9	22.4	18.1	16.0	28.9	15.1	22.7	22.1
Total number of households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years[(b)]	**32,049**	**7,521**	**28,515**	**12,212**	**5,525**	**4,303**	**862**	**8,703**	**99,689**

(a) Excludes households in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

(b) Includes households in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Children living in households with smokers by remoteness

- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years in *Very remote* areas lived in households with a daily smoker (77%) and in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors (24%) than Indigenous children in *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas (Table 2.03.4). The same pattern was evident for Indigenous households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years (Table 2.03.5).
- In *Major cities,* Indigenous children were four times as likely to live in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors as non-Indigenous children. In *Outer regional* areas, Indigenous children were three times as likely, in *Inner regional* areas, two times as likely, and in *Remote* areas, eight times as likely as non-Indigenous children, to live in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors (Table 2.03.4).

Children living in households with smokers by selected population characteristics

- The proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–17 years who lived in households with a daily smoker was highest among households in the most disadvantaged SEIFA quintile and lowest among households in the least disadvantaged households (53% compared to 10%) (Table 2.03.6).
- The proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–17 years who lived in households with a daily smoker who smoked at home indoors was higher among households that were renters (79%) than households that were owners (19%) (Table 2.03.6).

Table 2.03.4: Children aged 0–14 years living in households with smokers, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008 and 2007–08

	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			Remote			Very remote			Australia		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Proportion of children living with current daily smoker(s)[(b)]	58.6	28.9	2.0*	60.5	35.5	1.7*	69.1	45.0	1.5*	72.9	34.7	2.1*	77.3	. .	. .	65.1	32.2	2.0*
Proportion of children living with a current daily smoker who smokes at home indoors[(b)]	19.3	5.0	3.9*	20.3	10.5	1.9*	23.7	9.2	2.6*	24.3	3.0	8.2*	24.2	. .	. .	21.6	6.6	3.3*
Total number of children aged 0–14 years[(c)]	**61,654**	**2,569,254**	**. .**	**44,765**	**847,123**	**. .**	**41,527**	**428,001**	**. .**	**18,073**	**63,242**	**. .**	**27,230**	**. .**	**. .**	**193,249**	**3,907,621**	**. .**

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

(a) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(b) Excludes households in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

(c) Includes households in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.03.5: Households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years: smoking status by remoteness, 2008

	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Australia
			Per cent			
Proportion with current daily smoker(s)[(a)]	60.8	58.7	65.4	71.4	76.5	63.7
Proportion with a current daily smoker who smokes at home indoors[(a)]	19.9	22.4	24.3	23.6	23.5	22.1
Total number of households with Indigenous children aged 0–17 years[(b)]	**34,704**	**24,958**	**21,321**	**8,190**	**10,515**	**99,689**

(a) Excludes households in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

(b) Includes households in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.03.6: Number and proportion of households with Indigenous persons aged 0–17 years: current daily smoker status, by selected population characteristics, 2008

	Proportion with current daily smoker(s)	Proportion with a current daily smoker who smokes at home indoors	Total households with Indigenous persons aged 0–17 years[(a)]
SEIFA (whole household)			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	52.7	61.4	46.5
2nd quintile	20.4	18.3	21.6
3rd quintile	13.8	11.5	17.7
4th/5th quintile	10.6	5.6*	12.3
Housing (whole household)			
Owner	23.3	19.4	29.1
Renter	75.0	79.0	67.6
Other[(b)]	1.2	1.2*	2.4*
Total households with Indigenous persons aged 0–17 years[(c)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number of households with Indigenous persons aged 0–17 years[(c)]	**65,126**	**22,430**	**104,098**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Includes households with no daily smokers and those in which the smoking status of members was not stated.

(b) Other includes life tenure, rent/buy, rent-free and other n.f.d.

(c) Total includes not stated.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Time series

- A slightly higher proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years lived in households with daily smokers in 2004–05 than in 2007–08 in non-remote areas (68% compared with 65%) and for the total of Australia (68% compared to 65%).
- Indigenous children aged 0–14 years were twice as likely as non-Indigenous children of the same age to live in households with daily smokers in both 2004–05 and 2007–08 (Table 2.03.7).

Table 2.03.7: Proportion of children aged 0–14 years who live in households with regular smokers, by remoteness and Indigenous status, 2004–05 and 2008

	Non-remote			Australia		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
2004–05	65.3	36.6	1.8*	67.8	36.6	1.9*
2008	62.1	32.2	1.9*	65.1	32.2	2.0*

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS, 2008 NATSISS, 2004–05 NHS, and 2007–08 NHS.

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Data quality concerns

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 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. However, some factor may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

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. Imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions may nevertheless 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 areas and Remote and Very 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).

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

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2.04 Literacy and numeracy

The proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students achieving national benchmarks for literacy and numeracy achievement

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The first National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests were conducted in May 2008 for all Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in government and non-government schools. For the first time, all students in the same year level were assessed on the same test items in the domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. Prior to 2008, students had undertaken different tests in each state and territory. NAPLAN results have been reported annually since 2008 using five national achievement scales, one for each of the assessed aspects of literacy—Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation— and one for Numeracy. These reporting scales are constructed so that any given scaled score represents the same level of achievement over time (MCEECDYA 2008). In 2011, for the first time, the Writing assessment was based on a persuasive task. In previous years students were assessed using a narrative task. The change in the Writing genre was implemented to ensure a broader range of what is required in the curriculum is assessed (ACARA 2011).

Student achievements for literacy and numeracy are reported on five national achievement scales. The scales consist of 10 bands to cover the full range of student achievement across Year 3 to Year 9.

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 social issues 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.

Data analyses

Reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks

The proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who achieved the reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks in 2011 are presented in Tables 2.04.1, 2.04.3 and 2.04.9. Achievements in spelling and grammar and punctuation are also presented in Tables 2.04.5 and 2.04.7.

Reading

- Nationally in 2011, approximately 76% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 3 reading benchmark compared with 95% of non-Indigenous students; 66% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 5 reading benchmark compared with 93% of non-Indigenous students; 77% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 7 reading benchmark compared with 96% of non-Indigenous students; and 72% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 9 reading benchmark compared with 94% of non-Indigenous students (Table 2.04.1).

Writing

- Nationally in 2011, approximately 80% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 3 writing benchmark compared with 96% of non-Indigenous students; 69% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 5 writing benchmark compared with 94% of non-Indigenous students; and 67% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 7 writing benchmark compared with 93% of non-Indigenous students; and 55% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 9 writing benchmark compared with 86% of non-Indigenous students (Table 2.04.3).

Numeracy

- Nationally in 2011, approximately 84% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 3 numeracy benchmark compared with 96% of non-Indigenous students; 75% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 5 numeracy benchmark compared with 96% of non-Indigenous students; 77% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 7 numeracy benchmark compared with 96% of non-Indigenous students; and 72% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 9 numeracy benchmark compared with 94% of non-Indigenous students (Table 2.04.9).

Reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks by state/territory

The proportion of Indigenous students and total students who achieved the reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks in 2011 are presented in Tables 2.04.1, 2.04.3 and 2.04.9 by state and territory. Achievements in spelling and grammar and punctuation are also presented in Tables 2.04.5 and 2.04.7.

Reading

- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 3 benchmark ranged from 40% in the Northern Territory to 88% in Victoria (Table 2.04.1).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 5 benchmark ranged from 29% in the Northern Territory to 86% in the Australian Capital Territory.
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 7 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (43%) and highest in Victoria (88%).

- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 9 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (37%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (89%).

Table 2.04.1: Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standard for reading, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	85.0	88.2	80.0	70.4	72.2	85.5	86.8	39.9	76.3
Year 5	77.8	83.1	68.0	55.0	67.4	81.1	86.0	28.5	66.4
Year 7	82.6	87.8	79.9	72.6	76.1	85.7	86.1	42.9	77.1
Year 9	77.9	83.2	72.1	63.9	69.1	82.2	89.0	37.2	71.9
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	95.8	95.7	93.9	93.8	92.8	93.0	95.8	89.3	94.9
Year 5	93.8	94.7	90.4	92.2	91.1	90.8	94.7	89.1	92.9
Year 7	95.6	96.1	95.5	96.3	95.0	94.1	97.1	92.4	95.7
Year 9	93.7	94.2	93.1	92.6	92.5	91.9	94.6	89.3	93.5

Source: ACARA 2011.

Table 2.04.2: Mean scale scores[(a)] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for reading by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	355.1	374.0	338.1	313.2	326.7	365.3	371.9	236.0	331.6
Year 5	434.4	455.1	413.7	387.7	412.9	449.0	461.0	317.7	409.8
Year 7	485.7	495.4	480.0	466.0	476.2	498.4	514.6	408.7	475.3
Year 9	529.0	539.1	518.5	504.0	512.3	540.7	554.2	452.5	518.1
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	426.2	434.3	405.4	407.4	405.4	413.7	444.4	391.0	420.4
Year 5	498.0	504.3	474.2	487.2	480.6	488.9	517.5	473.7	492.3
Year 7	546.0	545.7	537.8	547.0	536.1	539.1	563.0	534.8	543.7
Year 9	585.4	585.6	576.5	581.8	574.8	578.5	599.1	572.7	582.5

(a) Mean scale scores based on all participating students.

Source: ACARA 2011.

Writing

- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 3 benchmark ranged from 42% in the Northern Territory to 91% in Victoria (Table 2.04.3).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 5 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (29%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (87%).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 7 benchmark ranged from 26% in the Northern Territory to 74% in Victoria and Queensland.
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 9 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (23%) and highest in Victoria (67%).

Table 2.04.3: Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standard for writing, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	88.1	91.3	84.0	74.6	77.5	90.4	90.5	42.0	79.9
Year 5	81.8	83.3	72.1	56.4	65.5	79.6	87.0	29.1	68.9
Year 7	72.5	74.0	74.0	60.7	64.3	69.5	69.3	26.0	66.9
Year 9	55.9	66.7	60.8	47.4	48.7	60.0	62.7	22.5	55.0
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	96.9	96.6	95.3	96.3	94.9	95.6	96.3	92.6	96.2
Year 5	95.7	94.7	91.7	93.0	91.4	91.1	93.9	88.7	93.9
Year 7	93.0	92.1	93.0	93.5	92.4	86.1	92.4	84.8	92.6
Year 9	86.3	88.0	86.9	85.4	83.3	79.5	86.1	79.6	86.4

Source: ACARA 2011.

Table 2.04.4: Mean scale scores[(a)] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for writing by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	370.6	380.0	349.9	321.9	335.3	366.7	366.1	250.9	343.5
Year 5	436.2	448.4	416.5	379.8	399.2	433.6	448.9	314.3	408.1
Year 7	464.0	474.1	474.1	442.6	450.7	464.6	478.9	350.6	454.5
Year 9	487.6	512.2	498.2	465.2	472.6	499.7	500.4	384.5	483.0
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	432.1	424.5	408.9	410.3	402.6	403.6	420.9	393.4	420.1
Year 5	495.1	493.6	475.6	479.3	472.2	468.1	496.0	464.8	486.7
Year 7	530.4	534.3	537.6	535.9	531.6	512.7	537.0	520.9	533.2
Year 9	566.3	579.7	569.5	568.0	562.7	552.0	576.9	561.5	570.2

(a) Mean scale scores based on all participating students.

Source: ACARA 2011.

Spelling

- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 3 benchmark ranged from 28% in the Northern Territory to 88% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.04.5).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 5 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (28%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (84%).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 7 benchmark ranged from 34% in the Northern Territory to 84% in Victoria.
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 9 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (36%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (82%).

Table 2.04.5: Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standard for spelling, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	83.6	86.5	75.5	63.3	65.2	80.0	87.6	28.3	71.7
Year 5	80.2	80.3	72.6	59.0	65.9	79.6	83.6	28.4	68.8
Year 7	81.3	83.8	77.5	67.6	72.4	79.3	80.7	34.1	73.8
Year 9	76.7	77.9	76.1	64.6	69.3	75.6	82.3	36.3	72.2
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	95.4	95.3	91.8	93.8	91.6	91.4	94.9	87.0	94.1
Year 5	94.5	93.6	90.1	91.9	90.3	89.3	92.9	85.4	92.6
Year 7	94.5	93.9	92.0	93.6	92.8	91.0	94.8	87.0	93.5
Year 9	92.8	91.8	91.3	89.7	90.0	88.1	92.1	84.1	91.6

Source: ACARA 2011.

Table 2.04.6: Mean scale scores[(a)] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for spelling by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	358.9	367.4	335.7	310.1	317.2	358.4	366.6	209.3	327.7
Year 5	443.4	447.8	424.2	397.4	413.6	441.7	446.7	309.7	415.6
Year 7	495.9	495.2	486.9	467.8	478.0	494.8	500.5	385.1	478.7
Year 9	533.4	537.4	533.9	511.8	518.3	535.4	542.5	440.3	524.3
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	423.4	417.4	392.4	401.8	394.8	397.2	415.7	378.7	410.4
Year 5	501.6	492.7	469.1	481.5	476.3	472.9	491.8	463.1	487.8
Year 7	550.0	540.3	531.9	540.7	535.3	529.4	543.4	520.9	541.0
Year 9	591.6	585.3	578.3	578.7	576.7	569.5	585.5	563.7	584.3

(a) Mean scale scores based on all participating students.

Source: ACARA 2011.

Grammar and punctuation

- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 3 benchmark ranged from 32% in the Northern Territory to 87% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.04.7).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 5 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (26%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (84%).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 7 benchmark ranged from 27% in the Northern Territory to 81% in Victoria.
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 9 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (26%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (76%).

Table 2.04.7: Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standard for grammar & punctuation, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	81.8	86.5	74.9	59.3	64.5	82.9	86.6	31.6	70.9
Year 5	76.2	82.3	68.6	50.8	59.6	80.5	84.0	26.1	64.8
Year 7	74.6	81.1	70.2	57.5	66.9	77.0	78.1	27.2	67.0
Year 9	66.6	72.1	62.8	49.6	59.9	73.5	76.4	25.7	61.2
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	95.4	95.6	93.2	93.3	92.1	92.4	95.3	86.5	94.4
Year 5	94.4	95.1	91.9	92.6	91.4	91.1	94.9	89.0	93.6
Year 7	94.3	94.9	94.0	94.6	93.9	91.5	96.3	88.1	94.3
Year 9	91.3	92.4	91.7	90.3	90.0	88.6	93.1	85.6	91.5

Source: ACARA 2011.

Table 2.04.8: Mean scale scores[(a)] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for grammar & punctuation by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	354.4	370.9	335.5	298.9	311.1	366.1	372.1	211.4	325.2
Year 5	435.8	454.0	419.2	380.3	399.7	448.0	455.6	302.1	408.5
Year 7	472.8	481.1	464.1	443.2	461.0	481.9	496.6	373.4	457.9
Year 9	509.6	517.2	503.8	481.1	495.7	522.6	527.3	423.3	499.2
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	435.5	436.5	413.2	416.4	407.3	413.5	439.4	394.3	426.6
Year 5	512.5	510.0	490.7	499.5	488.8	492.3	523.0	481.9	503.9
Year 7	540.6	539.5	529.2	534.6	531.0	528.3	552.6	522.1	536.4
Year 9	578.4	579.5	571.7	571.5	569.2	566.3	589.0	559.9	575.9

(a) Mean scale scores based on all participating students.

Source: ACARA 2011.

Numeracy

- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 3 benchmark ranged from 59% in the Northern Territory to 90% in Tasmania (Table 2.04.9).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 5 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (45%) and highest in Tasmania (87%).
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 7 benchmark ranged from 44% in the Northern Territory to 86% in Victoria.
- The proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 9 benchmark was lowest in the Northern Territory (42%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (83%).

Table 2.04.9: Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standard for numeracy, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	89.2	89.6	86.9	79.8	79.0	90.2	88.9	59.3	83.6
Year 5	83.4	86.1	77.8	67.0	74.2	86.9	86.0	45.2	75.2
Year 7	80.5	86.3	80.7	72.2	76.4	83.2	79.6	43.8	76.5
Year 9	74.9	80.3	74.5	67.3	68.2	80.3	83.0	42.4	72.0
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	96.8	96.6	96.0	96.5	94.7	95.9	96.6	94.5	96.4
Year 5	96.0	95.9	94.8	95.4	94.0	94.5	95.6	94.6	95.5
Year 7	95.1	96.1	95.7	96.3	94.7	93.8	96.1	93.3	95.5
Year 9	93.9	94.8	94.2	93.6	92.6	92.1	94.9	91.7	94.1

Source: ACARA 2011.

Table 2.04.10: Mean scale scores[(a)] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for numeracy by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2011

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Indigenous				
Year 3	350.5	365.3	336.7	318.9	322.5	356.2	361.0	282.5	334.4
Year 5	439.8	455.1	421.8	402.7	415.5	447.9	448.1	366.5	421.1
Year 7	481.8	494.4	481.8	465.1	475.2	493.6	494.6	416.0	474.8
Year 9	521.6	532.4	518.4	508.2	507.6	533.0	538.7	465.9	515.8
					Non-Indigenous				
Year 3	408.0	413.5	388.9	392.0	381.9	394.8	415.5	381.3	401.7
Year 5	501.8	499.8	474.4	485.1	473.0	480.2	502.9	470.1	491.3
Year 7	551.7	551.8	543.2	550.6	537.3	537.4	557.2	532.3	548.5
Year 9	592.7	590.6	578.8	586.9	574.1	571.1	594.4	569.4	586.7

(a) Mean scale scores based on all participating students.

Source: ACARA 2011.

Reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks by remoteness

Reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks by remoteness area and Indigenous status are presented in Table 2.04.11.

- In 2011, the proportion of Indigenous students who achieved the Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 9 reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy benchmarks were highest in *Metropolitan* areas and lowest in *Very remote* areas of Australia.
- The proportion of Indigenous Year 3 students who achieved the reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy benchmarks was 84%, 88%, 81%, 81% and 89% respectively in *Metropolitan areas*, and 45%, 46%, 34%, 34% and 63% respectively in *Very remote* areas.
- The proportion of Indigenous Year 5 students who achieved the reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy benchmarks was 77%, 80%, 79%, 76% and 84% respectively in *Metropolitan* areas and 26%, 28%, 31%, 24% and 42% in *Very remote* areas.
- The proportion of Indigenous Year 7 students who achieved the reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy benchmarks was 85%, 77%, 82%, 77% and 85% respectively in *Metropolitan areas* and 43%, 28%, 38%, 24% and 42% in *Very remote* areas.
- The proportion of Indigenous Year 9 students who achieved the reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy benchmarks was 78%, 63%, 79%, 70% and 78% respectively in *Metropolitan areas* and 29%, 21%, 34%, 18% and 34% in *Very remote* areas.

Table 2.04.11: Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standards for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, 2011

	Metropolitan		Provincial		Remote		Very Remote	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Reading								
Year 3	84.2	95.2	81.3	93.9	67.3	92.1	45.3	90.2
Year 5	76.7	93.4	73.4	91.6	49.4	89.7	26.4	86.6
Year 7	85.0	95.9	81.8	95.3	63.4	95.3	42.5	93.2
Year 9	78.4	93.7	75.0	93.0	54.6	91.5	29.3	89.5
Writing								
Year 3	88.1	96.4	85.9	95.8	70.0	94.6	46.0	93.3
Year 5	79.8	94.6	75.9	92.1	50.7	90.5	28.4	88.1
Year 7	77.2	93.5	71.1	90.1	47.4	90.2	28.4	87.6
Year 9	63.4	88.0	55.0	82.0	33.8	78.6	20.6	78.2
Spelling								
Year 3	81.4	94.7	77.9	92.4	60.1	90.2	33.6	86.8
Year 5	79.0	93.6	75.0	90.1	52.7	87.3	30.8	85.0
Year 7	81.9	94.3	78.8	91.4	59.1	90.2	37.5	86.3
Year 9	79.3	92.6	73.5	89.0	57.3	86.0	33.7	82.0
Grammar & punctuation								
Year 3	80.5	94.9	76.8	93.3	58.3	90.8	34.0	88.0
Year 5	75.9	94.2	72.1	92.1	44.8	89.5	23.5	87.2
Year 7	77.2	94.7	73.0	93.3	46.0	92.1	23.7	89.2
Year 9	69.5	92.1	63.1	89.9	39.9	87.4	17.8	84.9
Numeracy								
Year 3	88.6	96.5	87.2	96.0	77.0	95.7	63.3	94.9
Year 5	83.8	95.7	80.6	94.8	62.8	94.5	42.4	92.4
Year 7	84.5	95.7	81.3	95.1	61.7	94.9	41.6	93.4
Year 9	78.4	94.4	73.9	93.4	58.9	91.9	33.5	90.3

Source: ACARA 2011.

Table 2.04.12: Mean scale scores[(a)] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, 2011

	Metropolitan		Provincial		Remote		Very Remote	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Reading								
Year 3	354.8	425.7	343.7	406.7	304.1	391.9	248.9	383.3
Year 5	432.2	496.6	425.0	481.4	380.6	468.3	321.6	462.5
Year 7	491.5	547.0	483.2	534.9	448.0	530.7	410.2	527.2
Year 9	530.3	585.4	522.8	574.9	489.2	569.0	441.8	559.9
Writing								
Year 3	367.4	425.3	357.1	406.5	309.4	392.8	258.1	382.0
Year 5	434.2	492.7	422.7	470.7	369.4	460.8	316.1	455.1
Year 7	479.7	539.4	464.2	516.4	410.6	517.9	361.4	507.2
Year 9	505.0	577.4	484.8	550.4	433.7	545.2	381.5	540.2
Spelling								
Year 3	353.7	417.0	343.3	392.4	300.3	379.8	227.4	367.3
Year 5	439.1	494.3	430.8	470.5	385.5	459.4	324.6	452.0
Year 7	497.8	546.5	488.3	526.3	449.8	522.3	397.8	512.0
Year 9	540.4	590.3	527.0	567.7	495.3	562.2	437.0	552.1
Grammar & punctuation								
Year 3	352.2	432.7	340.9	410.5	292.6	395.6	224.4	384.7
Year 5	434.9	509.6	426.0	489.2	370.9	474.3	307.2	469.2
Year 7	476.9	540.6	468.0	525.4	424.0	517.9	378.9	512.6
Year 9	514.3	580.4	503.6	563.6	467.1	557.4	410.3	544.9
Numeracy								
Year 3	348.5	406.0	341.8	390.3	313.0	378.1	286.6	376.0
Year 5	437.7	496.3	429.9	478.0	397.3	467.1	363.5	461.6
Year 7	490.3	553.1	482.4	535.9	446.6	531.1	413.4	523.6
Year 9	526.8	591.7	518.5	573.4	490.7	564.7	455.3	556.0

(a) Mean scale scores based on all participating students.

Source: ACARA 2011.

NAPLAN 2008 to 2011

Data on students at or above the national minimum standards for reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available from 2008 to 2011. These data are presented in Table 2.04.13. Data on the mean scale scores of these students are presented in Table 2.04.14.

Reading

- Between 2008 and 2011 there was an increase in the proportion of Indigenous students achieving the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 national minimum standards for reading.
- Over the same period, there was a decrease in the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who met the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 national minimum standards for reading.

Writing

- Between 2008 and 2011 there was a decrease in the proportion of Indigenous students achieving the Years 5, 7 and 9 national minimum standards for writing. However, there was an increase in Indigenous students achieving the Year 3 national minimum standard for writing.
- Over the same period, there was an increase in the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who met the years 5, 7 and 9 national minimum standards for writing.

Spelling

- Between 2008 and 2011 there was an increase in the proportion of Indigenous students achieving the Years 3, 7 and 9 national minimum standards for spelling. However, there was a decrease in Indigenous students achieving the year 5 national minimum standard for spelling.
- Over the same period, there was a decrease in the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who met the years 3, 7 and 9 national minimum standards for spelling.

Grammar and punctuation

- Between 2008 and 2011 there was an increase in the proportion of Indigenous students achieving the Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 national minimum standards for grammar and punctuation.
- Over the same period, there was a decrease in the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who met the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 national minimum standards for grammar and punctuation.

Numeracy

- Between 2008 and 2009 there was an increase in the proportion of Indigenous students achieving the Years 3, and 5 national minimum standards for numeracy. However, there was a decrease in Indigenous students achieving the year 7 and 9 national minimum standards for numeracy.
- Over the same period, there was a decrease in the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who met the years 3, 5 and 9 national minimum standards for numeracy.

Table 2.04.13: Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standards for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy, by Indigenous status, 2008–2011[a]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Difference[b]
			Reading		
Indigenous					
Year 3	68.3	75.1	75.1	76.3	8.0
Year 5	63.4	66.7	66.2	66.4	3.0
Year 7	71.9	73.2	76.6	77.1	5.2
Year 9	70.7	67.0	64.2	71.9	1.2
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	93.5	94.8	95.0	94.9	1.4
Year 5	92.6	93.1	92.7	92.9	0.3
Year 7	95.4	95.0	95.9	95.7	0.3
Year 9	94.2	93.5	92.2	93.5	–0.7
Indigenous and non-Indigenous difference[c]					
Year 3	25.2	19.7	19.9	18.6	. .
Year 5	29.2	26.4	26.5	26.5	. .
Year 7	23.5	21.8	19.3	18.6	. .
Year 9	23.5	26.5	28.0	21.6	. .
			Writing[d]		
Indigenous					
Year 3	78.8	79.9	79.0	79.9	. .
Year 5	69.7	70.1	70.5	68.9	. .
Year 7	67.9	69.9	69.8	66.9	. .
Year 9	59.7	59.0	59.0	55.0	. .
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	96.4	96.6	96.6	96.2	. .
Year 5	93.9	94.2	94.4	93.9	. .
Year 7	93.2	93.7	93.9	92.6	. .
Year 9	88.8	89.2	88.7	86.4	. .
Indigenous and non-Indigenous difference[c]					
Year 3	17.6	16.7	17.6	16.3	. .
Year 5	24.2	24.1	23.9	25.0	. .
Year 7	25.3	23.8	24.1	25.7	. .
Year 9	29.1	30.2	29.7	31.4	. .
			Spelling		
Indigenous					
Year 3	69.2	69.6	66.2	71.7	2.5

(continued)

Table 2.04.13 (continued): Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standards for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy, by Indigenous status, 2008–2011[a]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Difference[b]
Year 5	69.7	71.5	71.3	68.8	–0.9
Year 7	71.8	74.3	74.5	73.8	2.0
Year 9	67.8	66.1	67.5	72.2	4.4
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	93.9	93.5	92.5	94.1	0.2
Year 5	93.0	93.6	93.1	92.6	–0.4
Year 7	93.6	93.8	93.9	93.5	–0.1
Year 9	91.0	90.9	90.8	91.6	0.6
Indigenous and non-Indigenous difference[c]					
Year 3	24.7	23.9	26.3	22.4	. .
Year 5	23.3	22.1	21.8	23.8	. .
Year 7	21.8	19.5	19.4	19.7	. .
Year 9	23.2	24.8	23.3	19.4	. .
		Grammar & punctuation			
Indigenous					
Year 3	65.3	68.7	66.2	70.9	5.6
Year 5	64.1	64.3	65.3	64.8	0.7
Year 7	62.7	64.9	64.5	67.0	4.3
Year 9	60.7	60.8	62.7	61.2	0.5
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	93.3	93.8	93.6	94.4	1.1
Year 5	93.5	93.6	93.8	93.6	0.1
Year 7	93.2	93.5	93.1	94.3	1.1
Year 9	91.5	91.8	92.3	91.5	0.0
Indigenous and non-Indigenous difference[c]					
Year 3	28.0	25.1	27.4	23.5	. .
Year 5	29.4	29.3	28.5	28.8	. .
Year 7	30.5	28.6	28.6	27.3	. .
Year 9	30.8	31.0	29.6	30.3	. .
		Numeracy			
Indigenous					
Year 3	78.6	74.0	76.6	83.6	5.0
Year 5	69.2	74.2	71.4	75.2	6.0
Year 7	78.6	75.8	77.0	76.5	–2.1
Year 9	72.5	75.0	70.4	72.0	–0.5

(continued)

Table 2.04.13 (continued): Proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students at or above the national minimum standards for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy, by Indigenous status, 2008–2011[(a)]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Difference[(b)]
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	96.0	95.2	95.3	96.4	0.4
Year 5	94.0	95.3	95.0	95.5	1.5
Year 7	96.4	95.8	96.1	95.5	–0.9
Year 9	94.8	96.0	94.3	94.1	–0.7
Indigenous and non-Indigenous difference[(c)]					
Year 3	17.4	21.2	18.7	12.8	. .
Year 5	24.8	21.1	23.6	20.3	. .
Year 7	17.8	20.0	19.1	19.0	. .
Year 9	22.3	21.0	23.9	22.1	. .

(a) Equating one test with another is a complex procedure and involves some degree of statistical error. For this reason, there may be minor fluctuations in the average NAPLAN test results from year to year when, in reality, the level of student achievement has remained essentially the same. It is only when there is a meaningful change in the results from one year to the next, or when there is a consistent trend over several years, that statements about improvement or decline in levels of achievement can be made confidently. Some caution is required when interpreting changes in the performance across years (ACARA 2011).

(b) Difference is 2011 proportion minus 2008 proportion.

(c) Difference is non-Indigenous proportion minus Indigenous proportion

(d) A new Persuasive Writing scale was introduced in 2011. The Persuasive Writing results for 2011 should not be directly compared to the Narrative Writing results from earlier years.

Source: ACARA 2011.

Table 2.04.14: Mean scale scores[a] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy, by Indigenous status, 2008–2011[b]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Difference[c]
			Reading		
Indigenous					
Year 3	313.7	327.4	330.8	331.6	17.9*
Year 5	403.4	414.4	409.6	409.8	6.4
Year 7	466.5	473.2	477.0	475.3	8.8*
Year 9	513.8	510.2	505.6	518.1	4.3
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	405.0	415.0	418.6	420.4	15.4*
Year 5	488.7	498.1	491.4	492.3	3.6
Year 7	540.2	544.4	549.6	543.7	3.5
Year 9	581.3	583.8	577.1	582.5	1.2
			Writing[d]		
Indigenous					
Year 3	339.3	340.2	342.2	343.5	. .
Year 5	411.2	412.1	411.5	408.1	. .
Year 7	455.9	460.2	459.7	454.5	. .
Year 9	491.3	488.4	488.1	483.0	. .
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	418.2	418.3	422.6	420.1	. .
Year 5	490.6	488.5	489.1	486.7	. .
Year 7	537.9	536.0	537.3	533.2	. .
Year 9	573.6	572.8	571.6	570.2	. .
			Spelling		
Indigenous					
Year 3	319.6	322.8	317.7	327.7	8.1
Year 5	417.1	421.6	423.4	415.6	–1.5
Year 7	474.0	479.1	483.5	478.7	4.7
Year 9	514.6	509.8	515.4	524.3	9.7*
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	403.8	409.0	403.5	410.4	6.6*
Year 5	487.4	490.6	490.5	487.8	0.4
Year 7	542.2	543.0	547.9	541.0	–1.2
Year 9	580.2	579.5	581.7	584.3	4.1
			Grammar & punctuation		
Indigenous					
Year 3	305.5	321.4	317.6	325.2	19.7*
Year 5	402.4	407.9	409.4	408.5	6.1
Year 7	446.3	457.3	455.2	457.9	11.6

(continued)

Table 2.04.14 (continued): Mean scale scores[(a)] of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy, by Indigenous status, 2008–2011[(b)]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Difference[(c)]
Year 9	494.7	497.0	501.5	499.2	4.5
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	408.4	424.8	422.0	426.6	18.2*
Year 5	501.2	504.6	504.5	503.9	2.7
Year 7	533.4	543.4	539.3	536.4	3.0
Year 9	573.0	577.2	582.7	575.9	2.9
			Numeracy		
Indigenous					
Year 3	327.6	320.5	325.3	334.4	6.8
Year 5	408.0	420.5	416.9	421.1	13.1*
Year 7	476.2	474.4	477.5	474.8	–1.4
Year 9	515.1	520.2	515.2	515.8	0.7
Non-Indigenous					
Year 3	400.5	397.7	399.0	401.7	1.2
Year 5	479.5	490.3	492.6	491.3	11.8*
Year 7	548.6	547.0	551.4	548.5	–0.1
Year 9	585.7	592.4	588.5	586.7	1.0

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at p<0.05 level over the period 2008 to 2011.

(a) Mean scale scores based on all participating students.

(b) Equating one test with another is a complex procedure and involves some degree of statistical error. For this reason, there may be minor fluctuations in the average NAPLAN test results from year to year when, in reality, the level of student achievement has remained essentially the same. It is only when there is a meaningful change in the results from one year to the next, or when there is a consistent trend over several years, that statements about improvement or decline in levels of achievement can be made confidently. Some caution is required when interpreting changes in the performance across years (ACARA 2011).

(c) Difference is 2011 mean scale score minus 2008 scale score.

(d) A new Persuasive Writing scale was introduced in 2011. The Persuasive Writing results for 2011 should not be directly compared to the Narrative Writing results from earlier years.

Source: ACARA 2011.

NATSISS

School attendance

- In 2008, 83% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 2–14 years usually attended school (Table 2.04.15).
- Over the same time period, around 26% to 33% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in years 3, 5, and 7 missed school in the previous week. The main reason for this (9% to 11%) was that the school was not open or not available (Table 2.04.16).

Table 2.04.15: School attendance by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 2–14 years, 2008

	Age in years					
	2–4		5–14		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
School attendance						
Child usually attends school	13,964	35.6	124,462	97.9	138,426	83.2
Child does not usually attend school	25,217	64.4	2,697	2.1	27,914	16.8
Total children aged 2–14 years	**39,180**	**100.0**	**127,159**	**100.0**	**166,339**	**100.0**
Main reason child does not usually attend school						
Problems with getting a place	545*	2.2*	n.p.	n.p.	629*	2.3*
Cost too high / Can't afford it	642*	2.5*	n.p.	n.p.	803*	2.9*
Child is not ready for school	2102*	8.3*	n.p.	n.p.	2406*	8.6*
Other reason[(a)]	21,927	87.0	2,148	79.7	24,075	86.2
Total children who do not usually attend school	**25,217**	**100.0**	**2,697**	**100.0**	**27,914**	**100.0**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Other reason includes transport problems, hours don't suit, child too old/young or not eligible, does not suit culture or beliefs, illness or disability and other reason n.f.d.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS.

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Table 2.04.16: School attendance by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, years 3, 5 and 7[(a)], 2008 (per cent)

	Grade child currently attending		
	Year 3	**Year 5**	**Year 7**
How well school advised of child's progress[(b)]			
Very well/ well	87.5	80.9	85.5
Not well	11.0	11.5	10.4
Not at all	1.6	3.7	4.2
Whether child missed days at school in last week			
Child missed days at school in last week[(a)]	33.4	28.0	25.8
Child did not miss days at school in last week	66.6	72.0	74.2
Main reason missed school in last week[(a)]			
Child had illness or injury	11.2	8.0	7.3
School not available or not open	11.0	11.0	9.3
Cultural commitments or sorry business	1.8	0.6	1.1
Other reason	9.5	7.5	9.1
Did not miss school in last week	66.6	69.9	76.8
Number of days child usually attends school[(b)]			
< 5 days	1.8	4.0	5.7
5 days or more	98.2	96.0	94.3
Whether child missed school without permission in last 12 months			
Problems with child not attending school	5.6	4.6	7.9
No problems with child not attending school	94.4	95.4	92.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**12,832**	**12,350**	**13,189**

(a) Children who do not usually attend school.
(b) Children who do usually attend school.

Note: Proportions exclude not known responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Informal learning activities

- In 2008, 94% (180,736) of main carers of Indigenous children spent time doing informal learning activities with the child during the previous week. The most common activities were reading from a book (49%) and watching TV, video, or DVD (31%) (Table 2.04.17).

Table 2.04.17: Number and proportion of Indigenous children[(a)] participating in selected informal learning activities and time spent with main carer (hours per week), 2008

Whether main carer spent time doing informal learning activities with child last week		
	Number	**Proportion (%)**
Activities were undertaken with child	180,736	93.6
No activities were undertaken with child	12,394	6.4
Total	**193,130**	**100.0**
Not stated	119	0.1
Average number of hours main carer spent doing informal learning activities with child last week		
	Number	**Proportion (%)**
Less than 1 hour per day	17,480	9.1
1 to less than 2 hours per day	77,582	40.4
2 to less than 5 hours per day	72,200	37.6
5 hours or more per day	12,580	6.5
No time spent doing activities with child in last week	12,394	6.4
Total	**192,236**	**100.0**
Not stated	1,013	0.5
Informal learning activities main carer did with child last week[(b)]		
	Number	**Proportion (%)**
Read from a book	95,081	49.2
Told child a story	85,102	16.4
Listened to child read	72,346	13.9
Assisted with homework or other educational activities	73,314	14.1
Spent time with child using computer	52,769	10.1
Watched TV, video or DVD	161,381	31.0
Assisted with drawing, writing or other creative activities	91,775	17.6
Played music, songs, dance or other musical activities	119,515	23.0
Played a game or did sport together indoors or outdoors	105,033	20.2
Took part in or attended playgroup	17,470	3.4
None of the above	12,394	2.4

(a) Children aged 0–14 years.

(b) Respondents can report more than one activity so the sum of components will be more than 100%.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Bullying and treated unfairly at school

- In 2008, between 13% and 21% of Indigenous children were reported to have been bullied or treated unfairly at school because they were Indigenous (Table 2.04.18). In 2008, between 79% and 87% of Indigenous children were reported to not be bullied or treated unfairly at school.
- Of those Indigenous children at school in 2008 who were both bullied and treated unfairly, 75% to 94% were bullied or treated unfairly at their current school. Between 78% and 96% of students in years 3, 5 and 7 did not change school because of bullying or unfair treatment, while no effect on school attendance was reported for 66% to 71% of Indigenous children in these years because of bullying or unfair treatment (Table 2.04.19).
- The 2008 NATSISS found that between 62% and 86% of Indigenous children were treated unfairly at the current school. A large proportion of children in these years 3, 5 and 7 (90%, 92% and 95% respectively) did not change school because of this treatment (Table 2.04.20).

Table 2.04.18: Bullying and unfair treatment at school and impact on school attendance, years 3, 5 and 7, 2008

	Grade child currently attending					
	Year 3		Year 5		Year 7	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Whether child bullied or treated unfairly at school because Indigenous						
Bullied only	955	8.3	1,014	8.4	1,024	8.3
Treated unfairly only	288	2.5	343	2.8	617	5.0
Both bullied and treated unfairly	273	2.4	1,004	8.3	927	7.6
Neither bullied or treated unfairly	10,024	86.9	9,736	80.5	9,695	79.1
Total	**11,540**	**100.0**	**12,096**	**100.0**	**12,264**	**100.0**

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.04.19: Bullying at school and impact on school attendance, years 3, 5 and 7, 2008

	Grade child currently attending					
	Year 3		Year 5		Year 7	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Whether child bullied at current school						
Child bullied at current school	916	74.6	1,891	93.7	1,770	90.7
Child not bullied at current school	312	25.4	127	6.3	181	9.3
Total	**1,228**	**100.0**	**2,018**	**100.0**	**1,951**	**100.0**
Not known	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Whether changed school because of bullying						
Child changed school because of bullying	266	21.7	74	3.7	179	9.2
Child did not change school because of bullying	962	78.3	1,943	96.3	1,772	90.8
Total	**1,228**	**100.0**	**2,018**	**100.0**	**1,951**	**100.0**
Not known	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Whether child's attendance at school affected by bullying						
Attendance at school affected by bullying	355	28.9	676	33.5	671	34.4
Attendance at school not affected by bulling	873	71.1	1,342	66.5	1,281	65.6
Total	**1,228**	**100.0**	**2,018**	**100.0**	**1,951**	**100.0**
Not known	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.04.20: Unfair treatment at school and impact on school attendance, years 3, 5 and 7, 2008

	Grade child currently attending					
	Year 3		Year 5		Year 7	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Whether child treated unfairly at current school						
Child treated unfairly at current school	349	62.1	1,084	80.5	1,313	85.5
Child not treated unfairly at current school	213	37.9	263	19.5	223	14.5
Total	**561**	**100.0**	**1,347**	**100.0**	**1,536**	**100.0**
Not known	. .	. .	. .	. .	9	0.6
Whether changed school because of unfair treatment						
Child changed school because of unfair treatment	54	9.6	108	8.2	72	4.7
Child did not change school because of unfair treatment	508	90.4	1,203	91.8	1,473	95.3
Total	**561**	**100.0**	**1,311**	**100.0**	**1,545**	**100.0**
Not known	. .	. .	36	2.7	. .	. .

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Data quality issues

NAPLAN

Literacy and Numeracy data are available from the ACARA National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Individual schools send this data under a set of protocols to the Test Administration Authorities for the states and territories. Data are then compiled by ACER and provided to ACARA for reporting in The National Report Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy which is published in December of each year.

Students are classified in three ways: assessed, exempt, absent/withdrawn. Participation rates are calculated on the basis of all assessed and exempt students as a percentage of the total number of students reported by schools, which includes those absent and withdrawn. Exempt students are defined as follows: Students with a language background other than English, who arrived from overseas less than a year before the tests, and students with significant intellectual disabilities may be exempted from testing.

NAPLAN reports the percentage of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard. The complex process by which student scores are arrived at and distributed across the national achievement bands (using the Rasch model, a recognised analysis model for educational measurement) are agreed by states, territories and the Commonwealth and endorsed by the then NAPLAN Expert Advisory Group. Due to the complexities of the methodology, it is not possible (with the data currently provided) to give a simple computation of the precise number of students at or above the national minimum standard, which is best reported in the bands designed for that purpose.

Student achievements for literacy and numeracy are reported on five national achievement scales. The scales consist of 10 bands to cover the full range of student achievement across Year 3 to Year 9.

Participation rates for Indigenous students are reported for each of the domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy by year level and state and territory. Participation rates differ across each of these domains.

Achievement rates as reported by band levels are provided for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students by domain, year level and state and territory.

In the majority of tables, percentages are expressed to one decimal place. In a small number of cases, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

The percentages of students represented in all tables are rounded and may not sum to 100.

The same tests are used for all schools and all students.

Average age and years of schooling for all students are reported as at the time of testing and there are minor differences between states and territories due to different schooling systems. Information on parent occupation/parent education is collected by schools on student enrolment and information on Indigenous status is taken from student test book covers. Data are reported for Indigenous students for each domain, year level, and state and territory. Further data are provided by geolocation.

The non-response for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status is approximately 3 per cent nationally. This information is captured from student test book covers where 3 per cent of students did not state their Indigenous status on the test bookcover.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82%

of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

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

List of symbols used in tables

n.a.	not available
–	rounded to zero (including null cells)
0	zero
. .	not applicable

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

n.f.d. not further defined

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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2.05 Education outcomes for young people

Years 10 and 12 retention rates and Year 12 attainment rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).

National Schools Statistics Collections (NSSC)

The National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC) is a collaborative arrangement between state, territory and Australian Government education departments. It is managed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) Performance Measurement and Reporting Taskforce (PMRT). Information is provided on the number and characteristics of schools, students and staff. These data are derived from the annual Schools Census enumerated each August by the responsible authorities.

Apparent retention rates

Apparent retention rates are the percentage of full-time students of a given cohort group who continue from the start of secondary schooling to a specified year level. The term 'apparent' is used because the retention rate does not account for students repeating a year of school or migrating in or out of the Australian school student population or between states/territories. All full-time students enrolled at a school, including 'VET (vocational education and training) in Schools' students, but excluding people completing Year 12 through a vocational education facility, are included in retention calculations.

Year 10 apparent retention rates: Year 10 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from the first year of secondary schooling (Year 7/8).

Year 12 apparent retention rates: Year 12 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from the first year of secondary schooling (Year 7/8) or as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from Year 10.

Year 12 attainment rate: The proportion of Year 11 students who went on to achieve a Year 12 certificate.

Care should be exercised in the interpretation of apparent retention rates, because the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors. At the Australia level, these include students repeating a year of education, migration and other net changes to the school population. At lower levels of disaggregation, additional factors affecting the data, such as enrolment policies (which contribute to different age/grade structures between states and territories), inter-sector transfers and interstate movements of students, have not been taken into account. These and other factors affecting the interpretation of apparent

retention rates are being looked at, where possible, in the ABS's review of apparent retention rates.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

Data analyses

Apparent retention rates

Table 2.05.1 presents the apparent retention rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12; the apparent retention rate from Year 10 to Year 12; and the apparent retention rate from Year 11 to 12.

- In 2011, there were approximately 12,426 Indigenous students in Year 10 (approximately 4.5% of all Year 10 students), 9,129 Indigenous students in Year 11 (approximately 3.5% of all students in Year 11) and 5,781 Indigenous students in Year 12 (approximately 2.6% of all students in Year 12).
- In 2011, the apparent retention rate of full-time Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 10 was 98.7% compared with 100.3% for non-Indigenous students.
- In the same year the apparent retention rate of full-time Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 11 was 73.3% compared with 93.7% for non-Indigenous students.
- The apparent retention rate of full-time Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 was much lower—48.7% compared with 80.7% for non-Indigenous students.
- Similarly, the apparent retention rate of full-time Indigenous students from Year 10 to Year 12 was much lower—53.5% compared with 80.6% for non-Indigenous students.
- This trend was also seen in the apparent retention rate of full-time Indigenous students from Year 11 to Year 12— 67.5% compared with 86.7% for non-Indigenous students.

Apparent retention rates by sex

- The apparent retention rates for Indigenous females were slightly higher than those for Indigenous males from Year 7/8 to Year 10 (99.0% compared with 98.4%); Year 7/8 to Year 11 (75.2% compared with 71.4%), Year 7/8 to Year 12 (51.3% compared with 46.1%)

Year 10 to Year 12 (55.6% compared with 51.5%), and Year 11 to Year 12 (68.5% compared with 66.4%) (Table 2.05.1).

Apparent retention rates by state/territory

- In 2011, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales had the highest retention rates of Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 10 (115%,107% and 106% respectively), whereas the Northern Territory had the lowest (83%).
- Retention rates of Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 11 were highest in the Australian Capital Territory (96%) and lowest in the Northern Territory (55%).
- The Australian Capital Territory (76%) and South Australia (68%) had the highest retention rates of Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 and the Northern territory (33%) and Western Australia (40%) had the lowest.
- Tasmania had the highest retention rate of Indigenous students from Year 11 to Year 12 (86%), whereas the Northern Territory had the lowest (51%).
- Rates for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution, because the small size of these jurisdictions means that relatively small changes in student numbers can create large movements in retention rates. Some rates exceeded 100%, largely reflecting the movement of students from non-government to government schools in Years 11 and 12; and in the Australian Capital Territory, some New South Wales residents from surrounding areas enrolled in Australian Capital Territory schools during secondary school.

Table 2.05.1: Apparent retention rates, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2011 [a][b][c][d]

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA[e]		SA		Tas		ACT[f]		NT[g]		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Males																		
Year 7/8 to Year 10[h]																		
Number	1,991	42,397	325	33,385	1,885	28,306	876	13,594	365	10,084	277	3,230	55	2,402	544	909	6,309	135,028
Per cent	105.8	100.4	91.3	100.0	98.7	101.0	93.9	101.8	100.3	103.0	114.5	100.8	107.8	101.0	72.9	93.5	98.4	100.7
Year 7/8 to Year 11[h]																		
Number	1,153	36,493	258	30,710	1,502	26,332	721	13,875	315	10,307	137	2,620	47	2,551	343	775	4,476	123,763
Per cent	64.7	84.7	69.9	91.1	78.6	93.6	77.6	98.6	88.0	103.5	62.6	78.4	73.4	100.7	58.1	80.9	71.4	91.1
Year 7/8 to Year 12[h]																		
Number	611	30,543	171	25,836	1,100	22,978	384	10,587	209	7,758	85	2,150	28	2,031	213	612	2,801	102,445
Per cent	36.7	71.0	44.8	76.5	59.5	81.5	38.8	75.8	69.0	80.2	37.9	64.9	70.0	87.2	34.5	69.1	46.1	75.9
Year 10 to Year 12[i]																		
Number	611	30,543	171	25,836	1,100	22,978	384	10,587	209	7,758	85	2,150	28	2,031	213	612	2,801	102,445
Per cent	85.6	85.7	86.8	100.8	69.4	81.0	84.9	73.7	101.9	103.8	105.8	100.8	70.0	87.8	77.4	93.0	51.5	76.4
Year 11 to Year 12[j]																		
Number	611	30,543	171	25,836	1,100	22,978	384	10,587	209	7,758	85	2,150	28	2,031	213	612	2,801	102,445
Per cent	65.7	85.7	68.7	85.0	75.6	86.9	51.5	78.0	70.4	77.2	82.5	89.2	80.0	87.7	53.0	77.0	66.4	84.2

(continued)

Table 2.05.1 (continued): Apparent retention rates, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2011 [a][b][c][d]

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA[e]		SA		Tas		ACT[f]		NT[g]		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Females																		
Year 7/8 to Year 10[h]																		
Number	1,991	41,215	360	32,491	1,802	27,364	817	13,594	359	9,668	222	3,068	40	2,327	526	790	6,117	130,517
Per cent	106.3	101.4	98.6	101.6	96.3	102.3	90.9	102.6	103.8	103.5	116.2	99.8	105.3	101.4	88.0	91.2	99.0	101.8
Year 7/8 to Year 11[h]																		
Number	1,316	37,547	309	31,552	1,486	26,375	666	13,375	326	10,095	145	2,732	60	2,489	345	790	4,653	124,935
Per cent	74.4	90.7	82.8	98.4	80.2	97.4	76.5	101.2	88.8	107.1	59.2	87.7	127.7	106.8	88.0	91.3	75.2	96.5
Year 7/8 to Year 12[h]																		
Number	835	33,478	165	28,322	1,097	23,225	358	11,430	200	8,643	117	2,361	30	2,204	178	602	2,980	110,265
Per cent	49.0	80.9	49.9	88.6	61.5	87.7	42.0	86.4	67.8	93.9	51.3	79.0	83.3	92.0	31.1	73.0	51.3	85.8
Year 10 to Year 12[i]																		
Number	835	33,478	165	28,322	1,097	23,225	358	11,430	200	8,643	117	2,361	30	2,204	178	602	2,980	110,265
Per cent	102.8	82.2	95.7	101.0	72.8	111.0	69.6	92.1	103.9	99.4	132.7	98.7	88.2	92.5	73.3	80.3	55.6	84.9
Year 11 to Year 12[i]																		
Number	835	33,478	165	28,322	1,097	23,225	358	11,430	200	8,643	117	2,361	30	2,204	178	602	2,980	110,265
Per cent	71.8	90.2	70.5	90.0	73.7	89.1	53.9	85.1	71.7	87.1	88.6	94.7	75.0	87.4	50.6	84.7	68.5	89.1

(continued)

Table 2.05.1 (continued): Apparent retention rates, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2011[(a)(b)(c)(d)]

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA[(e)]		SA		Tas		ACT[(f)]		NT[(g)]		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
										Persons								
Year 7/8 to Year 10[(h)]																		
Number	3,982	83,612	685	65,876	3,687	55,670	1,684	27,909	724	19,752	499	6,298	95	4,729	1,070	1,699	12,426	265,545
Per cent	106.1	100.9	95.0	100.8	97.5	101.6	92.4	102.2	102.0	103.2	115.2	100.3	106.7	101.2	83.3	92.5	98.7	101.3
Year 7/8 to Year 11[(h)]																		
Number	2,469	74,040	567	62,262	2,988	52,707	1,387	27,350	641	20,402	282	5,352	107	5,040	688	1,545	9,129	248,698
Per cent	69.5	87.6	76.4	94.7	78.4	95.4	77.1	99.9	88.4	105.2	60.8	82.9	96.4	103.6	55.1	86.1	73.3	93.7
Year 7/8 to Year 12[(h)]																		
Number	1,446	64,021	336	54,158	2,197	46,203	724	22,017	409	16,401	202	4,511	58	4,235	391	1,214	5,781	212,760
Per cent	42.9	75.9	46.9	82.4	60.5	84.5	40.3	81.0	68.4	86.9	44.7	71.6	76.3	89.6	32.9	71.0	48.7	80.7
Year 10 to Year 12[(i)]																		
Number	1,446	64,021	336	54,158	2,197	46,203	724	22,017	409	16,401	202	4,511	58	4,235	391	1,214	5,781	212,760
Per cent	132.1	81.9	102.8	90.6	100.1	89.2	103.4	78.4	106.6	93.9	75.0	72.2	78.4	90.2	142.9	69.5	53.5	80.6
Year 11 to Year 12[(i)]																		
Number	1,446	64,021	336	54,158	2,197	46,203	724	22,017	409	16,401	202	4,511	58	4,235	391	1,214	5,781	212,760
Per cent	69.1	88.0	69.6	87.6	74.6	88.0	51.4	81.5	71.0	82.1	86.0	92.0	77.3	87.5	51.9	80.6	67.5	86.7

(continued)

Table 2.05.1 (continued): Apparent retention rates, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2011 [(a)(b)(c)(d)]

(a) Although most students are recorded, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. In addition, the standard Indigenous status question has not yet been implemented in some jurisdictions.

(b) The following factors have not been taken into account in these statistics: students repeating a year of education, migration and other net changes to the school population, enrolment policies (including year starting high school which contributes to different age/grade structures between states and territories), inter-sector transfer and interstate movements of students.

(c) In small jurisdictions, relatively small changes in student numbers can create apparently large movements in retention rates.

(d) The inclusion or exclusion of part-time students can also have a significant effect on apparent retention rates, especially in South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, which have relatively large proportions of part-time students

(e) Data for Western Australia have been affected by changes in scope and coverage over time.

(f) Some ACT rates exceed 100%, largely reflecting the movement of students from non-government to government schools in Years 11 and 12, and of NSW residents from surrounding areas enrolling in ACT schools.

(g) In 2009, changes to the processing of Northern Territory enrolment data will affect comparisons with previous years of all numbers drawing on student data for the Northern Territory.

(h) Retention rate = Year 10, 11 or 12 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from the first year of secondary schooling (Year 7/8).

(i) Retention rate = Year 12 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from Year 10.

(j) Retention rate = Year 12 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from Year 11.

Source: ABS 2012, AIHW time series analysis of published data.

Apparent retention rates over time

Table 2.05.2 presents apparent retention rates over the period 1998–2011.

- Between 1998 and 2011 there was a significant increase in apparent retention rates for Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12. The fitted trend implies an average yearly increase in the rate of around 1.1% for Year 10 (equivalent to a 17% increase over the period), 1.6% for Year 11 (equivalent to a 41% increase over the period) and 1.2% for Year 12 (equivalent to a 48% increase over the period).
- Over the same period there was a significant increase in apparent retention rates for Indigenous students from Year 10 to Year 12. The fitted trend implies an average yearly increase in the rate of around 0.8%, which is equivalent to a 25% increase over the period. The change in apparent retention rates for Indigenous students from Year 11 to Year 12 was, however, not significant. The fitted trend implied an average yearly change of 0.1%, which is equivalent to 0% increase over the period.
- Between 1998 and 2011 there was also a significant increase in apparent retention rates for non-Indigenous students from Year 7/8 to Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 of 3%, 0.5% and 8% respectively. These increases were not as great as for Indigenous students.
- Over the same period there was a significant increase in apparent retention rates for non-Indigenous students from Year 10 to Year 12 of 5% and no significant change in apparent retention rates for non-Indigenous students from Year 11 to Year 12.

Both the National Indigenous Reform Agreement and the National Education Agreement aim to halve the gap in Indigenous Year 12 or equivalent attainment by 2020. Since 2010, as part of the Compact with Young Australians, COAG has been implementing a National Youth Participation requirement that required all young people to be in full-time education, training or employment or a combination of education and employment until age 17. This might have affected apparent retention rates to Year 10 and Year 12 since 2010.

Table 2.05.2: Apparent retention rates by Indigenous status, 1998–2011

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Annual change[(a)]	% change[(b)]
Year 7/8 to Year 10[(c)]																
Indigenous	83.1	82.0	83.0	85.7	86.4	87.2	85.8	88.3	91.3	90.5	89.8	90.9	95.8	98.7	1.1*	16.8*
Non-Indigenous	97.5	97.9	98.0	98.4	98.5	98.9	98.5	98.6	98.9	99.4	99.9	100.1	101.0	101.3	0.3*	3.4*
Year 7/8 to Year 11[(c)]																
Indigenous	52.3	56.0	53.6	56.1	58.9	61.4	61.1	62.3	67.7	69.7	67.8	69.5	72.1	73.3	1.6*	40.9*
Non-Indigenous	85.4	86.4	86.2	87.6	88.7	89.5	89.0	88.3	88.9	89.4	89.8	91.8	93.1	93.7	0.5*	8.3*
Year 7/8 to Year 12[(c)]																
Indigenous	32.1	34.7	36.4	35.7	38.0	39.1	39.8	39.5	40.1	42.9	47.2	45.4	47.2	48.7	1.2*	48.2*
Non-Indigenous	72.7	73.2	73.3	74.5	76.3	76.5	76.9	76.6	76.0	75.6	75.6	77.3	79.4	80.7	0.5*	8.3*
Year 10 to Year 12[(d)]																
Indigenous	42.4	43.1	43.8	43.6	45.8	45.7	46.0	45.3	46.8	48.5	51.7	50.1	52.5	53.5	0.8*	25.4*
Non-Indigenous	74.8	75.0	75.2	76.2	77.8	77.7	78.1	77.5	77.1	76.6	76.5	77.7	79.5	80.6	0.3*	5.4*
Year 11 to Year 12[(e)]																
Indigenous	64.8	66.4	65.0	66.6	67.8	66.4	64.7	64.7	64.4	63.3	67.7	67.0	67.9	67.5	0.1	0.0
Non-Indigenous	85.2	85.7	84.8	86.5	87.1	86.3	86.0	86.1	86.0	85.0	84.7	86.1	86.5	86.7	2.2	0.5

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the $p < 0.05$ level over the period 1998–2011.

(a) Average annual change in rates determined using linear regression analysis.

(b) Per cent change between 1998 and 2011 based on the average annual change over the period.

(c) Retention rate = Year 10, 11 or 12 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from the first year of secondary schooling (Year 7/8).

(d) Retention rate = Year 12 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from Year 10.

(e) Retention rate = Year 12 students as a proportion of the corresponding cohort from Year 11.

Source: ABS 2012, AIHW time series analysis of published data.

NATSISS data

Table 2.05.3 presents survey data on school attendance by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Year 9 (note that data on school attendance for younger children in presented in indicator 2.04). Table 2.05.4 presents data on types of assistance that would help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary school students. These data are from the 2008 NATSISS.

- Just over one-third (34%) of children in Year 9 or higher missed school in the week before the survey. The main reasons for missing school were 'school not available/open (12%)' followed by 'child illness or injury' (8%) (Table 2.05.3).
- The type of assistance most recommended to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary school students complete Year 12 was support from friends, family and school (11%) (Table 2.05.4). Encouragement from elders and council was reported as the second most recommended type of assistance to help Indigenous secondary school students complete year 12 in remote areas.

Table 2.05.3: Child school attendance, Year 9 or higher, Indigenous students, 2008

	Number	Per cent
How well school advised of child's progress[(a)]		
Very well	3,547	36.6
Well	3,583	37.0
Not well	1,911	19.7
Not at all	640	6.6
Total	**9,681**	**100.0**
Not known	314	3.1
Whether child missed days at school in last week[(b)]		
Missed days at school/preschool/kindergarten	3,408	34.3
Did not miss days at school/preschool/kindergarten	6,519	65.7
Total	**9,928**	**100.0**
Not stated	67	0.7
Main reason missed school in last week[(b)]		
Child had illness or injury	823	8.3
School not available or not open	1,155	11.6
Cultural commitments or sorry business	17	0.2
Other reason	1,414	14.2
Total missed school last week	*3,409*	*34.3*
Did not miss school in last week	6,519	65.7
Total	**9,928**	**100.0**
Not stated	67	0.7
Number of days child usually attends school[(a)]		
Less than five days	748	7.5
5 days or more	9,180	92.5
Total	**9,928**	**100.0**
Not stated	67	0.7
Whether child missed school without permission in last 12 months		
Yes	1,803	18.0
No	8,192	82.0
Total	**9,995**	**100.0**
How well school advised of child's progress[(a)]		
Very well	3,547	36.6
Well	3,583	37.0
Not well	1,911	19.7
Not at all	640	6.6
Total	**9,681**	**100.0**
Not known	314	3.1

(a) Children who do usually attend school.
(b) Children who do not usually attend school.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.05.4: Types of assistance that respondents suggests would help child in secondary school complete year 12, by remoteness, Indigenous children aged 2–14 years, 2008

	Non-remote	Remote	Total
		Per cent	
Support from family, friends and school	11.3	10.6	11.2
Encouragement from elders and council	2.6	4.1	3.0
A relative to support if goes away to boarding school	0.9	3.9	1.6
Greater access to apprenticeships	3.5	2.6	3.3
Provision of coaches or mentors	3.5	2.2	3.2
Career guidance	5.3	3.5	4.9
More individual tutoring	4.9	2.8	4.4
Schools suitable for culture and/or beliefs	2.3	2.6	2.3
Suitable or reliable transport	1.9	2.2	2.0
Accessible secondary schools	1.1	2.3	1.4
Subsidies or grants to help with affordability	3.5	3.2	3.4
Assistance for students with a disability	1.1	0.8	1.1
Support networks	3.6	2.6	3.4
More discipline	2.1	2.1	2.1
Other reason	0.7	0.4	0.6
Not currently attending secondary school	51.6	54.1	52.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**194,254**	**58,954**	**253,208**

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Data quality issues

National Schools Statistics Collection

Indigenous identification

Information on Indigenous status is obtained from school enrolment forms which are generally completed by the primary carer of the child. The NSSC includes people who did not state their Indigenous status in the category 'non-Indigenous'.

There is some variability in the reporting of Indigenous status, particularly in relation to not stated responses. This may result in some under reporting of Indigenous status, see Appendix 2: Collection of Indigenous Status of Students (ABS 2012). Increases in the number of Indigenous students due to improvements in the reporting of Indigenous status may lead to increases in apparent retention rates for Indigenous students independently of changes in actual retention.

Retention data

Care should be taken in the interpretation of apparent retention rates (ARRs) as the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors such as repeating students, migration, inter-sector transfers and enrolment policies. For further details on the accuracy of the NSSC methodology and apparent retention rates, see the Explanatory Notes of Schools, Australia (ABS 2012).

The ARR is based on those who are undertaking study at the year 10 or year 12 level as at August in the reference year and they may not go on to complete year 10 or year 12.

The ARR measures change over a period of time. The numerator and denominator are sourced from different annual cycles of the NSSC, to follow the same age-cohort. Given the long analysis period, student transitions, such as migration or re-entry to the school system, have an effect on the accuracy of this calculation. In addition, the denominator is sourced from two different NSSC years due to different starting years for secondary school. For example, for the ARR from year 7/8 to year 10 in 2009, the denominator for New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory is sourced from NSSC 2006 (year 7) and for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory is sourced from 2007 (year 8).

Relatively small changes in student numbers can create apparently large movements in retention rates, particularly in small jurisdictions. In addition, the rates in the smaller jurisdictions may be noticeably affected by changes in such factors as the proportion of ungraded and/or mature aged students from year to year.

Before sending data to the ABS, each State education department cleans the data and removes duplicate records so that students are only counted once. Due to the different enrolment systems, the ability to remove duplicates varies among jurisdictions and this may result in over-reporting of school students in some states. Decreases in the number of students due to improvements in the identification and removal of duplicate enrolments may lead to decreases in ARRs independently of changes in actual retention.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years.

Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

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 (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2010. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Users' Guide 2008. ABS Cat. no. 4720.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2012. Schools Australia 2010. ABS Cat. no. 4221.0. Canberra: ABS.

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2.06 Educational participation and attainment of adults

Educational participation (persons undertaking formal education or training) and educational attainment (persons who have completed a particular level of school education or non-school qualification).

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the National Centre for Vocational Education Research and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Data presented have not been age-standardised, because education has not been found to be strongly associated with age in analysis of surveys such as the NATSIHS.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

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 social issues including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

National Vocational Education and Training (VET) Provider Collection

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research is Australia's main provider of vocational education and training (VET) sector research and statistics. VET is a national system designed to give workers the skills for particular occupations and industries. The VET sector includes providers that receive public VET funding, such as technical and further education organisations, higher education institutions, other government providers (for example, agricultural colleges), community education providers, government-funded private registered training organisations, schools funded through government allocations for VET, and all other Commonwealth and state recurrent and specific-purpose funded VET, regardless of the location of the training organisation.

Non-identification rates for Indigenous students in these data are high. Care also needs to be taken when comparing data across jurisdictions for load pass rates, as average module durations vary across jurisdictions.

DEEWR Higher Education Statistics Collection

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is the responsible agency for the Higher Education Statistics Collection, which includes information from higher education institutions such as universities and colleges of advanced education. This data collection contains statistics relating to students enrolled in higher education courses between 1 January and 31 December of each year in each Australian higher education provider.

Although universities design and produce their own enrolment forms, DEEWR has provided institutions with suggested wording for questions relating to Indigenous status (ABS 2003). Approximately 3% of students in this data collection have a 'not stated' Indigenous status. At the moment these are recorded as non-Indigenous, although plans are under way to record the 'not stated' responses separately.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

Data analyses

Self-reported survey data

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on the educational institution currently attended, the highest level of schooling that Indigenous people aged 15 years and over completed, and the highest level of non-school qualification. These data are presented in Tables 2.06.1 to 2.06.25.

Educational institution currently attended

- In 2008, approximately 19% of Indigenous people and 16% of non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over were currently studying. Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to be studying at secondary school (8%) as non-Indigenous Australians (4%).

However, non-Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to be studying at university or in higher education as Indigenous Australians (6% compared with 3%) (Table 2.06.1).

Educational institution currently attended by age and sex

- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over were currently studying (20%) than Indigenous males (18%). Approximately 16% of both non-Indigenous males and non-Indigenous females of the same age were currently studying (Table 2.06.2).
- Approximately 2% of Indigenous males and 3% of Indigenous females were currently studying at university or another higher education institution compared with 6% of non-Indigenous males and females.

Table 2.06.1: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	15–24 years			25–34 years			35–44 years			45 years and over			Total (15 years and over)		
Educational participation	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Rate ratio[(a)]**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Rate ratio[(a)]**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Rate ratio[(a)]**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Rate ratio[(a)]**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Rate ratio[(a)]**
	%	**%**		**%**	**%**		**%**	**%**		**%**	**%**		**%**	**%**	
Secondary school	26.3	24.9	1.1	n.p.	n.p.	. .	n.p.	n.p.	. .	n.p.	n.p.	. .	8.4*	4.2*	2.0
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	9.3	11.2	0.8	5.6	7.0	0.8	4.5	4.6	1.0	3.6*	1.5*	2.5	6.0*	4.6*	1.3
University/other higher education	2.9*	20.3*	0.1	3.1*	5.9*	0.5	3.7	4.1	0.9	1.7*	0.9*	1.9	2.7*	5.6*	0.5
Total currently studying[(b)]	*40.9**	*58.1**	*0.7*	*11.2**	*14.7**	*0.8*	*9.3*	*10.4*	*0.9*	*6.6**	*2.8**	*2.3*	*19.0**	*15.6**	*1.2*
Not studying	59.1*	41.9*	1.4	88.8*	85.3*	1.0	90.7	89.6	1.0	93.4*	97.2*	1.0	81.0*	84.4*	1.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**
Total number	**103,780**	**2,783,949**	**. .**	**69,931**	**2,819,126**	**. .**	**63,851**	**2,987,518**	**. .**	**89,539**	**7,783,608**	**. .**	**327,101**	**16,374,202**	**. .**

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

(a) Rate ratio = Indigenous: non-Indigenous.
(b) Includes other institutions not further defined.

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

Table 2.06.2: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Educational participation	Males			Females			Persons		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non- Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]
					Per cent				
Secondary school	8.7*	4.0*	2.2	8.1*	4.4*	1.8	8.4*	4.2*	2.0
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	5.4	5.1	1.1	6.6*	4.1*	1.6	6.0*	4.6*	1.3
University/other higher education	2.1*	5.6*	0.4	3.3*	5.7*	0.6	2.7*	5.6*	0.5
Total currently studying[(b)]	*17.7*	*15.8*	*1.1*	*20.2**	*15.5**	*1.3*	*19.0**	*15.6**	*1.2*
Not studying	**82.3**	**84.2**	**1.0**	**79.8***	**84.5***	**0.9**	**81.0***	**84.4***	**1.0**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**
Total number	**156,052**	**8,079,875**	**. .**	**171,049**	**8,294,327**	**. .**	**327,101**	**16,374,202**	**. .**

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

(a) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(b) Includes other educational institutions not further defined.

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

Educational institution currently attended by state/territory and remoteness

- In all states and territories except the Northern Territory, there was a higher proportion of Indigenous persons currently studying than non-Indigenous persons (Table 2.06.3).
- The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over currently studying (27%) and the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion (14%) (Table 2.06.3).
- The proportion of Indigenous people who were currently studying at secondary school ranged from 6% in the Northern Territory to 11% in Tasmania. The proportion of Indigenous people currently studying at TAFE colleges ranged from 3% in the Northern Territory to 10% in the Australian Capital Territory (although this estimate has a high relative standard error and should be used with caution).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas were currently studying at secondary school (9%) and TAFE colleges or equivalent (7%) than those in remote areas (6% and 5% respectively). The proportion studying at university or other higher education institutions was 3%in non-remote areas and 1% in remote areas (Table 2.06.4).

Table 2.06.3: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Educational participation		Secondary school	TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	University /other higher education	Total currently studying[(a)]	Not studying	Total[(a)]	Total number
NSW	Indigenous	%	9.2*	6.6	2.2*[(b)]	20.0*	80.0*	100.0	96,367
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.4*	4.7	4.8*	15.2*	84.8*	100.0	5,400,320
	Rate ratio[(c)]		2.1	1.4	0.5	1.3	0.9	. .	. .
Vic	Indigenous	%	9.3*	8.1*	5.2	25.0*	75.0*	100.0	21,938
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.4*	4.6*	6.1	16.1*	83.9*	100.0	4,157,596
	Rate ratio[(c)]		2.1	1.8	0.9	1.6	0.9	. .	. .
Qld	Indigenous	%	8.4*	5.8	2.5*[(b)]	18.9	81.1	100.0	90,587
	Non-Indigenous	%	3.8*	4.5	6.6*	15.8	84.2	100.0	3,192,880
	Rate ratio[(c)]		2.2	1.3	0.4	1.2	1.0	. .	. .
WA	Indigenous	%	7.7*	6.5*	2.5*	18.2	81.8	100.0	43,826
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.3*	4.9*	5.5*	15.8	84.2	100.0	1,614,710
	Rate ratio[(c)]		1.8	1.3	0.5	1.2	1.0	. .	. .
SA	Indigenous	%	8.6*	6.9*	2.5*	19.5*	80.5*	100.0	17,948
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.1*	4.4*	4.7*	14.1*	85.9*	100.0	1,254,826
	Rate ratio[(c)]		2.1	1.6	0.5	1.4	0.9	. .	. .
Tas	Indigenous	%	11.0*	6.2	2.6[(b)]	20.9*	79.1*	100.0	12,351
	Non-Indigenous	%	5.3*	5.0	4.1	15.7*	84.3*	100.0	373,776
	Rate ratio[(c)]		2.1	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.9	. .	. .
ACT	Indigenous	%	7.6[(b)]	10.0[(b)]	7.7[(b)]	26.6	73.4	100.0	2,810
	Non-Indigenous	%	5.2	4.6	10.8	21.9	78.1	100.0	268,844
	Rate ratio[(c)]		1.5	2.2	0.7	1.2	0.9	. .	. .
NT	Indigenous	%	5.9	2.9	3.1	13.5	86.5	100.0	41,274
	Non-Indigenous	%	2.7[(d)]	4.9[(d)]	6.7[(b)]	16.6[(b)]	83.4	100.0	111,250
	Rate ratio[(c)]		2.2	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0	. .	. .
Aust.	Indigenous	%	8.4*	6.0*	2.7*	19.0*	81.0*	100.0	327,101
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.2*	4.6*	5.6*	15.6*	84.4*	100.0	16,374,202
	Rate ratio[(c)]		2.0	1.3	0.5	1.2	1.0	. .	. .

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

(a) Includes other educational institution, not further defined.

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

(c) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

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

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

Table 2.06.4: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	*Subtotal non-remote*	Remote	Very remote	*Subtotal remote*	Total
				Per cent				
				Indigenous				
Secondary school	10.1*	10.5*	7.1*	9.3*	7.4	4.5	5.5	8.4*
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	6.8*	7.0	5.6	6.5*	5.0	4.2	4.5	6.0*
University/other higher education	4.6*	2.3[(a)]	1.9*	3.2*	1.9[(a)]	1.0[(a)]	1.3[(a)]	2.7*
Total currently studying[(b)]	*23.2**	*22.2**	*17.3**	*21.2**	*15.5*	*10.8*	*12.5*	*19.0**
Not studying	76.8*	77.8*	82.7*	78.8*	84.5*	89.2	87.5	81.0*
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**105,217**	**67,416**	**72,967**	**245,600**	**29,839**	**51,662**	**81,501**	**327,101**
				Non-Indigenous				
Secondary school	4.3*	4.3*	3.8*	4.3*	n.p.	. .	. .	4.2*
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	4.1*	6.0	5.0	4.6*	n.p.	. .	. .	4.6*
University/other higher education	6.6*	3.5	3.3*	5.7*	n.p.	. .	. .	5.6*
Total currently studying[(b)]	*16.4**	*14.5**	*12.8**	*15.7**	*10.0*	*. .*	*. .*	*15.6**
Not studying	83.6*	85.5*	87.2*	84.3*	90.0*	. .	. .	84.4*
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**100.0**
Total number	**11,283,887**	**3,466,410**	**1,465,288**	**16,215,586**	**157,268**	**. .**	**. .**	**16,374,202**
				Rate ratio[(c)]				
Secondary school	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.2	. .	. .	. .	2.0
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.4	. .	. .	. .	1.3
University/other higher education	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	. .	. .	. .	0.5
Total currently studying[(b)]	*1.4*	*1.5*	*1.4*	*1.4*	*1.6*	*. .*	*. .*	*1.2*
Not studying	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	. .	. .	1.0

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

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

(b) Includes other educational institutions not further defined.

(c) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

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

Highest level of school completed

- In 2008, Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (34% compared with 16%). Year 10 or 11 was the highest level of schooling that 43% of Indigenous adults and 33% of non-Indigenous adults completed, and Year 12 was the highest level that 23% of Indigenous adults completed compared with 51% of non-Indigenous adults (Table 2.06.5).

Highest level of school completed by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 65 years and over were much more likely to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (82%) than Indigenous Australians of younger ages (Table 2.06.5).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18–24, 25–34 and 35–44 years were around five times as likely to report Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling as non-Indigenous adults of the same age groups.
- In 2008, males and females in the Indigenous population reported similar levels of school completed, as did males and females in the non-Indigenous population (Table 2.06.6).

Table 2.06.5: Highest level of school completed[a], by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

			Highest level of school completed				
			Completed Year 12	Completed Year 10 or 11	Completed Year 9 or below[b]	Total	Total number of persons
18–24	Indigenous	%	32.0*	47.9*	20.1*	100.0	65,494
	Non-Indigenous	%	75.9*	20.6*	3.5*	100.0	1,923,185
	Rate ratio[c]		0.4	2.3	5.7	. .	. .
25–34	Indigenous	%	30.1*	47.8*	22.0*	100.0	69,786
	Non-Indigenous	%	72.6*	23.4*	4.0*	100.0	2,818,872
	Rate ratio[c]		0.4	2	5.5	. .	. .
35–44	Indigenous	%	24.3*	48.5*	27.2*	100.0	63,851
	Non-Indigenous	%	55.6*	38.5*	5.9*	100.0	2,987,350
	Rate ratio[c]		0.4	1.3	4.6	. .	. .
45–64 years	Indigenous	%	9.6*	37.5	52.9*	100.0	73,551
	Non-Indigenous	%	41.8*	40.8	17.5*	100.0	5,190,548
	Rate ratio[c]		0.2	0.9	3	. .	. .
65+ years	Indigenous	%	5.2*[d]	13.2*	81.5*	100.0	15,979
	Non-Indigenous	%	22.5*	30.7*	46.8*	100.0	2,592,921
	Rate ratio[c]		0.2	0.4	1.7	. .	. .
Total	Indigenous	%	22.7*	43.4*	33.9*	100.0	288,660
	Non-Indigenous	%	51.1*	33.0*	16.0*	100.0	15,512,876
	Rate ratio[c]		0.4	1.3	2.1	. .	. .

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

(a) Excludes those still attending secondary school.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

(c) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

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

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

Table 2.06.6: Highest year of school completed, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Highest level of school completed	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[(a)]
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Completed Year 12	22.3*	51.1*	0.4	23.0*	51.0*	0.5	22.7*	51.1*	0.4
Completed Year 10 or 11	42.9*	33.1*	1.3	43.9*	32.9*	1.3	43.9*	33.0*	1.3
Completed Year 9 or below[(b)]	34.9*	15.8*	2.2	33.1*	16.1*	2.1	33.9*	16.0*	2.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total number of persons	**136,184**	**7,652,593**	**. .**	**152,476**	**7,860,283**	**. .**	**288,660**	**15,512,876**	**. .**

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

(a) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Highest level of school completed by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over reporting Year 12 as their highest level of school completed ranged from 16% in the Northern Territory to 44% in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportion of Indigenous students reporting Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling ranged from 18% in the Australian Capital Territory to 44% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.06.7).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas reported Year 12 as their highest level of school completed than their counterparts in remote areas of Australia (25% compared with 16%) (Table 2.06.8).
- In *Major Cities*, *Inner Regional*, *Outer Regional* and *Remote* areas of Australia, Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below. (Data are not available for non-Indigenous in *Very Remote* areas).

Table 2.06.7: Highest level of school completed, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

State/territory			Completed Year 12	Completed Year 10 or below	Completed Year 9 or below[(a)]	Total	Total no. of persons
NSW	Indigenous	%	18.0*	40.2*	41.8*	100.0	84,219
	Non-Indigenous	%	52.8*	29.6*	17.6*	100.0	5,099,418
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.3	1.4	2.4	. .	. .
Vic	Indigenous	%	28.9*	42.6*	28.6*	100.0	19,071
	Non-Indigenous	%	54.8*	30.2*	17.0*	100.0	3,948,721
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.5	1.4	1.7	. .	. .
Qld	Indigenous	%	30.3*	42.1	27.6*	100.0	80,037
	Non-Indigenous	%	48.8*	37.0	14.2*	100.0	3,037,211
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.6	1.1	1.9	. .	. .
WA	Indigenous	%	19.8*	53.4*	26.7*	100.0	38,823
	Non-Indigenous	%	50.9*	37.4*	11.8*	100.0	1,521,995
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.4	1.4	2.3	. .	. .
SA	Indigenous	%	20.9*	50.0*	29.1*	100.0	15,905
	Non-Indigenous	%	43.4*	40.0*	16.6*	100.0	1,193,145
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.5	1.3	1.8	. .	. .
Tas	Indigenous	%	20.6*	48.5	30.9*	100.0	10,602
	Non-Indigenous	%	34.1*	45.5	20.4*	100.0	350,581
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.6	1.1	1.5	. .	. .
ACT	Indigenous	%	43.5*	38.8*	17.7*	100.0	2,512
	Non-Indigenous	%	71.0*	21.3*	7.7*	100.0	253,556
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.6	1.8	2.3	. .	. .
NT	Indigenous	%	16.3*	39.8*	43.9*	100.0	37,492
	Non-Indigenous	%	63.0*	26.0*	11.0*[(c)]	100.0	108,248
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.3	1.5	4.0	. .	. .
Australia	Indigenous	%	22.7*	43.4*	33.9*	100.0	288,660
	Non-Indigenous	%	51.1*	33.0*	16.0*	100.0	15,512,876
	Rate ratio[(b)]		0.4	1.3	2.1	. .	. .

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

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

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

Note: Excludes those still attending secondary school.

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

Table 2.06.8: Highest level of school completed[a], by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

			Highest level of school completed				
			Completed Year 12	Completed Year 10 or 11	Completed Year 9 or below[b]	Total	Total number of persons
Major cities	Indigenous	%	30.1*	43.5*	26.4*	100.0	91,775
	Non-Indigenous	%	57.4*	28.6*	14.1*	100.0	10,700,140
	Rate ratio[c]		0.5	1.5	1.9	. .	. .
Inner regional	Indigenous	%	20.8*	45.1	34.1*	100.0	57,723
	Non-Indigenous	%	37/1*	41.7	21.2*	100.0	3,259,384
	Rate ratio[c]		0.6	1.1	1.6	. .	. .
Outer regional	Indigenous	%	21.0*	42.7	36.3*	100.0	64,455
	Non-Indigenous	%	36.3*	45.3	18.4*	100.0	1,397,750
	Rate ratio[c]		0.6	0.9	2.0	. .	. .
Subtotal non-remote	Indigenous	%	24.8*	43.7*	31.5*	100.0	213,953
	Non-Indigenous	%	51.2*	32.9*	16.0*	100.0	15,357,274
	Rate ratio[c]		0.5	1.3	2.0	. .	. .
Remote	Indigenous	%	16.8*	43.9	39.3*	100.0	26,917
	Non-Indigenous	%	39.1*	44.1*	16.8*[d]	100.0	154,254
	Rate ratio[c]		0.4	1.0	2.3	. .	. .
Very remote	Indigenous	%	16.1	41.9	41.9	100.0	49,348
	Non-Indigenous	%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Rate ratio[c]		. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Subtotal remote	Indigenous	%	16.4	42.7	41.0	100.0	76,993
	Non-Indigenous	%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	Rate ratio[c]		. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.06.8 (continued): Highest level of school completed[(a)], by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

			Highest level of school completed				
			Completed Year 12	Completed Year 10 or 11	Completed Year 9 or below[(b)]	Total	Total number of persons
Total	Indigenous	%	22.7*	43.4*	33.9*	100.0	288,660
	Non-Indigenous	%	51.1*	33.0*	16.0*	100.0	15,512,876
	Rate ratio[(c)]		0.4	1.3	2.1	. .	. .

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

(a) Excludes those still attending secondary school.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

(c) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

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

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

Time series analyses

- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported that the highest year of school completed was Year 12 in 2008 (23%) than in 2002 (19%) and in 1994 (9%). A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in 2008 also reported that Year 12 was their highest year of school completed (51%) than in 2002 (40%) (Table 2.06.9).

Table 2.06.9: Highest level of school completed (per cent), by Indigenous status, 1994, 2002 and 2008

	1994		2002		2008	
Highest level of school completed	**Indigenous**	**Non-Indigenous**	**Indigenous**	**Non-Indigenous**	**Indigenous**	**Non-Indigenous**
Completed Year 12	9.3	n.a.	18.5	39.8	22.7	51.1
Completed Year 10 or 11	37.7	n.a.	40.7	37.3	43.4	33.0
Completed Year 9 or below[(a)]	52.1	n.a.	40.8	22.9	33.9	16.0
Total[(b)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Includes not stated.

Note: Excludes those still attending secondary school.

Source: 2002 NATSISS; 2008 NATSISS; NHS 01 and NHS 07–08.

Highest year of school completed by selected population characteristics

- In 2008, among Indigenous Australians who completed year 12, 91% spoke English at home, 81% lived in non-remote areas and 75% were employed. Among those Indigenous Australians who completed to year 9 or below, 81% spoke English at home, 69% lived in non-remote areas and 35% were employed (Table 2.06.10).

Table 2.06.10: Highest level of school completed, by selected population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, per cent, 2008

	Completed Year 12		Completed Year 10 or 11		Completed Year 9 or below[a]		Total[b]	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Main language spoken at home								
English	90.6	86.5	88.1	96.0	81.4	83.5	86.4	89.1
Language other than English	9.4	13.5	11.9	4.0	18.6	16.5	13.6	10.9
Total number	*65,383*	*7,920,077*	*125,356*	*5,114,976*	*97,921*	*2,477,823*	*288,660*	*15,512,876*
Location								
Remote	18.7	. .	25.4	. .	31.3	. .	25.9	. .
Non-remote	81.3	. .	74.6	. .	68.7	. .	74.1	. .
Total number	*65,383*	. .	*125,356*	. .	*97,921*	. .	*288,660*	. .
Household income								
1st quintile (lowest income)	28.6	8.5	47.0	16.8	65.6	40.1	49.1	16.3
5th quintile (highest income)	9.8	30.7	4.1	15.3	2.7	5.2	4.9	21.4
Total excluding income not stated	*51,488*	*6,677,999*	*101,187*	*4,427,215*	*77,302*	*2,111,267*	*229,976*	*13,216,481*
Index of disparity[c]								
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	37.8	10.1	49.5	20.1	60.9	31.8	50.6	16.9
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	8.3[d]	31.6	3.2[d]	14.4	1.5[d]	9.2	3.8	22.3
Total excluding not stated	*64,356*	*7,883,314*	*122,710*	*5,095,961*	*93,297*	*2,462,672*	*280,363*	*15,441,947*
Employment								
Employed	74.7	78.0	58.2	66.9	35.2	30.7	54.1	66.8
Unemployed	7.7	2.1	11.1	2.6	9.0	1.7	9.6	2.2
Not in the labour force	17.6	19.9	30.7	30.5	55.8	67.7	36.3	31.0
Total number	*65,383*	*7,920,077*	*125,356*	*5,114,976*	*97,921*	*2,477,823*	*288,660*	*15,512,876*
Housing tenure type								
Owner[e]	41.0	61.7	28.8	68.2	21.7	70.1	29.2	65.2
Renter[f]	57.4	30.2	69.5	27.4	76.9	25.3	69.2	28.5
Other[g]	1.6	8.1	1.8	4.4	1.4	4.6	1.6	6.3
Total excluding not stated	*65,134*	*7,920,077*	*124,664*	*5,114,976*	*97,309*	*2,477,823*	*287,107*	*15,512,876*

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.
(b) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.
(c) Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage.
(d) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(e) Includes without a mortgage, with a mortgage and participants in rent-buy schemes.
(f) Includes boarders.
(g) Includes life tenure schemes, rent-free, and other tenure types not further defined.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Highest year of school completed by summary health and population characteristics

- In 2008, nearly half of all Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, who spoke a language other than English as their main language at home reported their highest level of school completed was Year 9 or below, compared with a third of Indigenous Australians who spoke English as their main language (Table 2.06.11).

- For Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in 2008, those in the 1st quintile (lowest income) of household income were more likely than those in the 5th quintile (highest income) to report their highest level of school completed as Year 9 or below (45% compared with 19%) (Table 2.06.11).

Table 2.06.11: Highest year of school completed, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Completed Year 12	Completed Year 10 or 11	Completed Year 9 or below[(a)]	Total[(b)]
		Per cent		
Main language spoken at home				
English	23.8	44.3	32.0	100.0
Language other than English	15.6	38.0	46.4	100.0
Total	**65,383**	**125,356**	**97,921**	**288,660**
Location				
Remote	16.4	42.7	41.0	100.0
Non-remote	24.8	43.7	31.5	100.0
Total	**65,383**	**125,356**	**97,921**	**288,660**
Household income				
1st quintile (lowest income)	13.0	42.1	44.9	100
5th quintile (highest income)	45.0	36.5	18.6	100
Total excluding income not stated	**51,488**	**101,187**	**77,302**	**229,976**
Index of disparity[(c)]				
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	17.2	42.8	40.0	100.0
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	49.7	37.3	*12.9	100.0
Total excluding not stated	**64,356**	**122,710**	**93,297**	**280,363**
Employment				
Employed	31.3	46.7	22.1	100.0
Unemployed	18.1	50.1	31.8	100.0
Not in the labour force	11.0	36.8	52.2	100.0
Total	**65,383**	**125,356**	**97,921**	**288,660**
Housing tenure type				
Owner	32.2	42.2	25.6	100.0
Renter	18.8	43.6	37.6	100.0
Other[(d)]	21.7	54.3	24.0	100.0
Total excluding not stated	**65,134**	**124,664**	**97,309**	**287,107**

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.
(b) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.
(c) Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage.
(d) Includes life tenure scheme, participant in rent/buy scheme, rent-free and other tenure not further defined.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of NATSISS 2008.

Non-school qualifications

- In 2008, approximately 40% of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years reported they had a non-school qualification compared with 61% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age (Table 2.06.14).
- The same proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 25–64 years had completed a certificate course in 2008 (both 25%). A much higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or diploma as their highest level of non-school qualification (25% and 10% respectively) compared with Indigenous Australians (7% and 6% respectively).

Non-school qualifications by age and sex

- For Indigenous Australians the age group with the highest rate of non-school qualifications was 35–44 years (43%). For non-Indigenous Australians the highest rate was in the 25–34 year group (70%) (Table 2.06.12).
- In 2008, a similar proportion of Indigenous males and females aged 25–64 years had a non-school qualification (41% and 39% respectively). Indigenous males were more likely to have completed a certificate course (27%) and less likely to have completed a diploma (4%) or bachelor degree or above (6%) than Indigenous females (22%, 7% and 7% respectively) (Table 2.06.13).

Table 2.06.12: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 25–64 years, 2007–08

Highest level of non-school qualification[(a)]	25–34 years			35–44 years			45–64 years			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
Non-school qualification	**Per cent**			**Per cent**			**Per cent**			**Per cent**		
Bachelor degree or above[(b)]	6.3*	32.5*	0.2	6.6*	26.2*	0.3	6.6*	20.0*	0.3	6.5*	24.9*	0.3
Advanced diploma/diploma	4.0*	9.9*	0.4	6.5*	9.9*	0.7	6.5*	9.7*	0.7	5.6*	9.8*	0.6
Certificate	26.3	25.5	1.0	27.1	26.1	1.0	21.0	23.9	0.9	24.7	24.9	1.0
Total with non-school qualification[(c)]	*39.5**	*69.7**	*0.6*	*42.9**	*64.0**	*0.7*	*38.4**	*55.4**	*0.7*	*40.2**	*61.4**	*0.7*
Does not have a non-school qualification	60.5*	30.3*	2.0	57.1*	36.0*	1.6	61.6*	44.6*	1.4	59.9*	38.6*	1.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**
Total number of persons	**69,931**	**2,819,126**	**. .**	**63,851**	**2,987,518**	**. .**	**73,560**	**5,190,687**	**. .**	**207,342**	**10,997,331**	**. .**

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

(a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.

(b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification, the level of which could not be determined.

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

Table 2.06.13: Whether has a non-school qualification, by sex and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

Non-school qualification[a]	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Bachelor degree or above[b]	5.6	24.5	0.2*	7.3	25.2	0.3*	6.5	24.9	0.3*
Advanced diploma/diploma	4.3	8.2	0.5*	6.8	11.4	0.6*	5.6	9.8	0.6*
Certificate	27.4	30.2	0.9	22.2	19.7	1.1	24.7	24.9	1.0
Total with non-school qualification[c]	*41.0*	*64.6*	*0.6**	*39.4*	*58.2*	*0.7**	*40.2*	*61.4*	*0.7**
Does not have a non-school qualification	59.0	35.4	1.7*	60.6	41.8	1.4*	59.9	38.6	1.6*
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**1.0**
Total number of persons	**97,129**	**5,469,151**	**. .**	**110,214**	**5,528,180**	**. .**	**207,342**	**10,997,331**	**. .**

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

(a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.

(b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma and graduate certificate.

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification, the level of which could not be determined.

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

Non-school qualifications by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years with a non-school qualification ranged from 27% in the Northern Territory to 63% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.14). Approximately 21% of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Capital Territory had completed a bachelor degree or above, whereas in the other states and territories this proportion ranged between 5% and 11%.
- The proportion of Indigenous adults aged 20–24 years who reported attaining at least a year 12 or equivalent, or AQF Certificate II or above ranged from 24% in the Northern Territory to 58% in Victoria. Overall, the proportion of Indigenous adults aged 20–24 years who reported attaining at least a year 12 or equivalent, or AQF Certificate II or above was much lower than for non-Indigenous adults (45% and 85%, respectively) (Table 2.06.15).
- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in non-remote areas reported having a non-school qualification (45%) than Indigenous Australians in remote areas (26%) (Table 2.06.16).

Table 2.06.14: Whether has a non-school qualification, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

Highest non-school qualification[a]			Bachelor degree or above[b]	Advanced diploma/ diploma	Certificate	*Total with non-school qualification*[c]	Does not have a non-school qualification	Total	Total number of persons
NSW	Indigenous	%	5.9*	5.8*	26.3	40.9*	59.1*	100.0	60,442
	Non-Indigenous	%	27.0*	8.7*	25.2	63.4*	36.6*	100.0	3,627,960
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.6	1.0	. .
Vic	Indigenous	%	10.8*	9.3	32.3*	57.4*	42.6	100.0	13,668
	Non-Indigenous	%	26.4*	11.4	22.3*	61.6*	38.4	100.0	2,769,652
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.8	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.0	. .
Qld	Indigenous	%	6.8*	5.5*	23.9	39.7*	60.4*	100.0	57,638
	Non-Indigenous	%	20.8*	9.4*	27.7	60.0*	40.0*	100.0	2,160,365
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.5	1.0	. .
WA	Indigenous	%	6.0*	5.1*	24.5	39.7*	60.3*	100.0	28,073
	Non-Indigenous	%	24.6*	10.1*	26.3	62.3*	37.7*	100.0	1,091,885
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.6	1.0	. .
SA	Indigenous	%	5.0*	7.0*	28.5	43.8*	56.2*	100.0	11,104
	Non-Indigenous	%	19.2*	10.5*	24.1	54.8*	45.2*	100.0	825,159
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.2	1.0	. .
Tas	Indigenous	%	7.3*[d]	2.1*[d]	32.7	44.2*	55.8*	100.0	7,632
	Non-Indigenous	%	19.6*	7.7*	26.8	55.9*	44.1*	100.0	246,491
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.3	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.0	. .
ACT	Indigenous	%	20.8*	9.9[d]	30.4*	63.3	36.7	100.0	1,798
	Non-Indigenous	%	41.6*	11.2	17.6*	71.4	28.6	100.0	187,298
	Rate ratio		0.5	0.9	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.0	. .
NT	Indigenous	%	5.0*	4.3	14.7	27.2*	72.8*	100.0	26,987
	Non-Indigenous	%	22.9*	6.8[d]	23.9	54.6*	45.4*	100.0	88,522
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.6	1.0	. .
Aust.	**Indigenous**	**%**	**6.5***	**5.6***	**24.7**	**40.2***	**59.9***	**100.0**	**207,342**
	Non-Indigenous	**%**	**24.9***	**9.8***	**24.9**	**61.4***	**38.6***	**100.0**	**10,997,331**
	Rate ratio		**0.3**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**0.7**	**1.6**	**1.0**	**. .**

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

(a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.

(b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification undetermined.

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

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

Table 2.06.15: Proportion of 20–24 year olds having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate II or above, by Indigenous status, 2008

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	Act	NT	Aust
						Indigenous[a]				
20–24 year old population with relevant qualification[b]	No.	5,229	1,600	6,593	2,673	1,426	985	301	1,407	20,213
Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Cert II of above	%	43.1	57.6	52.9	43.0	53.6	55.6	56.6	23.6	45.4
						Non-Indigenous[c]				
20–24 year old population with relevant qualification[b]	No.	386,110	327,326	245,109	120,365	87,841	22,286	24,584	6,060	1,219,681
Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Cert II of above	%	84.1	88.7	85.9	81.4	82.0	72.0	90.8	69.6	85.0

(a) Data for Indigenous people are from the NATSISS.

(b) Persons aged 20–24 years who have completed year 12 or Certificate II or above (includes 'Certificate I or II not further defined (n.f.d.)' but excludes persons with a 'Certificate nfd' and persons whose level of non-school qualification could not be determined).

(c) Data for non-Indigenous people are from ABS 2008 SEW.

Source: ABS analysis of NATISS 2008 and SEW 2008.

Table 2.06.16: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status, and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

			Highest level of non-school qualification[a]						
			Bachelor degree or above[b]	Advanced diploma/diploma	Certificate	Total with non-school qualification[c]	Does not have a non-school qualification	Total	Total number
Major cities	Indigenous	%	10.6	6.6	29.5	50.4	49.6	100.0	*67,235*
	Non-Indigenous	%	29.8	10.3	22.8	64.5	35.5	100.0	*7,632,967*
	Rate ratio		0.4*	0.6*	1.3*	*0.8**	1.4*	1.0	. .
Inner regional	Indigenous	%	5.9	6.4	28.6	44.2	55.9	100.0	*39,294*
	Non-Indigenous	%	15.0	8.8	29.9	55.4	44.6	100.0	*2,220,288*
	Rate ratio		0.4*	0.7	1.0	*0.8**	1.3*	1.0	. .
Outer regional	Indigenous	%	4.5	6.1	24.0	38.2	61.8	100.0	*47,222*
	Non-Indigenous	%	10.6	8.8	29.1	52.5	47.6	100.0	*1,022,112*
	Rate ratio		0.4*	0.7	0.8	*0.7**	1.3*	1.0	. .
Subtotal non-remote	*Indigenous*	*%*	*7.5*	*6.4*	*27.6*	*45.1*	*55.0*	*100.0*	*153,752*
	Non-Indigenous	*%*	*25.0*	*9.8*	*24.9*	*61.5*	*38.5*	*100.0*	*10,875,368*
	Rate ratio		*0.3**	*0.7**	*1.1*	*0.7**	*1.4**	*1.0*	. .
Remote	Indigenous	%	4.6[d]	3.4[d]	19.6	29.9	70.1	100.0	*20,064*
	Non-Indigenous	%	14.7	8.2[d]	28.2	52.1	47.9	100.0	*120,616*
	Rate ratio		0.3*	0.4*	0.7*	*0.6**	1.5*	1.0	. .
Very remote	Indigenous	%	3.0[d]	3.3	14.5	*23.8*	76.2	100.0	*33,527*
	Non-Indigenous	%	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
	Rate ratio	%	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.06.16 (continued): Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status, and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

			Highest level of non-school qualification[a]						
			Bachelor degree or above[b]	Advanced diploma/diploma	Certificate	Total with non-school qualification[c]	Does not have a non-school qualification	Total	Total number
Subtotal remote	*Indigenous*	*%*	*3.6*	*3.3*	*16.4*	*26.1*	*73.9*	*100.0*	*53,591*
	Non-Indigenous	*%*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*		*. .*	*. .*	*. .*
	Rate ratio	*%*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*		*. .*	*. .*	*. .*
Australia	Indigenous	%	6.5	5.6	24.7	40.2	59.9	100.0	*207,342*
	Non-Indigenous	%	24.9	9.8	24.9	61.4	38.6	100.0	*10,997,331*
	Rate ratio	%	0.3*	0.6*	1.0	0.7*	1.6*	1.0	*. .*

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

(a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.

(b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma and graduate certificate.

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification, the level of which could not be determined.

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

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

Non-school qualifications over time

Table 2.06.17 presents the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with non-school qualifications in non-remote areas in 1994, 2002 and 2008.

- The proportion of Indigenous people aged 25–64 with non-school qualification increased from 24% in 1994 to 45% in 2008.
- The proportion of non-Indigenous people aged 25–64 with a non-school qualification also increased; from 58% in 2001 to 65% in 2008.

Non-school qualifications by summary health and population characteristics

Table 2.06.18 presents the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with non-school qualifications by selected health and population characteristics.

- In 2004–05, Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years without a non-school qualification were more likely to report fair/poor health status than Indigenous Australians with a non-school qualification (32% compared with 26%) (Table 2.06.18).

Table 2.06.17: Proportion of non-school qualifications, by Indigenous status, non-remote areas, persons aged 25–64 years, 1994, 2002, 2008

	1994	2002	2008
		Indigenous	
Bachelor degree or above	1.5	5.5	7.5
Advanced diploma/diploma	3.2	3.9	6.4
Certificate	12.6	25.0	27.6
Level not determined	6.3	1.2	3.6
Has a non-school qualification	*23.6*	*35.6*	*45.1*
Does not have a non-school qualification	76.4	64.4	54.9
	1994	**2001**	**2007–08**
		Non-Indigenous	
Bachelor degree or above	. .	19.0	24.9
Advanced diploma/diploma	. .	10.6	9.8
Certificate	. .	25.3	24.9
Level not determined	. .	3.5	1.9
Has a non-school qualification	. .	*58.4*	*61.5*
Does not have a non-school qualification	. .	41.6	38.5

Source: Data for Indigenous persons are from the 1994 NATSIS, 2002 and 2008 NATSISS. Data for non-Indigenous persons are from the 2001 and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.06.18: Highest non-school qualification held, by summary health characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

	Self-assessed health status						Number of long-term conditions														
	Excellent/very good			Fair/poor			0			1			2			3			Total		
Non-school qualification	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Bachelor degree or above[a]	73	92	0.8*	27[b]	8	3.3*	7[b]	12	0.6*	18[b]	21	0.8	20	23	0.9	56	44	1.3	100	100	1.0
Advanced diploma/ diploma	82	91	0.9	18	9	1.9*	11[b]	12	0.9	13	23	0.5*	19	21	0.9	58	44	1.3	100	100	1.0
Certificate	74	86	0.9*	26	14	1.9*	10	13	0.8	16	22	0.7*	21	19	1.1	53	47	1.1	100	100	1.0
Total with non-school qualification[c]	*74*	*89*	*0.8**	*26*	*11*	*2.3**	*10*	*12*	*0.8*	*15*	*22*	*0.7**	*19*	*21*	*0.9*	*55*	*45*	*1.2*	*100*	*100*	*1.0*
Total with no non-school qualification	*68*	*82*	*0.8**	*32*	*18*	*1.8**	*15*	*15*	*1*	*16*	*20*	*0.8**	*17*	*18*	*0.9*	*52*	*47*	*1.1*	*100*	*100*	*1.0*
Total[d]	**70**	**86**	**0.8***	**30**	**14**	**2.1***	**13**	**13**	**1**	**16**	**21**	**0.8***	**18**	**20**	**0.9**	**53**	**46**	**1.2**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**

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

(a) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma and graduate certificate.

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

(c) Includes other educational institution and persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

(d) Includes not stated.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Highest year of school completed by whether woman has had children

- In 2008, Indigenous females aged 18 years and over who had not had children were twice as likely to report Year 12 as their highest level of school completed (40%) as Indigenous females who had children (20%). A much higher proportion of Indigenous females who had children reported Year 9 or below as their highest level of school completed (34%) than Indigenous females who had not had children (17%) (Table 2.06.19).
- During 2008, less than a quarter (23%) of primary carers of Indigenous children aged 0–14 years reported Year 12 as their highest level of school completed and almost one-third (29%) reported Year 9 or below as their highest level of school completed (Table 2.06.20).

Table 2.06.19: Indigenous females aged 18 years and over, by highest year of school completed and whether the woman has ever had children, 2008

Highest level of school completed	Had children	Has not had children	Not stated/form not answered	Total
		Per cent		
Completed Year 12	20	40	24	24
Completed Year 10 or 11	47	43	42	45
Completed Year 9 or below[(a)]	34	17	35	30
Total[(b)(c)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number	**88,745**	**26,007**	**15,761**	**130,513**

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

(c) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school and includes not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.20: Highest year of school completed by child's main carer, Indigenous children, 2008

Highest level of school completed	Proportion
Completed Year 12	22.7
Completed Year 10 or 11	48.3
Completed Year 9 or below[(a)]	29.0
Total	**100.0**
Total number	**187,575**

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

Note: Children aged 0–14 years.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Non-school qualifications by whether woman has had children, and child's main carer

- In 2004–05, Indigenous females aged 25–64 years who had not had children were more likely to have a non-school qualification than Indigenous females who had children (51% compared with 35%). Indigenous females who had not had children were around twice as likely to have completed a diploma or bachelor degree or above as Indigenous females who had children (Table 2.06.21).
- During 2008, 36% of primary carers of an Indigenous child aged 0–14 years did not have a non-school qualification (Table 2.06.22).

Table 2.06.21: Indigenous females aged 25–64 years, by non-school qualification and whether the woman has ever had children, 2004–05

Highest level of non-school qualification	Had children	Has not had children	Not stated/form not answered	Total
		Per cent		
Bachelor degree or above[a]	6	11	3[b]	6
Advanced diploma/ diploma	7	15[c]	5[c]	8
Certificate	21	25	29	22
Total with non-school qualification[d]	*35*	*51*	*37*	*37*
Does not have a non-school qualification	65	49	63	63
Total[e]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number	**76,667**	**12,807**	**11,519**	**100,992**

(a) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, and graduate certificate.
(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.
(c) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(d) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.
(e) Includes women who did not answer the form.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.06.22: Whether child's main carer has non-school qualification, Indigenous children, 2008

Whether has non-school qualification	Proportion
Has a non-school qualification	64.2
Does not have a non-school qualification	35.8
Total	**100.0**
Total number	**120,336**

Note: Children aged 0–14 years.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of NATSISS 2008.

Post-secondary attainment

The 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) and 2002 and 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) collected information on the post-secondary attainment of Indigenous people. Table 2.06.23 presents the proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over who completed a post-secondary qualification of certificate III or above by state and territory for 1994, 2002 and 2008.

- The proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over with a qualification of certificate III or higher decreased from 26% in 1994 to 16% in 2002, before increasing to 23% in 2008.

Table 2.06.23: Post-secondary attainment of certificate III or above, by Indigenous people aged 18 years and over, 1994, 2002 and 2008

	1994	2002	2008
NSW	28.0	18.2	24.3
Vic	50.0	24.2	35.9
Qld	24.0	16.4	24.5
WA	21.0	12.1	21.0
SA	22.0	21.0	23.6
Tas	15.0	20.8	28.7[(a)]
ACT	17.0	40.9	. .
NT	44.0	7.8	12.7
Australia	26.0	16.0	23.2

(a) Includes ACT.

Notes

1. Excludes persons still at school.
2. The 1994 estimates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory have relative standard errors greater than 25% and should be used with caution.

Source: SCRGSP 2005a; ABS & AIHW analysis of ABS 1994 NATSISS, ABS 2002 NATSISS and ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Other study and study intentions

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on other study and study intentions of Indigenous people. Tables 2.06.24 and 2.06.25 present information on future study intentions. Table 2.06.26 presents the reasons for not pursuing another education qualification in the last 12 months. Finally, Table 2.06.27 presents information on adult education about Indigenous culture.

- In 2008, 43% of Indigenous males and 53% of Indigenous females intended to study in the next 12 months. This proportion was highest for the 15–24 year old age group (61% for males and 79% for females) (Table 2.06.24).
- The main reason for future educational intentions was to increase knowledge and skills, followed by improving qualifications and getting a better job (Table 2.06.25).
- In 2008, 27% of Indigenous Australians 15 years and over wanted to study for an educational qualification in the last 12 months but did not. The main reasons for this were: too expensive/ financial reasons, caring for family members, and personal or other family reasons (Table 2.06.26).
- Fifty-four per cent of Indigenous people stated that they were not taught about Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies. Those who did receive education about Indigenous culture mainly received this at primary or secondary school. The Indigenous cultural education received was accurate. 55% of the time, and 58% of respondents said that they learnt about the clan, tribe or language group that they identify with (Table 2.06.27).

Table 2.06.24: Future study intentions of Indigenous adults aged 15 years and over, by age and sex, 2008 (proportion)

	Whether has future education intentions	Intends to study in the future	Does not intend to study in the future	Total	Intentions to study are unknown	Total number
Male	15–24	61.1	38.9	**100.0**	17.0	30,838.6
	25–34	54.1	45.9	**100.0**	18.9	30,216.1
	35–44	46.7	53.3	**100.0**	17.0	28,011.9
	45–54	27.9	72.1	**100.0**	10.1	20,732.0
	55+	10.2	89.8	**100.0**	6.2	18,674.9
	Total	**42.7**	**57.3**	**100.0**	**14.8**	**128,473.6**
Female	15–24	79.0	21.0	**100.0**	14.8	30,464.4
	25–34	68.4	31.6	**100.0**	16.2	31,851.4
	35–44	57.5	42.5	**100.0**	15.6	29,898.9
	45–54	37.2	62.8	**100.0**	14.4	21,678.5
	55+	11.3	88.7	**100.0**	7.8	22,521.1
	Total	**53.3**	**46.7**	**100.0**	**14.1**	**136,414.2**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.25: Reasons for future study intentions of Indigenous adults aged 15 years and over, by sex, 2008 (per cent)

Reasons for future educational intentions	Male	Female	Total
To gain a promotion	6.9	4.3	5.4
To get a better job	6.3	6.2	6.3
To get a job	2.9	6.2	4.6
Requirement of current job	0.7	0.7	0.7
Update training	2.1	2.7	2.4
Improve knowledge or skills	8.2	10.2	9.2
Improve qualifications	6.0	7.3	6.6
Interest	2.4	3.5	3.0
Other reason	0.8	0.8	0.8

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.26: Whether wanted to study for an/another educational qualification in last 12 months and main reason didn't, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	15–24 years			25 years and over			Total 15+					
	Subtotal non-remote	*Remote & Very Remote*	Australia	*Subtotal non-remote*	*Remote & Very Remote*	Australia	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	*Subtotal non-remote*	*Remote & Very Remote*	Australia
Wanted to study but did not, by main reason:												
Too much work	2.2[a]	2.0[a]	2.1	4.9	3.3	4.5	4.4	2.5	4.8	4.0	3.0	3.7
Any other work-related reason	1.3[a]	0.9[b]	1.2[a]	1.5	0.5[a]	1.3	1.6[a]	1.1[a]	1.5[a]	1.4	0.6[a]	1.2
Caring for family members	3.4	4.6	3.6	5.2	3.3	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.2	4.6	3.6	4.4
Personal or other family reasons	4.6	2.3[a]	4.1	4.4	3.3	4.1	5.8	3.9	3.1	4.4	3.1	4.1
Course-related reasons	2.6	1.4[a]	2.4	1.1	1.1[a]	1.1	1.7[a]	1.5[a]	1.5[a]	1.6	1.2[a]	1.5
No time	2.4	1.9[a]	2.3	3.1	1.1	2.6	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.9	1.3	2.5
Too expensive/financial reasons	5.6	0.8[a]	4.5	5.9	0.9[a]	4.6	7.3	4.8	4.5	5.8	0.9[a]	4.5
Waiting to hear from educational facility	0.6[a]	0.1[b]	0.5[a]	0.4[a]	0.6[a]	0.4[a]	0.6[b]	0.6[b]	0.2[b]	0.5[a]	0.4[a]	0.5
Nothing available in area	2.5[a]	3.2[a]	2.6	1.1	2.9	1.6	1.3[a]	1.3[a]	2.2[a]	1.6	3.0	1.9
Other reasons	2.8	0.8[b]	2.3	2.6	*0.9	2.1	2.7	2.2[a]	2.9[a]	2.6	0.9	2.2
Total wanted to study for an educational qualification, but didn't	*27.8*	*18.0*	*25.6*	*30.1*	*17.9*	*26.9*	*33.2*	*25.5*	*27.4*	*29.4*	*17.9*	*26.5*
Total did not want to study for an education qualification	*72.2*	*82.0*	*74.4*	*69.9*	*82.1*	*73.1*	*66.8*	*74.5*	*72.6*	*70.6*	*82.1*	*73.5*
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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

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

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.27: Adult education about Indigenous culture and level of accuracy, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Number	Per cent
Whether taught Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies		
Was taught Indigenous culture	148,592.3	45.4
Was not taught Indigenous culture	174,986.1	53.5
Never attended school or undertook further studies	3,522.6	1.1
Total	**327,101.0**	**100.0**
Where Indigenous cultural education was received[(a)]		
Primary school	81,629.9	54.9
Secondary school	88,285.0	59.4
University / other higher education	15,585.6	10.5
TAFE / technical college	14,681.8	9.9
Adult or community education sector	2,575.5	1.7
Other organisation	5,545.0	3.7
Total	**208,302.9**	**100.0**
Level of accuracy of Indigenous cultural education[(a)]		
Usually accurate	75,406.9	55.2
Sometimes accurate	48,576.8	35.6
Rarely accurate	10,220.7	7.5
Never accurate	2,355.7	1.7
Total	**136,560.1**	**100.0**
Whether learnt anything about clan, tribal or language group identifies with		
Learnt about own clan / tribe / language	55,946.5	57.8
Did not learn about own clan/ tribe / language	40,904.7	42.2
Total	**96,851.2**	**100.0**

(a) Persons who have been taught about Indigenous culture at school/further education.

Note: Data exclude unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Vocational education and training (VET) data

Educational attainment

Data on educational attainment in the vocational education and training sector are available from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research's National VET Provider Collection. Data collected in 2010 are presented below.

- During the year 2010, there were 13,904 course completions in the VET sector by Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over. This constitutes 3.8% of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over. In comparison, approximately 2.1% of the population of other Australians aged 15 years and over completed a course in the VET sector in 2008 (Table 2.06.28).
- Over the same period, a similar proportion of Indigenous and other Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate IV course, diploma or higher (0.7% each). A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate III (1.1%) than other Australians (0.8%), or certificate I/II, (1.9% and 0.5% respectively).

Educational attainment by age and sex

- A higher proportion of Indigenous males and females aged 15 years and over had completed a course in the VET sector than other Australian males and females (3.9% and 3.7% compared with 1.9% and 2.2% respectively) (Table 2.06.28).

Table 2.06.28: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2010[(a)]

Qualification		14 years or under		15–24 years		25–34 years		35–44 years		45–54 years		55 years and over		Total aged 15 and over	
		Indig.	Other[(b)]	Indig.	Other[(b)]	Indig.	Other[(b)]	Indig.	Other[(b)]	Indig.	Other[(b)]	Indig.	Other[(b)]	Indig.	Other[(b)]
Males															
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	0	8	171	16,419	229	13,885	259	11,922	190	8,917	75	4,132	924	55,275
	%	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6
Certificate III	No.	3	34	1,000	37,822	429	14,944	270	8,483	153	5,370	57	2,582	1,909	69,201
	%	0.0	0.0	1.7	2.4	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.1	0.8
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	130	840	2,445	28,332	803	7,263	529	5,032	284	3,432	90	1,953	4,151	46,012
	%	0.1	0.0	4.1	1.8	2.0	0.5	1.6	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	2.3	0.5
Other certificates[(c)]	No.	0	0	1	14	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	21
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Completions[(d)]	**No.**	**133**	**882**	**3,617**	**82,587**	**1,461**	**36,094**	**1,058**	**25,439**	**627**	**17,719**	**222**	**8,670**	**6,985**	**170,509**
	%	**0.1**	**0.0**	**6.1**	**5.3**	**3.7**	**2.3**	**3.2**	**1.7**	**2.5**	**1.2**	**1.0**	**0.3**	**3.9**	**1.9**
Females															
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	0	6	325	21,030	373	17,342	498	16,218	355	13,838	123	4,749	1,674	73,177
	%	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.8
Certificate III	No.	2	53	1,057	34,660	453	14,143	445	13,786	259	10,475	67	3,392	2,281	76,456
	%	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.4	1.2	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.1	1.2	0.9
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	89	761	1,661	24,304	467	6,146	409	6,498	294	5,142	116	2,323	2,947	44,413
	%	0.1	0.0	2.9	1.7	1.2	0.4	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.6	0.5

(continued)

Table 2.06.28 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2010[a]

Qualification		14 years or under		15–24 years		25–34 years		35–44 years		45–54 years		55 years and over		Total aged 15 and over	
		Indig.	Other[b]	Indig.	Other[b]	Indig.	Other[b]	Indig.	Other[b]	Indig.	Other[b]	Indig.	Other[b]	Indig.	Other[b]
Other certificates[c]	No.	0	0	3	47	0	11	1	10	1	2	1	3	6	73
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Completions[d]	**No.**	**91**	**820**	**3,046**	**80,041**	**1,293**	**37,642**	**1,353**	**36,512**	**909**	**29,457**	**307**	**10,467**	**6,908**	**194,119**
	%	**0.1**	**0.0**	**5.4**	**5.4**	**3.3**	**2.4**	**3.8**	**2.3**	**3.3**	**2.0**	**1.1**	**0.4**	**3.7**	**2.2**
							Persons								
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	0	14	496	37,486	602	31,294	758	28,236	545	22,837	198	8,910	2,599	128,763
	%	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.7
Certificate III	No.	5	87	2,061	72,633	882	29,152	715	22,310	412	15,900	124	5,992	4,194	145,987
	%	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.4	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	1.1	0.8
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	219	1,604	4,110	52,708	1,271	13,432	938	11,549	578	8,595	207	4,281	7,104	90,565
	%	0.1	0.0	3.5	1.7	1.6	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.9	0.5
Other certificates[c]	No.	0	0	4	61	0	13	1	12	1	2	1	6	7	94
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Completions[d]	**No.**	**224**	**1,705**	**6,671**	**162,888**	**2,755**	**73,891**	**2,412**	**62,107**	**1,536**	**47,334**	**530**	**19,189**	**13,904**	**365,409**
	%	**0.1**	**0.0**	**5.8**	**5.4**	**3.5**	**2.4**	**3.5**	**2.0**	**3.0**	**1.6**	**1.1**	**0.3**	**3.8**	**2.1**

(a) Represents number of completions, students may complete more than one course.

(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.

(c) Includes statements of attainment.

(d) The number of qualifications completed in 2010 are based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

Notes

1. Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident population for 2010.
2. Does not include students with age of not stated.
3. Persons includes those students who did not state their sex.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2010.

Educational attainment by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2010, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed a VET course ranged from 1.8% in Tasmania to 2.6% in New South Wales and Queensland (Table 2.06.29). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians who completed a certificate IV, diploma or higher (1.1%).
- The proportion of Indigenous and other students who completed a VET course in 2010 was similar in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, whereas in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of Indigenous students who completed a course in the VET sector was higher than other Australians.
- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed a course in the VET sector in 2010 was highest in Outer Regional areas (1.8%) and lowest in Remote areas of Australia (0.9%). Higher proportions of Indigenous Australians living in Major Cities and Inner and Outer Regional areas had completed a certificate IV, diploma or higher than Indigenous Australians in Remote and Very Remote areas (Table 2.06.30).

Table 2.06.29: Educational Attainment[(a)] in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010

	Indigenous										Other[(b)]									
	Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates[(c)]		Total completions[(d)]		Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates[(c)]		Total completions[(d)]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Males																				
NSW	398	0.5	556	0.7	879	1.1	1	0.0	1,834	2.2	19,286	0.6	20,491	0.6	9,493	0.3	21	0.0	49,291	1.4
Vic	52	0.3	159	0.9	160	0.9	0	0.0	371	2.0	14,943	0.5	16,775	0.6	12,138	0.4	0	0.0	43,856	1.6
Qld	319	0.4	654	0.8	1,262	1.6	0	0.0	2,235	2.8	9,477	0.4	16,213	0.7	12,879	0.6	0	0.0	38,569	1.8
WA	63	0.2	217	0.6	836	2.2	0	0.0	1,116	2.9	7,218	0.6	7,827	0.7	6,797	0.6	0	0.0	21,842	1.9
SA	25	0.2	87	0.6	297	2.0	0	0.0	409	2.7	1,936	0.2	4,022	0.5	2,535	0.3	0	0.0	8,493	1.1
Tas	14	0.1	74	0.7	54	0.5	0	0.0	142	1.4	997	0.4	2,116	0.9	1,221	0.5	0	0.0	4,334	1.8
ACT	15	0.6	19	0.8	35	1.5	0	0.0	69	2.9	1,026	0.6	1,007	0.6	487	0.3	0	0.0	2,520	1.4
NT	38	0.1	143	0.4	628	1.9	0	0.0	809	2.4	392	0.5	750	0.9	462	0.5	0	0.0	1,604	1.9
Australia	**924**	**0.3**	**1,909**	**0.7**	**4,151**	**1.5**	**1**	**0.0**	**6,985**	**2.5**	**55,275**	**0.5**	**69,201**	**0.6**	**46,012**	**0.4**	**21**	**0.0**	**170,509**	**1.6**
Females																				
NSW	712	0.9	896	1.1	908	1.1	6	0.0	2,522	3.0	26,534	0.7	26,376	0.7	15,199	0.4	73	0.0	68,182	1.9
Vic	111	0.6	136	0.7	166	0.9	0	0.0	413	2.2	19,404	0.7	19,204	0.7	10,427	0.4	0	0.0	49,035	1.8
Qld	551	0.7	672	0.8	688	0.9	0	0.0	1,911	2.4	12,369	0.6	14,614	0.7	8,338	0.4	0	0.0	35,321	1.6
WA	118	0.3	195	0.5	499	1.3	0	0.0	812	2.1	9,061	0.8	8,703	0.8	5,462	0.5	0	0.0	23,226	2.1
SA	49	0.3	115	0.7	145	0.9	0	0.0	309	2.0	2,441	0.3	3,604	0.4	2,409	0.3	0	0.0	8,454	1.0
Tas	30	0.3	82	0.8	99	1.0	0	0.0	211	2.1	1,265	0.5	2,246	0.9	1,464	0.6	0	0.0	4,975	2.0
ACT	35	1.5	58	2.5	39	1.7	0	0.0	132	5.6	1,535	0.4	1,107	0.3	621	0.2	0	0.0	3,263	0.9
NT	68	0.2	127	0.4	403	1.2	0	0.0	598	1.7	568	0.3	602	0.3	493	0.3	0	0.0	1,663	0.9
Australia	**1,674**	**0.6**	**2,281**	**0.8**	**2,947**	**1.0**	**6**	**0.0**	**6,908**	**2.4**	**73,177**	**0.3**	**76,456**	**0.3**	**44,413**	**0.2**	**73**	**0.0**	**194,119**	**0.9**

(continued)

Table 2.06.29 (continued): Educational Attainment[(a)] in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010

	Indigenous										Other[(b)]									
	Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates[(c)]		Total completions[(d)]		Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates [(c)]		Total completions[(d)]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
										Persons										
NSW	1,111	0.7	1,452	0.9	1,789	1.1	7	0.0	4,359	2.6	45,885	0.6	46,888	0.7	24,701	0.3	94	0.0	117,568	1.7
Vic	163	0.4	295	0.8	327	0.9	0	0.0	785	2.1	34,424	0.6	36,108	0.7	22,608	0.4	0	0.0	93,140	1.7
Qld	870	0.5	1,328	0.8	1,951	1.2	0	0.0	4,149	2.6	21,954	0.5	30,889	0.7	21,265	0.5	0	0.0	74,108	1.7
WA	181	0.2	413	0.5	1,335	1.8	0	0.0	1,929	2.5	16,281	0.7	16,531	0.7	12,261	0.6	0	0.0	45,073	2.0
SA	74	0.2	202	0.7	444	1.5	0	0.0	720	2.4	4,380	0.3	7,638	0.5	4,957	0.3	0	0.0	16,975	1.1
Tas	44	0.2	156	0.8	153	0.8	0	0.0	353	1.8	2,264	0.5	4,444	0.9	2,688	0.6	0	0.0	9,396	1.9
ACT	50	1.1	77	1.6	74	1.6	0	0.0	201	4.3	2,613	0.7	2,136	0.6	1,130	0.3	0	0.0	5,879	1.7
NT	106	0.2	271	0.4	1,031	1.5	0	0.0	1,408	2.1	962	0.6	1,353	0.8	955	0.6	0	0.0	3,270	2.0
Australia	**2,599**	**0.5**	**4,194**	**0.7**	**7,104**	**1.3**	**7**	**0.0**	**13,904**	**2.5**	**128,763**	**0.6**	**145,987**	**0.7**	**90,565**	**0.4**	**94**	**0.0**	**365,409**	**1.7**

(a) Represents number of completions, students may complete more than one course.

(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.

(c) Includes statements of attainment.

(d) The number of qualifications completed in 2010 are based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

Notes

1. Percentages are calculated using the 2010 Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations.
2. Does not include students with age of not stated.
3. Persons includes those students who did not state their sex.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2010.

Table 2.06.30: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness area, 2010

Educational Attainment in the VET Sector[a]		Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Remote		Very remote	
Qualification		Indigenous	Other Australians[b]	Indigenous	Other Australians[b]	Indigenous	Other Australians[b]	Indigenous	Other Australians[b]	Indigenous	Other Australians[b]
							Males				
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	368	33,400	219	10,291	223	4,511	38	672	68	631
	%[c]	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7
Certificate III	No.	538	37,192	358	16,047	572	9,735	115	1,543	312	813
	%[c]	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.8
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	863	25,111	630	11,047	1,152	6,850	249	1,032	1,230	647
	%[c]	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.6	0.7
Other certificates[d]	No.	1	16	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
	%[c]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Completions[e]	**No.**	**1,770**	**95,719**	**1,207**	**37,385**	**1,947**	**21,101**	**402**	**3,247**	**1,610**	**2,091**
	%[c]	**1.1**	**0.7**	**1.1**	**0.9**	**1.8**	**1.1**	**0.9**	**1.1**	**2.0**	**2.2**
							Females				
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	578	43,178	423	14,999	416	7,098	85	834	156	658
	%[c]	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.9
Certificate III	No.	691	43,028	505	17,898	675	9,861	135	1,141	255	559
	%[c]	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	761	25,222	503	10,424	805	6,491	224	836	639	457
	%[c]	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.6

(continued)

Table 2.06.30 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness area, 2010

Educational Attainment in the VET Sector[a]		Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Remote		Very Remote	
Qualification		**Indigenous**	**Other Australians[b]**	**Indigenous**	**Other Australians[b]**	**Indigenous**	**Other Australians[b]**	**Indigenous**	**Other Australians[b]**	**Indigenous**	**Other Australians[b]**
Other certificates[d]	No.	2	43	1	17	3	6	0	1	0	1
	%[c]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Completions[e]	**No.**	**2,032**	**111,471**	**1,432**	**43,338**	**1,899**	**23,456**	**444**	**2,812**	**1,050**	**1,675**
	%[c]	**1.2**	**0.8**	**0.0**	**1.1**	**1.8**	**1.3**	**0.9**	**1.1**	**1.3**	**2.2**
							Persons				
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	947	76,771	642	25,342	639	11,646	123	1,508	224	1,291
	%[c]	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.7
Certificate III	No.	1229	80,383	865	34,070	1,247	19,618	250	2,688	569	1,372
	%[c]	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.8
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1625	50,414	1,136	21,501	1,958	13,357	473	1,869	1,870	1,104
	%[c]	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.2	0.6
Other certificates[d]	No.	3	59	1	17	3	11	0	1	0	1
	%[c]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Completions[e]	**No.**	**3,804**	**207,627**	**2,644**	**80,930**	**3,847**	**44,632**	**846**	**6,066**	**2,663**	**3,768**
	%[c]	**1.2**	**0.7**	**1.2**	**1.0**	**1.8**	**1.2**	**0.9**	**1.1**	**1.7**	**2.2**

(continued)

Table 2.06.30 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness area, 2010

(a) Represents number of completions, students may complete more than one course.
(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.
(c) Due to the availability of Indigenous remoteness population estimates, percentages are calculated based on the 2006 census populations for both Indigenous and Other Australians.
(d) Includes statements of attainment.
(e) The numbers of qualifications completed in 2010 are based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

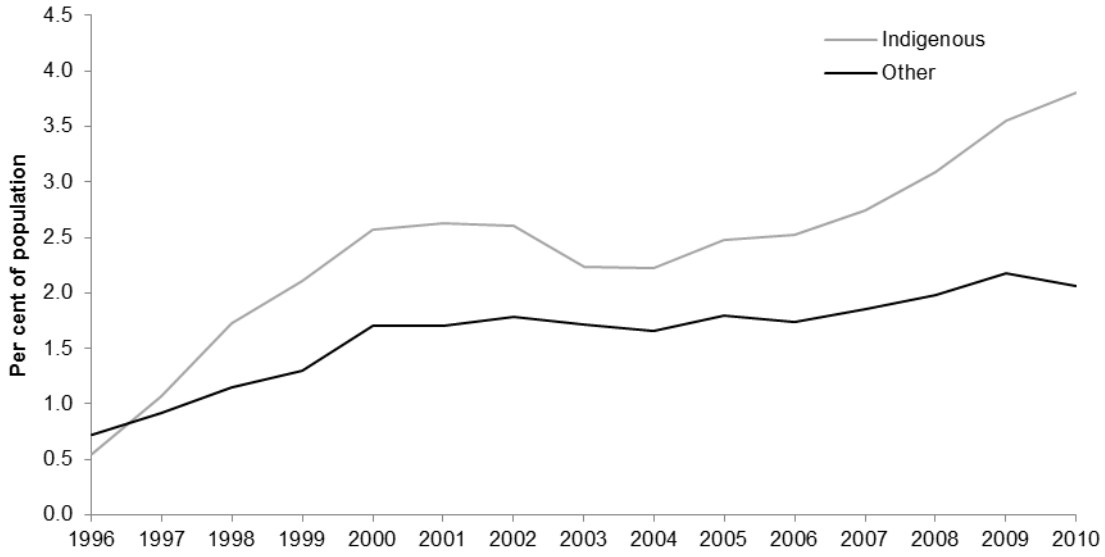
Notes

1. Percentages are calculated using the 2006 Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations by ASGC remoteness category.
2. Does not include students with age of not stated.
3. Persons includes those students who did not state their sex.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2010.

Time series analyses

- Between 1996 and 2010, the proportion of Indigenous students who had completed a course in the VET sector increased from 0.6% to 3.8% (this was a statistically significant increase of 0.2% each year). Over the same period the proportion of other students who had completed a course in the VET sector increased from 0.7% to 2.1% (this was a statistically significant increase of 0.1% each year) (Figure 2.06.1, Table 2.06.31).



Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2010, Figure 2.06.6, Table 2.06.43.

Figure 2.06.1: Total completions in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 1996–2010

Table 2.06.31: Total completions[(a)] in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 1996–2010

	Indigenous		Other[(b)]	
	No.	%	No.	%
1996	1,336	0.6	102,539	0.7
1997	2,651	1.1	132,493	0.9
1998	4,428	1.7	166,404	1.1
1999	5,527	2.1	190,779	1.3
2000	6,951	2.6	253,603	1.7
2001	7,317	2.6	257,657	1.7
2002	7,438	2.6	273,601	1.8
2003	6,585	2.2	267,651	1.7
2004	6,720	2.2	262,193	1.7
2005	7,748	2.5	288,279	1.8
2006	8,130	2.5	283,265	1.7
2007	9,129	2.7	309,518	1.9
2008	10,638	3.1	338,022	2.0
2009	12,584	3.6	378,849	2.2
2010	13,904	3.8	365,409	2.1
Annual change %[(c)]	. .	0.2*	. .	0.1*
Change over period[(d)]	. .	419.5*	. .	162.1*

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the p < 0.05 level over the 14 reporting periods.

(a) Represents number of completions, students may complete more than one course.

(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.

(c) Average period change determined using regression analysis.

(d) Per cent change between 1996 and 2010 based on the average annual change over the period.

Notes

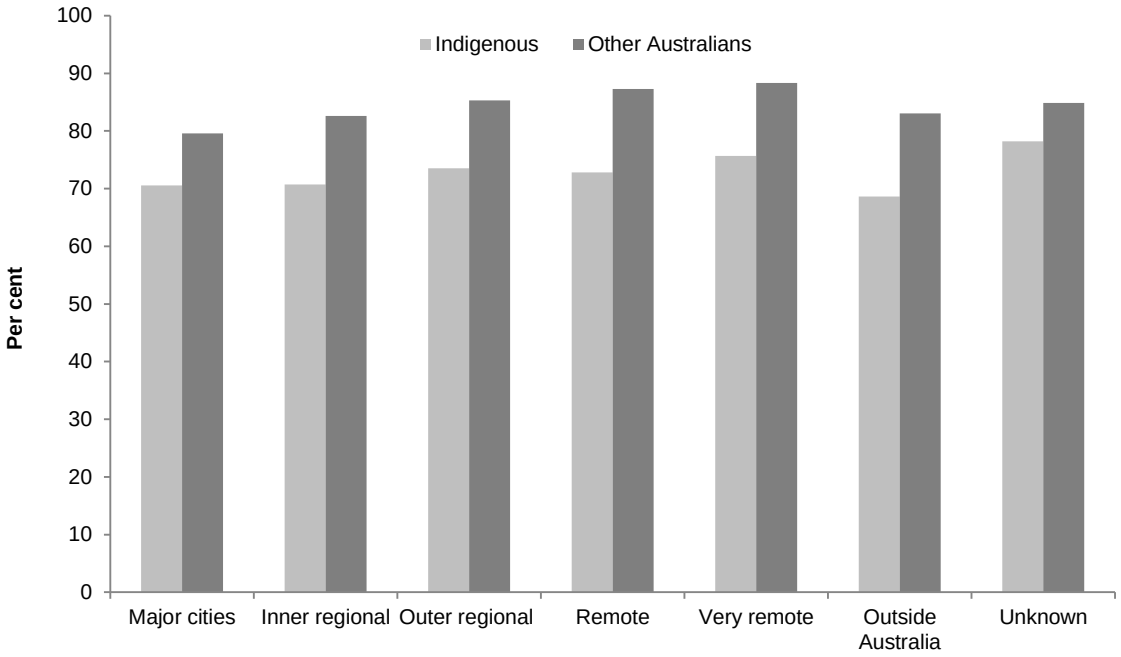
1. Other equal to domestic + International + not stated.
2. Does not include students with age of not stated.
3. The number of qualifications completed in 2010 are based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.
4. Data differs from numbers published in the 2010 Health Performance Framework due to revision and improvement in data qualifications and the inclusion of New South Wales data in 2008.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2010, Figure 2.06.6, Table 2.06.43.

Load pass rate

The VET load pass rate indicates the extent to which students pass assessment in an assessable module or unit of competency. Load pass rates are calculated as the number of nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency completed with a pass assessment divided by the total nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency.

- In 2010, the VET load pass rate for Indigenous students was 72% compared with 81% for non-Indigenous students (Table 2.06.32). The rate was lower for Indigenous students than for non-Indigenous students across all geographical regions (Figure 2.06.2).



Source: NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2010.

Figure 2.06.2: VET load pass rate, by remoteness, 2010

Table 2.06.32: VET load pass rate[(a)], by remoteness, 2010

	Indigenous	Other Australians[(b)]	Ratio	Rate Difference[(c)]
Major cities	70.5	79.6	0.9	–9.0
Inner regional	70.7	82.6	0.9	–11.9
Outer regional	73.5	85.3	0.9	–11.8
Remote	72.8	87.3	0.8	–14.4
Very remote	75.7	88.3	0.9	–12.6
Outside Australia	68.6	83.1	0.8	–14.4
Unknown	78.2	84.8	0.9	–6.6
Total	**72.4**	**81.3**	**0.9**	**–8.9**

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

(a) Load pass rate= number of nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency with a pass assessment divided by total nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency.

(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.

(c) Rate difference is the Other Australian rate minus the Indigenous rate.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, 2010.

Higher education data

Educational attainment

Data on the educational attainment of Indigenous Australians in the higher education sector are available from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Data collected for the year 2010 are presented below.

- During the year 2010, approximately 0.4% of Indigenous Australians completed a course in the higher education sector compared with 1.3% of other Australians. Approximately 0.3% of Indigenous Australians completed an undergraduate degree and 0.1% completed a postgraduate degree. This compares with 0.6% for undergraduate and 0.7% postgraduate degrees for other Australians.

Educational attainment by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 22–24 years were more likely to have completed a higher education course in 2010 (0.9%) than those in other age groups. Other Australians aged 22–24 years were also more likely to complete a higher education course in 2010 than those in other age groups (8.7%) (Table 2.06.33).
- In 2010, a higher proportion of Indigenous females than Indigenous males completed an undergraduate degree (0.4% compared with 0.2%) and a postgraduate degree (0.2% compared with 0.1%) (Table 2.06.33).

Table 2.06.33: Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2010[a]

	22-24				25-34			
	Indigenous		Other[b]		Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
				Males				
Doctorate or Higher degree	0	0.0	46	0.0	6	0	1,736	0.1
Master degree	n.p.	n.p.	9,204	1.9	16	0	15,984	1.0
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	< 5	n.p.	2,339	0.5	29	0.1	5,721	0.4
Subtotal postgraduate	*< 5*	*n.p.*	*11,589*	*2.3*	*51*	*0.1*	*23,441*	*1.5*
Bachelor's degree	71	0.5	25,002	5.0	73	0.2	13,157	0.8
Other undergraduate[d]	7	0	1,432	0.3	13	0.0	983	0.1
Subtotal undergraduate	*78*	*0.5*	*26,434*	*5.3*	*86*	*0.2*	*14,140*	*0.9*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**88**	**0.6**	**19,109**	**3.8**	**136**	**0.3**	**18,921**	**1.2**
All Graduates[e][f]	**89**	**0.6**	**38,023**	**7.7**	**137**	**0.3**	**37,581**	**2.4**
				Females				
Doctorate or Higher degree	0	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	< 5	n.p.	1,644	0.1
Master degree	10	0.1	10,579	2.3	27	0.1	15,113	1.0
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	12	0.1	4,415	0.9	44	0.1	8,672	0.6
Subtotal postgraduate	*22*	*0.2*	*14,994*	*3.2*	*73*	*0.2*	*25,429*	*1.6*
Bachelor's degree	141	1.0	29,366	6.3	135	0.3	14,546	0.9
Other undergraduate[d]	11	0.1	1,006	0.2	13	0.0	625	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*152*	*1.1*	*30,372*	*6.5*	*148*	*0.4*	*15,171*	*1.0*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**171**	**1.2**	**25,397**	**5.5**	**219**	**0.6**	**24,636**	**1.6**
All Graduates[e][f]	**174**	**1.2**	**45,413**	**9.8**	**222**	**0.6**	**40,600**	**2.6**
				Persons				
Doctorate or Higher degree	0	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	9	0	3,380	0.1
Master degree	20	0.1	19,783	2.1	43	0.1	31,097	1.0
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	13	0.0	6,754	0.7	73	0.1	14,393	0.5
Subtotal postgraduate	*33*	*0.1*	*26,537*	*2.8*	*125*	*0.2*	*48,870*	*1.6*
Bachelor's degree	212	0.7	54,368	5.6	208	0.3	27,703	0.9
Other undergraduate[d]	18	0.1	2,438	0.3	26	0.0	1,608	0.1
Subtotal undergraduate	*230*	*0.8*	*56,806*	*5.9*	*234*	*0.3*	*29,311*	*0.9*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**259**	**0.9**	**44,506**	**4.6**	**355**	**0.5**	**43,557**	**1.4**
All Graduates[e][f]	**263**	**0.9**	**83,436**	**8.7**	**359**	**0.5**	**78,181**	**2.5**

(continued)

Table 2.06.33 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2010[a]

	35–44				45–54			
	Indigenous		Other[b]		Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
				Males				
Doctorate or Higher degree	6	0.0	779	0.1	< 5	n.p.	419	0.0
Master degree	17	0.1	5,063	0.3	20	0.1	1,975	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	20	0.1	3,318	0.2	18	0.1	1,694	0.1
Subtotal postgraduate	43	0.1	9,160	0.6	22	0.1	4,088	0.3
Bachelor's degree	31	0.1	2,545	0.2	25	0.1	909	0.1
Other undergraduate[d]	< 5	n.p.	258	0.0	< 5	n.p.	95	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	33	0.1	2,803	0.2	27	0.1	1,004	0.1
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**78**	**0.2**	**8,806**	**0.6**	**65**	**0.3**	**4,287**	**0.3**
All Graduates[e][f]	**78**	**0.2**	**11,963**	**0.8**	**65**	**0.3**	**5,092**	**0.3**
				Females				
Doctorate or Higher degree	< 5	n.p.	696	0.0	6	0.0	510	0.0
Master degree	36	0.1	4,502	0.3	17	0.1	2,496	0.2
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	39	0.1	4,513	0.3	33	0.1	2,835	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	77	0	9,711	0.6	56	0.2	5,841	0.4
Bachelor's degree	103	0.3	5,158	0.3	73	0.3	2,506	0.2
Other undergraduate[d]	17	0	191	0.0	16	0.1	117	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	120	0	5,349	0.3	89	0.3	2,623	0.2
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**196**	**0.5**	**12,323**	**0.8**	**145**	**0.5**	**7,708**	**0.5**
All Graduates[e][f]	**198**	**0.6**	**15,060**	**1.0**	**145**	**0.5**	**8,464**	**0.6**
				Persons				
Doctorate or Higher degree	9	0	1,475	0.0	7	0	929	0.0
Master degree	53	0.1	9,565	0.3	37	0.1	4,471	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	59	0.1	7,831	0.3	51	0.1	4,529	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	121	0.2	18,871	0.6	95	0.2	9,929	0.3
Bachelor's degree	134	0.2	7,703	0.2	98	0.2	3,415	0.1
Other undergraduate[d]	21	0	449	0.0	17	0	212	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	155	0.2	8,152	0.3	115	0.2	3,627	0.1
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**274**	**0.4**	**21,129**	**0.7**	**210**	**0.4**	**11,995**	**0.4**
All Graduates[e][f]	**276**	**0.4**	**27,023**	**0.9**	**210**	**0.4**	**13,556**	**0.5**

(continued)

Table 2.06.33 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2010[a]

	55+				Total			
	Indigenous		Other[b]		Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
				Males				
Doctorate or Higher degree	< 5	n.p.	219	0.0	14	0.0	3,199	0.0
Master degree	< 5	n.p.	549	0.0	66	0.0	32,775	0.4
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	< 5	n.p.	478	0.0	69	0.1	13,550	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	6	0	1,246	0.0	149	0.1	49,524	0.6
Bachelor's degree	6	0	271	0.0	206	0.2	41,884	0.5
Other undergraduate[d]	< 5	n.p.	42	0.0	26	0.0	2,810	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	8	0	313	0.0	232	0.2	44,694	0.6
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**13**	**0.1**	**1,430**	**0.1**	**380**	**0.3**	**52,553**	**0.7**
All Graduates[e][f]	**13**	**0.1**	**1,559**	**0.1**	**382**	**0.3**	**94,218**	**1.2**
				Females				
Doctorate or Higher degree	< 5	n.p.	271	0.0	16	0.0	3,121	0.0
Master degree	n.p.	n.p.	640	0.0	97	0.1	33,330	0.4
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	13	0	703	0.0	141	0.1	21,138	0.3
Subtotal postgraduate	16	0.1	1,614	0.1	254	0.2	57,589	0.7
Bachelor's degree	17	0.1	548	0.0	469	0.3	52,124	0.7
Other undergraduate[d]	< 5	n.p.	70	0.0	64	0.0	2,009	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	19	0.1	618	0.0	535	0.4	54,133	0.7
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**45**	**0.2**	**2,136**	**0.1**	**776**	**0.5**	**72,200**	**0.9**
All Graduates[e][f]	**45**	**0.2**	**2,232**	**0.1**	**784**	**0.5**	**111,769**	**1.4**
				Persons				
Doctorate or Higher degree	5	0	490	0.0	30	0.0	6,274	0.0
Master degree	n.p.	n.p.	1,189	0.0	163	0.1	66,105	0.4
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	15	0	1,181	0.0	211	0.1	34,688	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	20	0	2,860	0.1	404	0.1	107,067	0.7
Bachelor's degree	23	0	819	0.0	675	0.2	94,008	0.6
Other undergraduate[d]	5	0	112	0.0	87	0.0	4,819	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	28	0.1	931	0.0	762	0.3	98,827	0.6
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**58**	**0.1**	**3,566**	**0.1**	**1,156**	**0.4**	**124,753**	**0.8**
All Graduates[e][f]	**58**	**0.1**	**3,791**	**0.1**	**1,166**	**0.4**	**205,987**	**1.3**

(continued)

Table 2.06.33 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2010[(a)]

(a) Numbers are for all persons completing courses in higher education. Proportions have been calculated from persons aged 22 years and over, as this is the age group most applicable to higher education course completion.

(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.

(c) Includes postgrad. qual/prelim., grad.(post) dip.—new area, grad.(post) dip.—ext. area, and graduate certificate.

(d) Includes associate degree, advanced diploma (AQF), diploma (AQF) and other undergraduate award courses.

(e) Includes enabling courses and non-award courses.

(f) Includes undergraduate, postgraduate, domestic and international students.

Notes

1. Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations for 2006.
2. Note that the numbers reported in the 2006 edition of this report under the higher education data section were for course enrolments rather than for completions as presented here.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Statistics Collection.

- The proportion of Indigenous persons who completed a course in the higher education sector in 2010 ranged from 0.2% in the Northern Territory to 1.4% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.34).
- A lower proportion of Indigenous persons completed a higher education course than other Australians in all states and territories.

Table 2.06.34: Completions in the higher education sector[a] by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010[a]

	NSW				Qld			
	Indigenous		Other[b]		Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
				Males				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	683	0.0	< 10	n.p.	383	0.0
Master's degree	32	0.1	5,692	0.2	13	0.0	1,648	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	22	0.0	2,950	0.1	14	0.0	1,759	0.1
Subtotal postgraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*9,325*	*0.3*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*3,790*	*0.2*
Bachelor's degree	102	0.2	14,537	0.5	63	0.1	7,461	0.4
Other undergraduate[d]	n.p.	n.p.	1,481	0.1	< 10	n.p.	334	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*16,018*	*0.6*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*7,795*	*0.5*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**175**	**0.3**	**25,343**	**0.9**	**96**	**0.2**	**11,585**	**0.7**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**177**	**0.3**	**39,832**	**1.4**	**97**	**0.2**	**20,649**	**1.2**
				Females				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	701	0.0	< 10	n.p.	426	0.0
Master's degree	38	0.1	6,334	0.2	19	0.0	2,122	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	43	0.1	4,087	0.1	30	0.1	3,149	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*11,122*	*0.4*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*5,697*	*0.3*
Bachelor's degree	218	0.4	20,633	0.7	148	0.3	12,205	0.7
Other undergraduate[d]	n.p.	n.p.	1,154	0.0	< 10	n.p.	256	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*218*	*0.4*	*21,787*	*0.8*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*12,461*	*0.7*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**324**	**0.6**	**32,909**	**1.1**	**207**	**0.4**	**18,158**	**1.0**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**326**	**0.6**	**48,424**	**1.7**	**209**	**0.4**	**27,252**	**1.6**
				Persons				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	1,384	0.0	< 10	n.p.	809	0.0
Master's degree	70	0.1	12,026	0.2	32	0.0	3,770	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	65	0.1	7,037	0.1	44	0.0	4,908	0.1
Subtotal postgraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*20,447*	*0.4*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*9,487*	*0.3*
Bachelor's degree	320	0.3	35,170	0.6	211	0.2	19,666	0.6
Other undergraduate[d]	35	0.0	2,635	0.0	11	0.0	590	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*355*	*0.3*	*37,805*	*0.7*	*222*	*0.2*	*20,256*	*0.6*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**499**	**0.5**	**58,252**	**1.0**	**303**	**0.3**	**29,743**	**0.9**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**503**	**0.5**	**88,256**	**1.6**	**306**	**0.3**	**47,901**	**1.4**

(continued)

Table 2.06.34 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector[a] by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010[a]

	SA				WA			
	Indigenous		Other[b]		Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
				Males				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	173	0.0	0	0.0	188	0.0
Master's degree	< 10	n.p.	672	0.1	< 10	n.p.	801	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	< 10	n.p.	925	0.1	< 10	n.p.	1,204	0.1
Subtotal postgraduate	n.p.	n.p.	1,770	0.3	n.p.	n.p.	2,193	0.3
Bachelor's degree	14	0.1	3,401	0.5	23	0.1	4,292	0.5
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	135	0.0	< 10	n.p.	116	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	n.p.	n.p.	3,536	0.5	n.p.	n.p.	4,408	0.5
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**33**	**0.3**	**5,306**	**0.8**	**34**	**0.1**	**6,601**	**0.8**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**33**	**0.3**	**9,047**	**1.4**	**35**	**0.1**	**12,628**	**1.4**
				Females				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	234	0.0	0	0.0	215	0.0
Master's degree	< 10	n.p.	884	0.1	< 10	n.p.	882	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	< 10	n.p.	1,833	0.3	n.p.	n.p.	2,247	0.3
Subtotal postgraduate	n.p.	n.p.	2,951	0.4	n.p.	n.p.	3,344	0.4
Bachelor's degree	44	0.01	5,017	0.7	n.p.	n.p.	6,762	0.8
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	121	0.0	20	0.1	124	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	n.p.	n.p.	5,138	0.8	20	0.1	6,886	0.8
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**63**	**0.01**	**8,089**	**1.2**	**98**	**0.4**	**10,230**	**1.2**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**63**	**0.01**	**12,071**	**1.8**	**99**	**0.4**	**16,762**	**1.9**
				Persons				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	407	0.0	0	0.0	403	0.0
Master's degree	11	0.1	1,556	0.1	< 10	n.p.	1,683	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	17	0.1	2,758	0.2	19	0.0	3,451	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	n.p.	n.p.	4,721	0.4	n.p.	n.p.	5,537	0.3
Bachelor's degree	58	0.3	8,418	0.6	83	0.2	11,054	0.6
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	256	0.0	23	0.0	240	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	n.p.	n.p.	8,674	0.7	106	0.2	11,294	0.6
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**96**	**0.5**	**13,395**	**1.0**	**132**	**0.3**	**16,831**	**1.0**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**96**	**0.5**	**21,118**	**1.6**	**134**	**0.3**	**29,390**	**1.7**

(continued)

Table 2.06.34 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector[a] by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010[a]

	NT				Tas			
	Indigenous		Other[b]		Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
				Males				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	67	0.0
Master's degree	0	0.0	19	0.0	< 10	n.p.	125	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	< 10	n.p.	72	0.1	0	0.0	201	0.1
Subtotal postgraduate	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*393*	*0.2*
Bachelor's degree	13	0.1	135	0.2	< 10	n.p.	748	0.4
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	106	0.1
Subtotal undergraduate	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*854*	*0.4*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**17**	**0.1**	**241**	**0.4**	**13**	**0.2**	**1,247**	**0.6**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**17**	**0.1**	**294**	**0.4**	**13**	**0.2**	**1,936**	**1.0**
				Females				
Doctorate or higher	0	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	76	0.0
Master's degree	< 10	n.p.	34	0.1	< 10	n.p.	234	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	< 10	n.p.	207	0.3	< 10	n.p.	579	0.3
Subtotal postgraduate	n.p.	n.p.	241	0.4	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*889*	*0.4*
Bachelor's degree	47	0.2	440	0.7	n.p.	n.p.	1,368	0.7
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	22	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*1,390*	*0.7*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**59**	**0.2**	**695**	**1.2**	**34**	**0.5**	**2,279**	**1.1**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**59**	**0.2**	**767**	**1.3**	**34**	**0.5**	**2,866**	**1.4**
				Persons				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	20	0.0	< 10	n.p.	143	0.0
Master's degree	< 10	n.p.	53	0.0	< 10	n.p.	359	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	< 10	n.p.	279	0.2	< 10	n.p.	780	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	n.p.	n.p.	352	0.3	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*1,282*	*0.3*
Bachelor's degree	n.p.	n.p.	575	0.4	28	0.2	2,116	0.5
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	< 10	n.p.	128	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	n.p.	n.p.	575	0.4	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*2,244*	*0.6*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**76**	**0.2**	**936**	**0.7**	**47**	**0.4**	**3,526**	**0.9**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**76**	**0.2**	**1,061**	**0.8**	**47**	**0.4**	**4,802**	**1.2**

(continued)

Table 2.06.34 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector[a] by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010[a]

	Vic				ACT			
	Indigenous		Other[b]		Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
				Males				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	528	0.0	< 10	n.p.	121	0.1
Master's degree	< 10	n.p.	2,976	0.1	< 10	n.p.	415	0.3
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	12	0.1	2,842	0.1	< 10	n.p.	489	0.3
Subtotal postgraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*6,346*	*0.3*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*1,025*	*0.7*
Bachelor's degree	28	0.2	12,142	0.6	10	0.6	1,368	1.0
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	497	0.0	0	0.0	14	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*12,639*	*0.6*	*10*	*0.6*	*1,382*	*1.0*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**53**	**0.4**	**18,985**	**0.9**	**19**	**1.2**	**2,407**	**1.7**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**53**	**0.4**	**35,237**	**1.6**	**19**	**1.2**	**3,934**	**2.8**
				Females				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	693	0.0	< 10	n.p.	110	0.1
Master's degree	n.p.	n.p.	3,891	0.2	< 10	n.p.	492	0.3
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	27	0.2	5,372	0.2	< 10	n.p.	772	0.5
Subtotal postgraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*9,956*	*0.4*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*1,374*	*1.0*
Bachelor's degree	69	0.6	16,899	0.8	< 10	n.p.	1,775	1.2
Other undergraduate[d]	0	0.0	686	0.0	0	0.0	13	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*69*	*0.6*	*17,585*	*0.8*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*1,788*	*1.2*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**113**	**0.9**	**27,541**	**1.2**	**20**	**0.0**	**3,162**	**2.2**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**113**	**0.9**	**44,240**	**2.0**	**24**	**0.0**	**4,537**	**3.1**
				Persons				
Doctorate or higher	< 10	n.p.	1,221	0.0	< 10	n.p.	231	0.1
Master's degree	21	0.1	6,867	0.2	< 10	n.p.	907	0.3
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	39	0.2	8,214	0.2	10	0.3	1,261	0.4
Subtotal postgraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*16,302*	*0.4*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*2,399*	*0.8*
Bachelor's degree	97	0.4	29,041	0.7	n.p.	n.p.	3,143	1.1
Other undergraduate[d]	< 10	n.p.	1,183	0.0	0	0.0	27	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*30,224*	*0.7*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*3,170*	*1.1*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**166**	**0.7**	**46,526**	**1.1**	**39**	**1.3**	**5,569**	**2.0**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**166**	**0.7**	**79,477**	**1.8**	**43**	**1.4**	**8,471**	**3.0**

(continued)

Table 2.06.34 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector[a] by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010[a]

	Australia[a]			
	Indigenous		Other[b]	
	No.	%	No.	%
	Males			
Doctorate or higher	14	0.0	2,169	0.0
Master's degree	66	0.0	12,563	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	71	0.0	10,762	0.1
Subtotal postgraduate	*151*	*0.1*	*25494*	*0.3*
Bachelor's degree	271	0.2	44,645	0.5
Other undergraduate[d]	35	0.0	2,734	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*306*	*0.2*	*47,379*	*0.5*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**457**	**0.3**	**72,873**	**0.8**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**461**	**0.3**	**125,052**	**1.5**
	Females			
Doctorate or higher	16	0.0	2,489	0.0
Master's degree	92	0.0	15,211	0.2
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	147	0.1	19,076	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	*255*	*0.1*	*36776*	*0.4*
Bachelor's degree	646	0.3	66,532	0.8
Other undergraduate[d]	66	0.0	2,433	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*712*	*0.4*	*68,965*	*0.8*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**967**	**0.5**	**105,741**	**1.2**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**976**	**0.5**	**160,140**	**1.8**
	Persons			
Doctorate or higher	30	0.0	4,658	0.0
Master's degree	158	0.0	27,774	0.2
Postgrad. diploma or certificate[c]	218	0.1	29,838	0.2
Subtotal postgraduate	*406*	*0.1*	*62,270*	*0.4*
Bachelor's degree	917	0.3	111,177	0.6
Other undergraduate[d]	101	0.0	5,167	0.0
Subtotal undergraduate	*1,018*	*0.3*	*116344*	*0.7*
Total Domestic Graduates[e]	**1,424**	**0.4**	**178,614**	**1.0**
Total Graduates[e][f]	**1,437**	**0.4**	**285,192**	**1.6**

(continued)

Table 2.06.34 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector[(a)] by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2010[(a)]

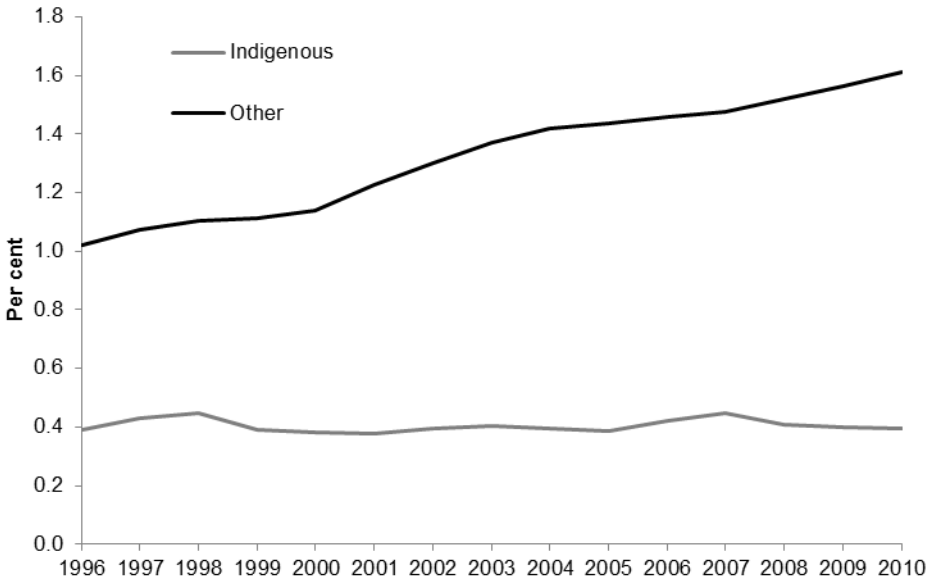
(a) Numbers are for all persons completing courses in higher education.
(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.
(c) Includes postgrad. qual/prelim., grad.(post) dip.—new area, grad.(post) dip.—ext. area, and graduate certificate.
(d) Includes associate degree, advanced diploma (AQF), diploma (AQF) and other undergraduate award courses.
(e) Includes enabling courses and non-award courses.
(f) Includes multi state completions.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations for ages 15 years and over in 2010.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Time series analyses

- Between 1996 and 2010, there was no significant change in the proportion of domestic Indigenous students who completed a higher education award course. During the same period of time, there has been a significant increase of 59% in the proportion of domestic other students who completed a higher education award course (Table 2.06.35, Figure 2.06.3).



Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Figure 2.06.3: Higher education award course completions, by Indigenous status, 1996–2010

Table 2.06.35: Higher education award course completions[(a)(b)], by Indigenous status, 1996–2010 (per cent)

	Indigenous	Other[(c)]
1996	0.39	1.02
1997	0.43	1.08
1998	0.45	1.10
1999	0.39	1.11
2000	0.38	1.14
2001	0.38	1.23
2002	0.39	1.30
2003	0.41	1.37
2004	0.40	1.42
2005	0.39	1.44
2006	0.42	1.46
2007	0.45	1.48
2008	0.41	1.52
2009	0.40	1.56
2010	0.39	1.61
Annual Change[(d)]	–0.0001	0.04*
Per cent change[(d)]	–0.2	59.3*

(a) Includes undergraduate, postgraduate, domestic and international students.

(b) Represents course completions, students may complete more than one course.

(c) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.

(d) Average period change determined using linear regression analysis.

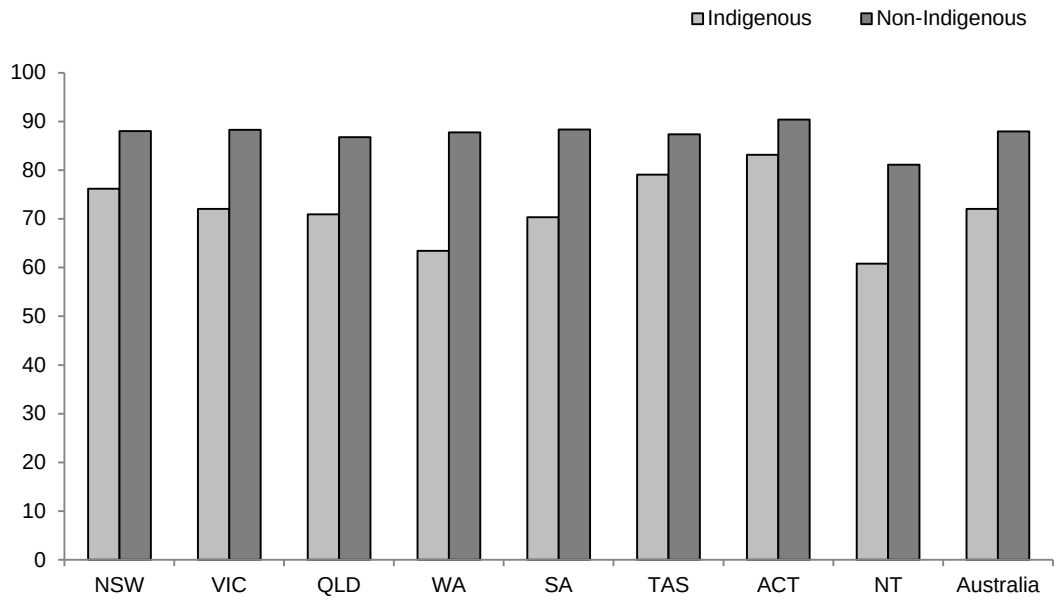
Note: Percentages are based on the 2006 residential estimates ages 15 and over.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Success rate

The success rate for higher education institutions is based on the proportion of units passed within a year compared with the total units enrolled.

- In 2010, the success rate for Indigenous students varied by state and territory, ranging from 61% in the Northern Territory to 83% in the Australian Capital Territory. The success rate for non-Indigenous students was similar in most states and territories (between 87% and 90%), except for the Northern Territory (81%) (Figure 2.06.4).
- The success rate was lower for Indigenous students than other students across all jurisdictions, with the largest difference in the Northern Territory (Table 2.06.36).



Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Figure 2.06.4: Higher education success rates, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2010

Table 2.06.36: Higher education success rates[(a)], by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2010

	Indigenous		Other[(b)]		
	Number	Rate per (10,000)	Number	Rate per (10,000)	Rate difference per (10,000)[(c)]
NSW	1,735	105.0	213,289	301.8	–196.8
Vic	531	144.4	193,695	351.6	–207.1
Qld	1,199	74.6	126,738	291.1	–216.5
WA	482	63.2	77,252	348.4	–285.2
SA	292	96.0	48,090	302.5	–206.5
Tas	152	75.6	13,818	283.4	–207.8
ACT	255	541.3	3,212	90.8	450.5
NT	148	21.6	20,268	1,258.5	–1,236.9
Australia	**4,956**	**88.1**	**710,388**	**326.4**	**–238.3**

(a) Includes undergraduate, postgraduate, domestic and international students.
(b) Other includes those whose Indigenous status is unknown.
(c) Rate difference is Other students rate minus the Indigenous rate.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Additional information

Participation in Australian Apprenticeships

In 2006, the scheme formerly known as New Apprenticeships was re-named Australian Apprenticeships. The Australian Government provides incentives and personal benefits programs to encourage participation in this scheme. Involvement by Indigenous people in Australian Apprenticeships has been an ongoing success in the field of education and training.

According to DEEWR 2012, there has been continuous and strong growth in Indigenous participation in Australian Apprenticeships since 2001, and each year has been an improvement on the previous one.

- In 2008, there were 11,012 commencing Indigenous apprentices (3.8% of All Australian Apprenticeships commencements).
- In 2008, there were a total of 12,364 Indigenous apprentices-in-training (3.0% of All Australian Apprentices in-training).
- There has been an 86% increase in the overall number of Indigenous Commencing students since 2001 while as a proportion of all Commencing student apprentices, the Indigenous share has increased from 2.6% to 3.8%.
- The total number of Indigenous apprentices-in-training has almost doubled since 2001, increasing by 95%, while as a proportion of All apprentices-in-training, the Indigenous share has risen from 2.0% to 3.0%.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

The NATSIHS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The 2004–05 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 and very 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).

National Centre for Vocational Education Research data

This collection gathers information from providers (in receipt of public VET funding) about activity of the VET system in Australia. The collection encompasses all delivery funded wholly or in part from public funds.

NCVER maintains a database of information on persons undertaking vocational education and training. Each state and territory collates data from their training providers on a student, course and module/unit of competency basis. These data are compiled into Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS) format and validated by each training organisation before being submitted to NCVER. The data are then further validated and quality checked for inconsistencies before being used for the production of statistical reports.

Non-identification rates for Indigenous students in these data are high. Care also needs to be taken when comparing data across jurisdictions for load pass rates, as average module durations vary across jurisdictions (SCRGSP 2005b).

DEEWR Higher Education Schools Statistics Collection

The Higher Education Schools Statistics Collection comprises information on enrolments and award completions from public and private higher education institutions that are required to report to DEEWR.

Institutions receive detailed written documentation about what information is required to be furnished in the form of an electronic help file. Universities design and produce their own statistical information (enrolment) forms. These are designed to be used by institutions to collect the required information from students. DEEWR has provided institutions with suggested wording for questions relating to Indigenous status, language spoken at home and disability (ABS 2009).

Approximately 3% of students in this data collection have a 'not stated' Indigenous status. At the moment these are recorded as non-Indigenous, although plans are under way to record the 'not stated' responses separately.

List of symbols used in tables

n.a. not available

– rounded to zero (including null cells)

0 zero

. . not applicable

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

n.f.d. not further defined

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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2.07 Employment

The employment status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15–64 years

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey.

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 social issues 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.

The labour force categories and terminologies for the 2008 NATSISS are similar to those for the 2006 Census that have been used in this measure, except that the reference periods are in relation to the 2008 NATSISS rather than the Census.

The 2008 NATSISS also collected data on Indigenous participation in the CDEP scheme:

- **Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme**—enables participants (usually members of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities) to exchange unemployment benefits for opportunities to undertake work and training in activities that are managed by a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisation. Participants in the program are therefore classified as employed.

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing is conducted by the ABS at 5-yearly intervals, and 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 undercount 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 2011 Census is the most recent, however data for the Indigenous population was not yet released at the time of writing this report. Therefore data included in this report come from

the 2006 Census. In 2006, the ABS enhanced the sample for the Post-Enumeration Survey to include remote areas. The measured undercount for Indigenous Australians was 11.5%.

The following labour force categories and terminologies apply to 2006 Census data:

- **Employed**—Persons aged 15 years and over who worked for payment or profit, or as an unpaid helper in a family business for a minimum of 1 hour per week, during the week before Census night. Also includes those who were absent from a job or business and Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants.
- **Full-time workers**—Employed persons who reported working 35 hours or more in the week before Census night.
- **Part-time workers**—Employed persons who reported working less than 35 hours in the week before Census night.
- **Unemployed**—Persons aged 15 years who were not employed, but were actively looking for work and were available to start work, in the 4 weeks before Census night.
- **Not in the labour force**—persons who are not employed or unemployed as defined above.
- **Participation rate**—for any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group**.**
- **Employment to population ratio**—for any group, the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

2006 Census data on participation in CDEP were not available, but data on Indigenous participation in CDEP were collected as part of the 2008 NATSISS and are discussed at the end of the indicator.

ABS Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is run monthly by the ABS and this is the main source of information about the labour force status of Australia's civilian population. From April 2001, the monthly LFS has included a question on Indigenous status. Results from the survey on Indigenous Australians are published annually by the ABS in the *Labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, experimental estimates from the Labour Force Survey* publications, the latest of which was published in 2011. The labour force estimates for Indigenous Australians in this publication were produced by combining the LFS samples for each of the 12 months of a calendar year to produce annual estimates.

Data analyses

Comparison of NATSISS and Census data

The NATSISS and the Census collect information on the labour force status of Indigenous Australians, but the Census does not collect information on participation in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) from all Indigenous persons as does the NATSISS. In the Census, participation in CDEP is asked as a separate question only on the interviewer household forms and is not applicable to people enumerated on mainstream forms. Therefore, information on CDEP participation in the Census cannot be used as a count of all persons who are participating in the programs and is not presented here.

When comparing the labour force status of Indigenous persons recorded in the Census with that in the NATSISS, the results on the NATSISS were slightly higher on employment and unemployment rates. For example the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years who were employed from the 2008 NATSISS was 54%, compared with 48% from the Census; and the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years who were unemployed from the 2008 NATSISS was 11% compared with 9% from the Census.

This measure presents data included in the 2010 edition of this report for persons aged 15–64 years (2006 Census) and new data from the 2008 NATSISS for persons aged 15–64 years. Data from the NATSISS are presented first followed by data from the 2006 Census.

NATSISS data

- In 2008, the labour force participation rate for the Indigenous population aged 15–64 years was estimated to be 54% employed and 11% unemployed. The remaining 36% were not in the labour force (Table 2.07.1).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years were less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be employed (54% compared with 76%) and almost four times as likely to be unemployed (11% compared with 3%), according to the 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS data (Table 2.07.1).

Employment status by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 and 45–54 years were more likely than those in all other age groups to be employed (64% and 62% respectively) (Table 2.07.1). Indigenous Australians aged 55–64 had the lowest proportion employed (39%).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males reported they were employed than Indigenous females (63% compared with 46%) (Table 2.07.2). Indigenous males were also more likely than Indigenous females to be unemployed (12% compared with 9%).
- Based on the 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS data, Indigenous males aged 15–64 years were less likely than non-Indigenous males to be employed (63% compared with 82%). Indigenous females aged 15–64 years were also less likely than non-Indigenous females to be employed (46% compared with 70%) (Table 2.07.3).

Table 2.07.1: Persons aged 15–64 years: labour force status, by Indigenous status and age, 2008

	15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55–64		Total	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
						Number						
In the labour force												
Employed CDEP	5,489	. .	4,792	. .	4,449	. .	2,255	. .	573[(a)]	. .	17,559	. .
Employed non-CDEP	41,670	. .	35,594	. .	36,244	. .	26,656	. .	9,693	. .	149,857	. .
Total employed	*47,160*	*1,893,404*	*40,386*	*2,330,254*	*40,693*	*2,477,969*	*28,911*	*2,416,251*	*10,266*	*1,357,345*	*167,416*	*10,475,222*
Unemployed	16,050	159,859	8,644	96,528	5,545	57,422	2,733	50,564	425[(a)]	31,127	33,396	395,500
Not in the labour force	40,570	730,687	20,900	392,345	17,614	452,127	15,268	397,201	15,958	938,199	110,310	2,910,558
Total	**103,780**	**2,783,949**	**69,931**	**2,819,126**	**63,851**	**2,987,518**	**46,912**	**2,864,016**	**26,648**	**2,326,671**	**311,122**	**13,781,281**
						Per cent						
In the labour force												
Employed CDEP	11.6	. .	11.9	. .	10.9	. .	7.8	. .	5.6[(a)]	. .	10.5	. .
Employed non-CDEP	88.4	. .	88.1	. .	89.1	. .	92.2	. .	94.4	. .	89.5	. .
Total employed	45.4	68.0	57.8	82.7	63.7	82.9	61.6	84.4	38.5	58.3	53.8	76.0
Unemployed	15.5	5.7	12.4	3.4	8.7	1.9	5.8	1.8	1.6[(a)]	1.3	10.7	2.9
Not in the labour force	39.1	26.2	29.9	13.9	27.6	15.1	32.5	13.9	59.9	40.3	35.5	21.1
Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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

Note: All Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons for each age group are statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level except for 55–64 'unemployed' and 'not in the labour force'.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Table 2.07.2: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by sex, 2008

	Males	Females	Persons
Labour force status		**Per cent**	
In the labour force			
Employed CDEP	7.4	4.0	5.6
Employed non-CDEP	55.3	41.6	48.2
Total employed	*62.7*	*45.6*	*53.8*
Unemployed	12.2	9.4	10.7
Not in the labour force	25.1	45.0	35.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**149,211**	**161,912**	**311,122**

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.3: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and sex, 2008

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	Per cent			Per cent			Per cent		
In the labour force									
Employed CDEP	11.8	. .	. .	8.8	. .	. .	10.5	. .	. .
Employed non-CDEP	88.2	. .	. .	91.2	. .	. .	89.5	. .	. .
Total employed	*62.7*	*81.9*	*0.8*	*45.6*	*70.2*	*0.6*	*53.8*	*76.0*	*0.7*
Unemployed	12.2	2.9	4.2	9.4	2.9	3.3	10.7	2.9	3.7
Not in the labour force	25.1	15.2	1.6	45.0	27.0	1.7	35.5	21.1	1.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total number	**149,211**	**6,874,439**	**. .**	**161,912**	**6,906,842**	**. .**	**311,122**	**13,781,281**	**. .**

Source: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Employment status by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who were unemployed ranged from 7.2% in Tasmania to 13% in New South Wales (Table 2.07.4). The proportion of Indigenous Australians not in the labour force ranged from 20% in the Australian Capital Territory to 40% in New South Wales. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians employed in CDEP (18%).
- In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania the proportion of Indigenous Australians unemployed was higher than non-Indigenous Australians. In every state and territory a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians were not in the labour force (Table 2.07.5).
- Indigenous Australians in remote areas were more likely than Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas to be employed in CDEP (19% compared with 1.2%) and less likely to be employed in non-CDEP (33% compared with 53%) (Table 2.07.6).
- Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas were more likely to be unemployed than Indigenous Australians in Remote areas (11% and 9.2% respectively) (Table 2.07.7).

Table 2.07.4: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by state/territory, 2008

Labour force status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
In the labour force									
Employed CDEP	1.9[(a)]	0.5[(a)]	4.1[(a)]	10.2	5.2	n.p.	n.p.	17.5	5.6
Employed non-CDEP	45.4	54.6	55.4	46.1	46.5	n.p.	n.p.	33.3	48.2
Total employed	*47.3*	*55.1*	*59.5*	*56.3*	*51.7*	*59.6*	*72.1*	*50.8*	*53.8*
Unemployed	12.5	11.1	9.0	11.4	12.0	7.2	7.8	10.3	10.7
Not in the labour force	40.1	33.8	31.5	32.3	36.3	33.2	20.1	38.9	35.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total Number	**91,046**	**20,692**	**86,523**	**41,841**	**17,038**	**11,748**	**2,705**	**39,529**	**311,122**

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

Source: NATSISS 2008.

Table 2.07.5: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
								Number										
In the labour force																		
Employed CDEP	1,769[(a)]	..	114[(a)]	..	3,561[(a)]	..	4,274	..	886	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	6,919	..	17,559	..
Employed non-CDEP	41,331	..	11,289	..	47,934	..	19,284	..	7,925	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	13,179	..	149,857	..
Total employed	*43,100*	*3,359,973*	*11,402*	*2,690,530*	*51,495*	*2,056,501*	*23,558*	*1,106,261*	*8,811*	*758,701*	*7,002*	*212,349*	*1,950*	*198,162*	*20,098*	*92,745*	*167,416*	*10,475,222*
Unemployed	11,411	138,640	2,292	85,426	7,766	81,329	4,777	32,492	2,038	40,771	843	11,726	211	n.p.	4,058	n.p.	33,396	395,500
Not in the labour force	36,535	1,015,448	6,998	720,386	27,263	577,563	13,506	239,593	6,188	232,295	3,903	82,344	544	n.p.	15,374	n.p.	110,310	2,910,558
Total	**91,046**	**4,514,061**	**20,692**	**3,496,343**	**86,523**	**2,715,393**	**41,841**	**1,378,347**	**17,038**	**1,031,767**	**11,748**	**306,419**	**2,705**	**236,813**	**39,529**	**102,138**	**311,122**	**13,781,281**
								Per cent										
In the labour force																		
Employed CDEP	4.1[(a)]	..	n.p.	..	6.9	..	18.1	..	10.1	..	n.p.	..	0.0	..	34.4	..	10.5	..
Employed non-CDEP	95.9	..	n.p.	..	93.1	..	81.9	..	89.9	..	n.p.	..	100.0	..	65.6	..	89.5	..
Total employed	47.3	74.4	55.1	77.0	59.5	75.7	56.3	80.3	51.7	73.5	59.6	69.3	72.1	83.7	50.8	90.8	53.8	76.0
Unemployed	12.5	3.1	11.1	2.4	9.0	3.0	11.4	2.4	12.0	4.0	7.2	3.8	7.8	n.p.	10.3	n.p	10.7	2.9
Not in the labour force	40.1	22.5	33.8	20.6	31.5	21.3	32.3	17.4	36.3	22.5	33.2	26.9	20.1	n.p.	38.9	n.p.	35.5	21.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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

Note: All Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons for each age group are statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level except for the ACT 'not in the labour force'.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Table 2.07.6: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by remoteness, 2008

Labour force status	Remote	Non-remote	Australia
		Per cent	
In the labour force			
Employed CDEP	19.4	1.2	5.6
Employed non-CDEP	33.0	53.1	48.2
Total employed	*52.4*	*54.3*	*53.8*
Unemployed	9.2	11.2	10.7
Not in the labour force	38.5	34.5	35.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**76,612**	**234,510**	**311,122**

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.7: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

			Labour force status						
			In the labour force						
			Employed CDEP	Employed non-CDEP	Total employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Total	Total number
Major cities	Indigenous	%	n.p.	n.p.	58.7	12.0	29.4	**100.0**	**100,991**
	Non-Indigenous	%	. .	. .	76.7	2.7	20.7	**100.0**	**9,636,665**
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		. .	. .	*0.8**	4.5*	1.4*	**. .**	**. .**
Inner regional	Indigenous	%	n.p.	n.p.	50.7	11.6	37.7	**100.0**	**64,412**
	Non-Indigenous	%	. .	. .	74.2	3.4	22.4	**100.0**	**2,770,937**
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		. .	. .	*0.7**	3.4*	1.7*	**. .**	**. .**
Outer regional	Indigenous	%	2.8[(a)]	48.4	51.3	9.9	38.9	**100.0**	**69,108**
	Non-Indigenous	%	. .	. .	75.4	3.2	21.4	**100.0**	**1,230,512**
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		. .	. .	*0.7**	3.1*	1.8*	**. .**	**. .**
Total non-remote	*Indigenous*	*%*	*1.2[(a)]*	*53.1*	*54.3*	*11.3*	*34.5*	***100.0***	***234,510***
	Non-Indigenous	*%*	. .	. .	*76.0*	*2.9*	*21.1*	***100.0***	***13,638,114***
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		. .	. .	*0.7**	*3.9**	*1.6**	**. .**	**. .**
Remote	Indigenous	%	9.5[(a)]	39.6	49.1	11.2	39.7	**100.0**	**28,072**
	Non-Indigenous		. .	. .	73.0	3.2[(a)]	23.8	**100.0**	**141,819**
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		. .	. .	*0.7**	3.5*	1.7*	**. .**	**. .**
Very remote	Indigenous	%	25.1	29.2	*54.3*	8.0	37.8	**100.0**	**48,540**
	Non-Indigenous	%	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	**. .**	**. .**
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	**. .**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.07.7 (continued): Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

			Labour force status						
			In the labour force						
			Employed CDEP	Employed non-CDEP	Total employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Total	Total number
Total remote	*Indigenous*	*%*	*19.4*	*33.0*	*52.4*	*9.2*	*38.5*	***100.0***	***76,612***
	Non-Indigenous	*%*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	***. .***	***. .***
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	***. .***	***. .***
Australia	Indigenous	%	5.6	48.2	53.8	10.7	35.5	**100.0**	**311,122**
	Non-Indigenous	%	. .	. .	76.0	2.9	21.1	**100.0**	**13,781,281**
	Rate Ratio[(a)]		. .	. .	0.7*	3.7*	1.7*	**. .**	**. .**

* Differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates are NOT statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level for all categories.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Employment status by summary health characteristics

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on the labour force status and selected health characteristics of Indigenous Australians. Results are shown in tables 2.07.8 and 2.07.9.

- In 2008, of the Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years who reported they had excellent health, approximately 60% were employed, 12% unemployed and 29% were not in the labour force. Further, of the Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 who reported poor health, 24% were employed, 10% were unemployed and 66% were not in the labour force (Table 2.07.8).
- In 2008, for Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years both employed and unemployed most commonly reported good health (35% and 34% respectively) while more unemployed Indigenous Australians reported poor health than employed Indigenous Australians (6.2% and 2.8% respectively) (Table 2.07.9).

Table 2.07.8: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2008

	Self assessed health status					
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Has a disability/long term health condition
			Per cent			
In the labour force[(a)(b)]						
Employed CDEP	6.3	6.0	6.2	3.8	3.8	10.7
Employed non-CDEP[(a)(b)]	53.5	54.8	48.5	40.5	20.1	89.3
Total employed	*59.7*	*60.8*	*54.7*	*44.3*	*23.9*	*48.5*
Unemployed	11.5	10.6	10.5	10.8	10.4	10.4
Not in the labour force	28.8	28.6	34.8	44.8	65.7	41.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
All persons aged 15–64 years	**52,343**	**87,141**	**107,047**	**44,735**	**19,857**	**150,133**

(a) CDEP proportions are calculated on 'total employed'.

(b) 'Employed CDEP' and 'Employed non-CDEP' represent those respondents who are employed and who specified they were a CDEP participant.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.9: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2008

	Self assessed health status						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Has a disability/long term health condition	All persons aged 15–64 years[a]
				Per cent			
In the labour force							
Employed CDEP[b]	18.8	29.6	37.7	9.7	4.3	44.5	100.0
Employed non-CDEP[c]	18.7	31.9	34.7	12.1	2.7	43.4	100.0
Total employed	*18.7*	*31.6*	*35.0*	*11.8*	*2.8*	*43.5*	*100.0*
Unemployed	18.0	27.8	33.6	14.5	6.2	46.9	100.0
Not in the labour force	13.7	22.6	33.8	18.2	11.8	55.8	100.0
Total	**16.8**	**28.0**	**34.4**	**14.4**	**6.4**	**48.3**	**100.0**

(a) Proportions will not add to total.

(b) CDEP proportions are calculated on 'total employed'.

(c) 'Employed CDEP' and 'Employed non-CDEP' represent those respondents who are employed and who specified they were a CDEP participant.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Preferred working hours

- During 2008, 35% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years would have liked more hours at their current workplace and only 6% would have liked fewer hours than they were currently working. This is compared with older age groups that showed a steady decrease in those who would like more hours and an increase in those who would like less hours. For those aged 55–64 years, 23% of Indigenous persons would have liked fewer hours and 14% would have liked more hours (Table 2.07.10).

Commencement and duration of paid employment

- In 2008, 84% of 55–64 year old Indigenous Australians had been in their current employment for two years or more, compared with only 26% of 15–24 year old Indigenous Australians. Among those aged 15–24 years, Indigenous males (33%) were more likely to have been employed for over two years than Indigenous females (26%) (Table 2.07.11).
- In 2008, the percentage of Indigenous Australians who started their first paid employment between the ages 15 and 19 years ranged from 95% in the Australian Capital Territory to 75% in the Northern Territory. In Australia overall, 89% of Indigenous Australians had begun their first paid employment by the age of 19 years (Table 2.07.12).
- For Indigenous Australians, the amount of time employed throughout their lifetime varied by jurisdiction. The percentage of Indigenous Australians employed for 25 years or more ranged from 15% in the Northern Territory to 26% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.07.13).

Table 2.07.10: Whether would like more, same or fewer hours, employed Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by age and sex, 2008

	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	Total
			Per cent			
			Males			
Fewer hours	5.6	13.6	19.6	20.8	22.4	14.3
About the same hours	60.0	57.2	65.2	65.8	65.7	61.7
More hours	34.4	29.3	15.3	13.5	11.9	24.0
Total Employed	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Not known	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	1.5	0.5
			Females			
Fewer hours	6.8	18.5	26.3	20.8	22.7	18.1
About the same hours	57.2	59.7	56.9	62.9	59.3	58.9
More hours	35.9	21.8	16.8	16.4	18.0	23.0
Total Employed	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Not known	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
			Persons			
Fewer hours	6.1	15.6	22.7	20.8	22.5	16.0
About the same hours	58.8	58.2	61.3	64.3	63.1	60.5
More hours	35.0	26.2	16.0	14.9	14.3	23.5
Total Employed	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Not known	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.3
Total number	**47,160**	**40,386**	**40,693**	**28,911**	**10,266**	**167,416**

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.11: Length of time in current job, by sex and age, employed Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, 2008

Length of time in current job	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	Total
			Per cent			
			Males			
< 1 month	14.8	7.3	3.8	2.1	3.7	7.7
1–< 6 months	20.0	10.0	8.8	8.4	6.7	12.2
6–< 12 months	11.3	10.9	9.2	3.7	4.3	9.1
12–< 24 months	20.5	19.2	17.0	10.5	9.0	17.1
2 years or more	33.3	52.7	61.2	75.3	76.3	54.0
Total employed	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Females			
< 1 month	11.6	9.0	6.2	7.1	2.7	8.2
1–< 6 months	18.0	14.3	12.1	6.0	4.7	12.6
6–< 12 months	22.7	11.3	9.7	7.1	4.4	12.7
12–< 24 months	22.0	13.1	13.5	9.0	4.3	14.3
2 years or more	25.7	52.4	58.5	70.8	83.8	52.2
Total employed	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Persons			
< 1 month	11.6	9.0	6.2	7.1	2.7	8.2
1–< 6 months	18.0	14.3	12.1	6.0	4.7	12.6
6–< 12 months	22.7	11.3	9.7	7.1	4.4	12.7
12–< 24 months	22.0	13.1	13.5	9.0	4.3	14.3
2 years or more	25.7	52.4	58.5	70.8	83.8	52.2
Total employed	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Not known	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.12: Age first started paid employment, by sex and state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Age first started employment	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
					Males				
15–19	93.7	95.8	95.0	92.8	90.3	93.8	98.3[a]	79.3	92.0
20–24	5.8[b]	3.5[b]	2.9[b]	5.0[b]	7.5[b]	5.4[a]	1.7	16.6	6.2
25+	0.5[a]	0.7[a]	2.1[b]	2.2[a]	2.2[b]	0.8[a]	—	4.1	1.8
Total ever in paid employment[c]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
					Females				
15–19	88.5	87.2	87.4	84.5	82.8	91.6	90.9	71.0	85.2
20–24	6.3	7.4	7.6	5.8	8.8	4.7[b]	8.1[b]	16.9	8.1
25+	5.2	5.4	5.1[b]	9.8	8.4	3.7[b]	1.1[a]	12.1	6.7
Total ever in paid employment[c]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
					Persons				
15–19	91.2	91.2	90.9	88.5	86.4	92.6	94.7	75.1	88.5
20–24	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4	8.2	5.0[b]	4.8[b]	16.8	7.2
25+	2.8	3.2	3.7[b]	6.1	5.4	2.4[b]	0.5[a]	8.1	4.3
Total ever in paid employment[c]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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

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

(c) Excludes not stated responses

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.13: Total length of employment over lifetime, by sex and state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Length of time in employment	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
					Males				
Less than 1 year to 4 years	31.2	28.1	25.6	29.8	31.7	27.8	17.4	31.0	29.0
5 to 9 years	10.6	13.9	16.9	13.2	13.2	13.9	21.7	13.4	13.6
10 to 24 years	29.7	30.4	32.6	33.0	29.6	30.1	30.4	37.5	31.9
25 years or more	28.4	27.6	24.9	23.9	25.5	28.3	30.4	18.1	25.4
Total ever in paid employment[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
					Females				
Less than 1 year to 4 years	36.9	32.4	35.4	38.3	37.6	36.6	25.5	39.5	36.6
5 to 9 years	15.7	19.6	19.2	17.7	20.5	19.2	13.4[(b)]	16.9	17.8
10 to 24 years	32.0	30.1	29.1	28.5	26.8	28.0	39.4	31.0	30.1
25 years or more	15.4	18.0	16.3	15.5	15.0	16.3	21.7	12.7	15.6
Total ever in paid employment[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
					Persons				
Less than 1 year to 4 years	34.1	30.3	30.8	34.1	34.7	32.3	21.5	35.2	32.9
5 to 9 years	13.2	16.8	18.1	15.5	17.0	16.6	17.5	15.1	15.7
10 to 24 years	30.9	30.2	30.8	30.7	28.2	29.0	34.9	34.2	31.0
25 years or more	21.9	22.7	20.4	19.6	20.2	22.1	26.0	15.4	20.4
Total ever in paid employment[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

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

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Census data

Employment status by age and sex

- In 2006, Indigenous Australians had a 54% labour force participation rate, compared with 75% for non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.07.14).
- Indigenous Australians had an employment to population ratio of 0.5, compared with the non-Indigenous ratio of 0.7 (Table 2.07.15).

Table 2.07.14: Age-specific labour force participation rates, by Indigenous status, 2006

	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	Total age-standardised
Indigenous	48	58	60	59	38	54
Non-Indigenous	66	82	82	82	57	75

Note: Total directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.07.15: Age-specific employment to population ratios, by Indigenous status, 2006

	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	Total age-standardised
Indigenous	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
Non-Indigenous	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7

Note: Total directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data

Employment by sector, hours worked and occupation

- In 2006, approximately 59% of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years employed in the labour force were working full-time compared with 69% of non-Indigenous persons of the same age (Table 2.07.16).
- Around three-quarters (74%) of Indigenous employed persons were working in the private sector, 12% were working for state/territory government, 10% were working for local government and 4% were working for the Commonwealth Government. In comparison, approximately 85% of non-Indigenous persons were working in the private sector, 9% in state/territory government, 1% in local government and 4% in the Commonwealth Government (Table 2.07.16).
- In 2006, the most common occupations for Indigenous employed persons were labourers (24%), community and personal service workers (16%), and clerical and administrative workers (13%). For non-Indigenous employed persons the most common occupations were professionals (20%), clerical and administrative workers (15%) and technicians and trades workers (15%) (Table 2.07.16).

Table 2.07.16: Employed persons aged 15–64 years, by hours worked, sector and occupation, 2006

	Number		Proportion	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Hours worked				
Employed, worked full-time	64,693	5,629,054	59.2	69.1
Employed, worked part-time	44,541	2,517,804	40.8	30.9
Total[(a)]	*109,233*	*8,146,857*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Sector				
Commonwealth Government	5,001	356,294	4.3	4.1
State/territory government	13,873	781,959	11.9	9.1
Local government	11,224	121,053	9.6	1.4
Private sector	86,566	7,331,451	74.2	85.3
Total[(b)]	*116,674*	*8,590,759*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Occupation				
Managers	6,726	1,130,708	5.6	13.1
Professionals	13,647	1,742,161	11.5	20.2
Technicians and trades workers	14,631	1,262,162	12.3	14.6
Community and personal service workers	18,565	766,997	15.6	8.9
Clerical and administrative workers	15,167	1,316,622	12.7	15.3
Sales workers	8,250	865,948	6.9	10.0
Machinery operators and drivers	9,906	575,147	8.3	6.7
Labourers	28,854	890,635	24.2	10.3
Inadequately described	3,409	81,442	2.9	0.9
Total[(c)]	**119,152**	**8,631,817**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Total excludes hours worked not stated.
(b) Total excludes sector not stated.
(c) Total excludes occupation not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

ABS Labour Force Survey data

Time series analyses

- Data from the ABS Labour Force Survey over period 2005 to 2011 indicates that after a decrease in Indigenous unemployment from 9.2% in 2005 to 8.3% in 2008, unemployment increased to 11% in 2009 and 2010, and then decreased again to 9.4% in 2011. Minor changes in employment and those not in the labour force occurred over the same period (Table 2.07.17).

Table 2.07.17: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, 2005 to 2011 (per cent)

Year	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Total
2005	49.7	9.2	41.1	100.0
2006	52.5	8.4	39.1	100.0
2007	50.4	8.1	41.5	100.0
2008	49.6	8.3	42.2	100.0
2009	47.6	10.5	41.9	100.0
2010	47.7	10.6	41.7	100.0
2011	48.2	9.4	42.3	100.0

Source: ABS 2012.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: User's 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 unexplained 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).

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.

ABS Labour Force Survey

The ABS monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) included a question on Indigenous status from April 2001. The reliability of estimates from the survey is affected by the relatively small size of the Indigenous population, the small number of Indigenous persons in the LFS sample, and particular collection difficulties in remote areas (ABS 2011). Indigenous estimates from the LFS have methodological and definitional differences from other sources such as the Census of Population and Housing. The differences in the methodologies used affect the comparability of the data.

Results from the survey on Indigenous Australians are published annually by the ABS in the *Labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, experimental estimates from the Labour Force Survey* publications. The methodology used to produce the labour force estimates for Indigenous Australians is based on combining the LFS samples for each of the twelve months of the year. This pooling has resulted in a sample of between 10,500 and 14,200 records each year. This sample size is adequate for providing broad aggregates of labour force characteristics at the state and territory level. However, the sample size per year is still quite small, resulting in constraints on the level of disaggregated data available from the survey.

The ABS considers the estimates of the Indigenous labour force experimental because of the experimental nature of the Indigenous population projections used in producing these estimates and the small sample of Indigenous people in the LFS.

All LFS estimates are subject to sampling errors. This is particularly relevant to these Indigenous estimates because of the small size of the Indigenous population and the small number of Indigenous persons in the LFS sample. These estimates are also subject to non-sampling errors due to particular collection difficulties in remote areas, in addition to imperfections in reporting, recording or processing of data that can occur in any survey or census.

It is also important to note that the population benchmarks used for compiling Indigenous labour force estimates are not predictions or forecasts, but are projections of 2006 Census data reflecting the growth in population which would occur if certain assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality, migration and unexplained growth were to prevail over the projection period (ABS 2012).

List of symbols used in tables

n.a.	not available
–	rounded to zero (including null cells)
0	zero
. .	not applicable
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified

n.f.d. not further defined

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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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 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), and the 2007– 2008 Survey of Income and Housing (SIH).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

Survey of Income and Housing (SIH)

The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) is conducted by the ABS every two years, with the first survey beginning 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 information regarding their household, including characteristics, costs, assets and liabilities and individual personal characteristics for residents over 15 years.

Very remote areas were not covered by the survey.

Data analyses

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 the 2007–08 SIH estimate (Table 2.08.1).
- The mean equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons varied by state and territory, ranging from $489 per week in the Northern Territory to $990 per week in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.08.1).
- 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 2.08.2).

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.

Table 2.08.2: 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
Total non-remote	*607*
Remote	542
Very remote	469
Total remote	*496*
Total	**580**

Source: NATSISS 2008.

Equivalised household income quintiles/percentiles

Data on equivalised household income quintiles and percentiles are presented below.

- 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 2.08.3).
- 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% of Indigenous Australians in *Major cities* were in the fourth and highest quintiles of income respectively compared with 5% and 3% of Indigenous Australians in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.08.4).

Table 2.08.3: 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 at $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

Note: Excludes not stated & not known response.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.

Table 2.08.4: Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over in each equivalised gross weekly household income quintile[(a)(b)], by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	First quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile	Total income stated[(c)]	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[(d)]	100.0	50,362
Outer regional	52.9*	20.7	13.8*	9.0*	3.6[(d)]	100.0	53,071
Total non-remote	*46.2**	*21.4**	*15.3**	*11.6**	*5.4*	*100.0*	*175,299*
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[(d)]	100.0	35,055
Total remote	*58.3*	*21.7*	*10.4*	*6.4*	*3.2*	*100.0*	*56,148*
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
Total non-remote	*19.8**	*18.4**	*19.0**	*20.6**	*22.1**	*100.0*	*15,337,533*
Remote	22.9*[(d)]	14.3[(d)]	16.4[(d)]	20.9*	25.5*	100.0	158,048
Very remote	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Total remote	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*	*. .*
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 at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

(a) Equivalised gross household income quintile boundaries for Indigenous persons (NTSISS 2008) 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 (SIH 2007–08) 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) 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.

(d) 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 quintiles/percentiles by state/territory

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

- 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 2.08.5).
- New South Wales had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income (43%) and Western Australia had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians in the highest income quintile (6%) (Table 2.08.6).
- In 2008, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over below the 20th percentile (60%) and 50th percentile (84%) of equivalised gross weekly household income, compared with 48% and 87% respectively in 2002. In 2008, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest proportions, 41% and 71%, respectively (Table 2.08.7).

Table 2.08.5: 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.

Table 2.08.6: 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

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous	
Income quintile	Number	Proportion (%)	Proportion (%) excluding not stated	Number	Proportion (%)
NSW					
First	37,060	43.4	51.2	1,064,605	20.9
Second	16,044	18.8	22.2	979,710	19.2
Third	9,637	11.3	13.3	878,478	17.2
Fourth	7,057	8.3	9.7	962,643	18.9
Fifth	2,609	3.1	3.6	1,210,198	23.7
Total stated	*72,406*	*84.8*	*100.0*	*5,095,634*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	12,999	15.2	. .	. .	. .
Total	**85,405**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
Vic					
First	6,603	34.2	43.5	768,293	19.5
Second	3,351	17.4	22.1	759,566	19.3
Third	2,318	12.0	15.3	738,634	18.8
Fourth	1,863	9.7	12.3	848,568	21.6
Fifth	1,037	5.4	6.8	816,718	20.8
Total stated	*15,172*	*78.7*	*100.0*	*3,931,779*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	4,108	21.3	. .	. .	. .
Total	**19,280**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
Qld					
First	28,455	35.6	44.0	559,547	18.4
Second	15,005	18.8	23.2	562,488	18.5
Third	11,451	14.3	17.7	680,936	22.4
Fourth	6,308	7.9	9.8	636,344	20.9
Fifth	3,408	4.3	5.3	603,547	19.8
Total stated	*64,626*	*80.9*	*100.0*	*3,042,861*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	15,257	19.1	. .	. .	. .
Total	**79,883**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
WA					
First	15,518	39.8	52.7	258,349	16.9
Second	4,766	12.2	16.2	229,523	15.0
Third	3,668	9.4	12.4	287,620	18.8
Fourth	3,136	8.0	10.6	360,547	23.6
Fifth	2,380	6.1	8.1	391,503	25.6
Total stated	*29,468*	*75.5*	*100.0*	*1,527,541*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	9,540	24.5	. .	. .	. .
Total	**39,008**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.08.6 (cont.): 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

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous	
Income quintile	Number	Proportion (%)	Proportion (%) excluding not stated	Number	Proportion (%)
SA					
First	6,555	40.7	49.2	292,869	24.7
Second	3,096	19.2	23.2	209,542	17.7
Third	1,596	9.9	12.0	238,560	20.1
Fourth	1,736	10.8	13.0	232,380	19.6
Fifth	345	2.1	2.6	212,685	17.9
Total stated	*13,327*	*82.7*	*100.0*	*1,186,036*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	2,784	17.3	. .	. .	. .
Total	**16,111**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
Tas/ACT					
First	5,006	37.3	40.9	127,197	20.8
Second	2,761	20.6	22.6	101,846	16.7
Third	1,952	14.5	15.9	99,193	16.2
Fourth	1,770	13.2	14.5	123,148	20.1
Fifth	749	5.6	6.1	159,844	26.2
Total stated	*12,238*	*91.2*	*100.0*	*611,228*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	1,181	8.8	. .	. .	. .
Total	**13,419**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
NT					
First	14,524	38.4	60.0	9,019[c]	9.0[c]
Second	4,756	12.6	19.6	8,706	8.7
Third	2,079	5.5	8.6	22,361	22.2
Fourth	2,033	5.4	8.4	30,227	30.1
Fifth	819	2.2	3.4	30,190	30.0
Total stated	*24,210*	*64.0*	*100.0*	*100,503*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	13,620	36.0	. .	. .	. .
Total	**37,830**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
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
Total stated	*231,447*	*79.6*	*100.0*	*15,495,581*	*100.0*
Not known/not stated	59,490	20.4	. .	. .	. .
Total	**290,937**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.08.6 (cont.): 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

(a) Equivalised gross household income quintile boundaries for Indigenous persons (NATSISS 2008) 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 (SIH 2007–08) 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.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and SIH 2007–08.

Table 2.08.7: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were below the 20th and 50th percentiles of equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles[(a)(b)], 2008

	2002		2008		Significant of change between 2002 and 2008	
	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile	Below 20th percentile	Below 50th percentile
New South Wales	41.8	72.6	51.2	81.1	Significant	Significant
Victoria	38.7	73.0	43.5	74.0	Not significant	Not significant
Queensland	41.1	78.9	44.0	79.6	Not significant	Not significant
Western Australia	41.2	77.2	52.7	75.4	Significant	Not significant
South Australia	41.9	81.1	49.2	79.1	Significant	Not significant
Tasmania/ ACT	33.6	69.3	40.9	70.8	Not significant	Not significant
Northern Territory	48.3	87.4	60.0	84.0	Significant	Not significant
Australia	**41.7**	**77.4**	**49.1**	**79.2**	**Significant**	**Not significant**

(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).

Notes

1. Excludes those for whom income was unknown or not stated.
2. Significant test are for the changes between 2002 and 2008 for indicator "below 20th percentile" and "below 50th percentile".

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS and 2002 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 2007–08 SIH 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 8% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were in the highest individual income quintile compared with 21% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.08.8).

Table 2.08.8: 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 at the $p < 0.05$ level for these categories.

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

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 2.08.9).
- 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 2.08.9).
- 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 2.08.9).
- Indigenous Australians in the lowest income quintile were much more likely to be renters (83%) than home owners (15%) (Table 2.08.10).

Table 2.08.9: Selected population characteristics by equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles[(a)] for Indigenous persons aged 18 years and older, 2008

	Income quintiles						
	Lowest	**Second**	**Third**	**Fourth**	**Fifth**	***Fourth and fifth***	**Total**
Self-assessed health status							
Excellent/very good	41.9	23.2	15.8	12.9	6.2	*19.1*	100.0
Good	48.7	21.4	14.3	10.4	5.2	*15.5*	100.0
Fair/poor	62.0	18.8	11.0	5.9	2.3	*8.2*	100.0
Financial stress							
Unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	68.6	18.4	9.2	3.2	0.7	*3.9*	100.0
Location							
Remote	58.2	21.7	10.5	6.5	3.0	*9.6*	100.0
Non-remote	46.2	21.4	15.3	11.5	5.5	*17.0*	100.0
Highest year of school completed							
Year 12	28.5	23.9	19.8	17.3	10.5	*27.7*	100.0
Year 11	47.0	23.5	13.3	12.9	3.4	*16.3*	100.0
Year 10	47.2	23.7	15.3	9.9	4.0	*13.8*	100.0
Year 9 or below	65.6	17.1	9.6	5.1	2.7	*7.7*	100.0
Whether has non-school qualification							
Has a non-school qualification	32.7	25.2	17.5	15.7	8.9	*24.6*	100.0
Does not have a non-school qualification	58.4	19.4	12.2	7.3	2.6	*10.0*	100.0
Employment							
Employed	23.5	27.2	22.7	17.9	8.7	*26.6*	100.0
Unemployed	76.0	17.5	4.5	1.6	0.4	*2.0*	100.0
Not in the labour force	79.4	14.3	4.1	1.5	0.6	*2.1*	100.0
Housing							
Owner	26.0	21.5	21.6	20.2	10.7	*30.9*	100.0
Renter	58.7	21.5	11.1	6.1	2.5	*8.7*	100.0
Stressors in last 12 months							
Serious illness or disability	51.7	22.2	14.1	9.4	2.7	*12.1*	100.0
Other stressors	51.2	20.1	14.3	9.7	4.7	*14.4*	100.0
Total experienced stressors	51.3	20.6	14.3	9.6	4.2	*13.8*	100.0
No stressors	45.9	22.9	13.9	11.4	5.9	*17.3*	100.0
All persons aged 18+ years	**49.1**	**21.5**	**14.1**	**10.3**	**4.9**	***15.2***	**100.0**
Total number aged 18+ years	**113,722**	**49,778**	**32,700**	**23,902**	**11,346**	***35248***	**231,447**

(a) Equivalised gross household income quintile boundaries for Indigenous persons (NATSISS 2008) are: first (0 to $435); second ($436 to $686); third ($687 to $952); fourth ($953 to $1380); and fifth ($1,381 or more).

Note: Excludes not known and not stated responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.08.10: Equivalised gross weekly household income quintiles[(a)], by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and older, 2008

	Income quintiles					
	Lowest	**Second**	**Third**	**Fourth**	**Fifth**	***Fourth and fifth***
Self-assessed health status						
Excellent/very good	35.4	44.7	46.3	51.9	52.5	52.1
Good	33.7	33.9	34.5	34.2	36.0	34.7
Fair/poor	30.9	21.4	19.2	13.9	11.5	13.1
Financial stress						
Unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	65.6	40.2	30.6	14.3	6.8	11.9
Location						
Remote	28.7	24.5	18.0	15.4	14.9	15.2
Non-remote	71.3	75.5	82.0	84.6	85.1	84.9
Highest year of school completed						
Year 12	12.9	24.8	31.3	37.3	47.7	40.6
Year 11	13.0	14.8	12.8	17.0	9.3	14.5
Year 10	29.4	33.7	33.2	29.3	24.7	27.8
Year 9 or below	44.6	26.6	22.7	16.4	18.2	17.0
Whether has non-school qualification						
Has a non-school qualification	24.0	42.1	44.5	54.7	65.4	58.2
Does not have a non-school qualification	76.0	57.9	55.5	45.3	34.6	41.8
Employment						
Employed	25.7	67.7	86.2	93.0	94.7	93.5
Unemployed	15.1	7.9	3.1	1.5	0.8	1.3
Not in the labour force	59.3	24.4	10.7	5.5	4.5	5.2
Housing						
Owner	15.3	29.0	17.5	56.6	63.2	58.7
Renter	82.7	69.0	21.6	41.1	35.8	39.4
Other	2.0	2.0	0.5	2.3	1.0	1.9
Stressors in last 12 months						
Serious illness or disability	14.4	14.1	13.6	12.4	7.6	10.8
Total experienced stressors	47.9	43.1	46.7	43.3	43.7	43.4
No stressors	37.6	42.8	39.7	44.4	48.7	45.7
All persons aged 18+ years	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number aged 18+ years	**113,722**	**49,778**	**32,700**	**23,902**	**11,346**	**35,248**

(a) Equivalised gross household income quintile boundaries for Indigenous persons (NATSISS 2008) are: first (0 to $435); second ($436 to $686); third ($687 to $952); fourth ($953 to $1380); and fifth ($1,381 or more).

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

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 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

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 survey's 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.

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 (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2010. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Users' Guide. ABS Cat. no. 4720.0. Canberra: ABS.

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2.09 Index of disadvantage

An analysis of the relative disadvantage within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared with the non-Indigenous population

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing is conducted by the ABS at 5-yearly intervals, and 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 undercount 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 2011 Census is the most recent, however data for the Indigenous population was not yet released at the time of writing this report. Therefore data included in this report come from the 2006 Census. In 2006, the ABS enhanced the sample for the Post-Enumeration Survey to include remote areas. The measured undercount for Indigenous Australians was 11.5%.

Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

The ABS has developed four indexes to allow measurement of relative socioeconomic status at a small area level. These indexes summarise a range of socioeconomic variables associated with disadvantage. Each index summarises a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. They each summarise a different set of social and economic information. The indexes take into account a range of factors in determining socio-economic conditions.

Index of Advantage/Disadvantage

This index is a continuum of advantage to disadvantage and is available for both urban and rural areas. Low values indicate areas of disadvantage, and high values indicate areas of advantage. It takes into account variables such as the proportion of families with high incomes, people with a tertiary education, and employment in skilled occupations (ABS 2003).

The Census does not collect all of the variables identified as being related to socioeconomic status. Some of the variables may be context-specific and some are associated with age (e.g. income), yet the methodology does not allow for age-standardisation. This is particularly relevant in the context of this performance measure where we are comparing two populations that have different age structures.

Data analyses

Following the concepts and methodology of the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD), persons surveyed were ranked according to their IRSAD and then split into deciles or quintiles based on total population.

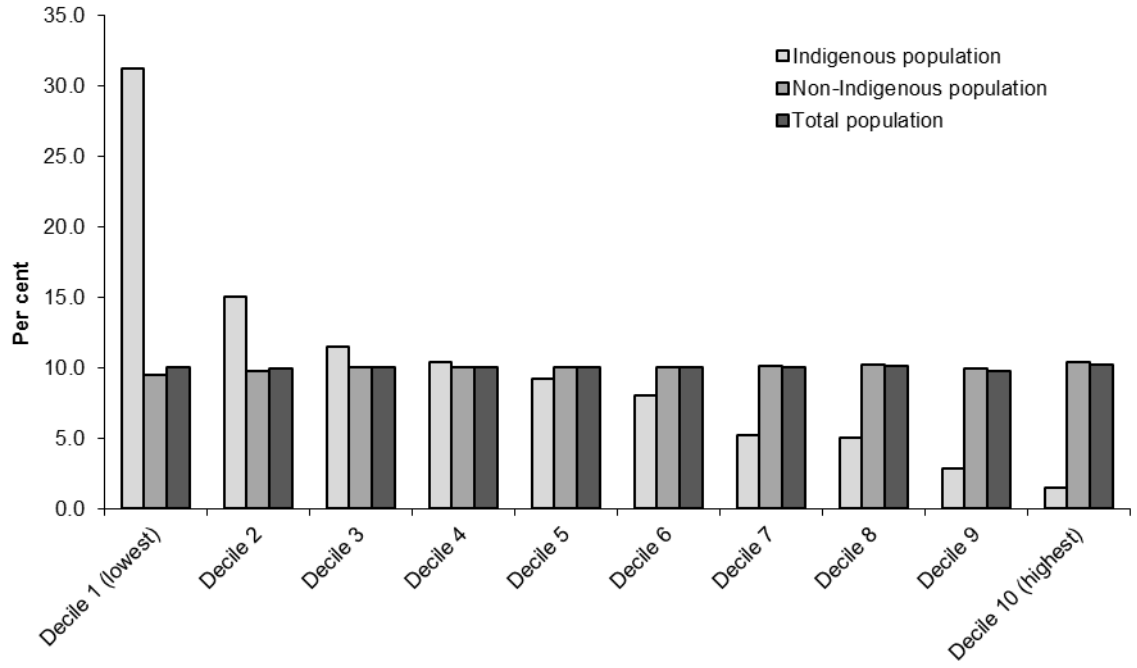
SEIFA

- In 2006, Indigenous Australians are over-represented in the three most disadvantaged deciles; for example, 31% of the Indigenous population were in the most disadvantaged decile compared with 10% of the non-Indigenous population (Table 2.09.1; Figure 2.09.1).
- Less than 2% of the Indigenous population were in the most advantaged decile compared with 10% of the non-Indigenous population (Table 2.09.1; Figure 2.09.1).

Table 2.09.1: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage decile, by Indigenous status, 2006

	Indigenous population	Non-Indigenous population	Total population
		Per cent	
Decile 1 (most disadvantaged)	31.2	9.5	10.0
Decile 2	15.1	9.8	9.9
Decile 3	11.5	10.0	10.1
Decile 4	10.4	10.0	10.0
Decile 5	9.2	10.0	10.0
Decile 6	8.0	10.0	10.0
Decile 7	5.3	10.1	10.0
Decile 8	5.1	10.2	10.1
Decile 9	2.8	10.0	9.8
Decile 10 (most advantaged)	1.5	10.4	10.2

Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.09.1: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage decile, by Indigenous status, 2006

SEIFA by state/territory

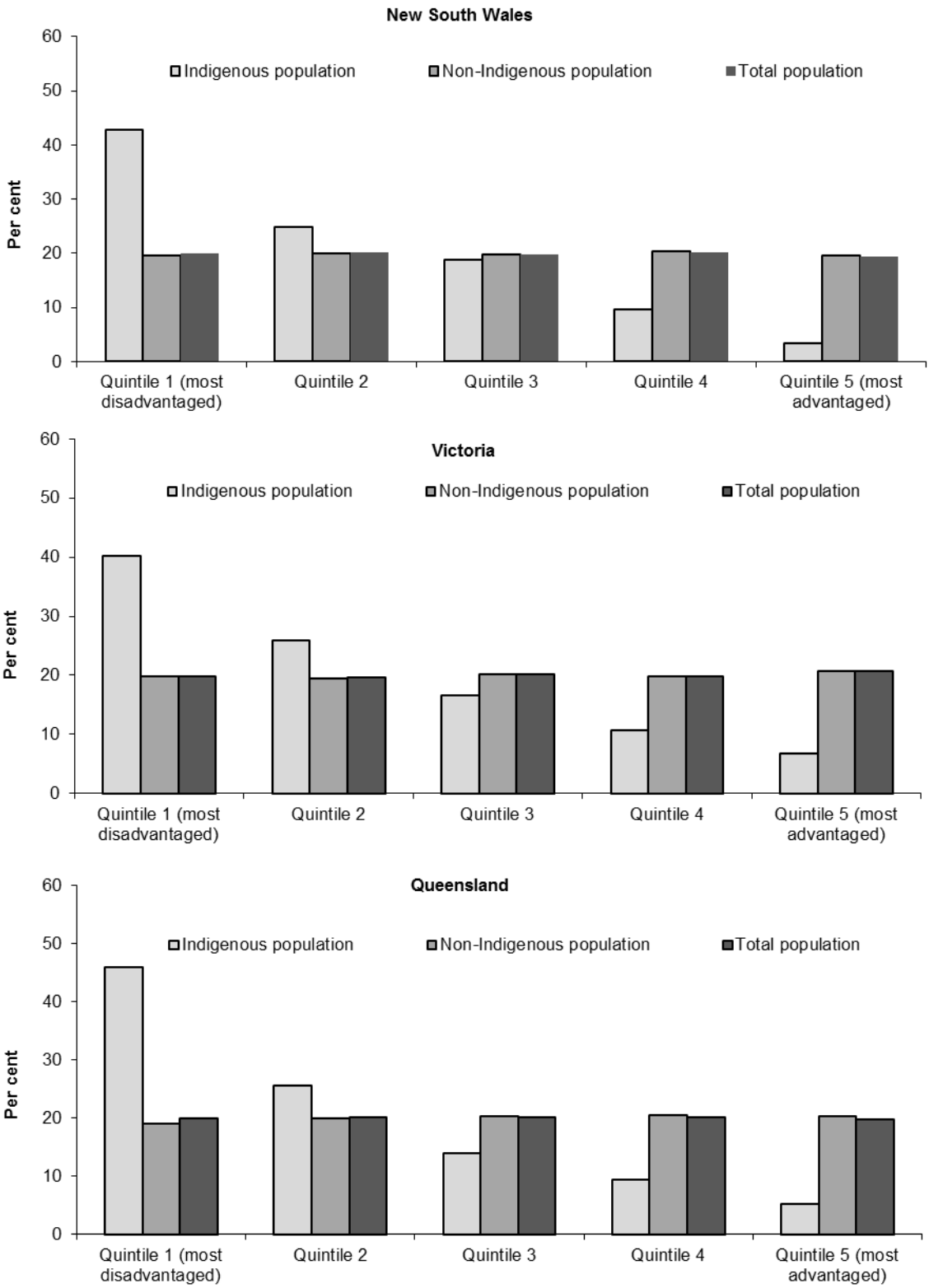
- In 2006, in all states and territories a greater proportion of the Indigenous population were in the most disadvantaged quintile compared with the non-Indigenous population. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion (58%) (Table 2.09.4; Figure 2.09.4) and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest proportion (27%) of the Indigenous population in the most disadvantaged quintile (Table 2.09.3; Figure 2.09.3).
- New South Wales had the lowest proportion (3%) and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion (10%) of the Indigenous population in the most advantaged quintile (Tables 2.09.2 and 2.09.4; Figures 2.09.2 and 2.09.3).

Table 2.09.2: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage quintiles, by Indigenous status, NSW, Vic & Qld, 2006

	Indigenous population	Non-Indigenous population	Total population
		New South Wales	
Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	42.9	19.5	20.1
Quintile 2	24.8	20.0	20.2
Quintile 3	18.9	19.7	19.7
Quintile 4	9.7	20.4	20.2
Quintile 5 (most advantaged)	3.4	19.7	19.3
		Victoria	
Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	40.1	19.7	19.9
Quintile 2	25.9	19.5	19.6
Quintile 3	16.7	20.2	20.2
Quintile 4	10.7	19.8	19.8
Quintile 5 (most advantaged)	6.7	20.7	20.6
		Queensland	
Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	45.9	19.0	19.9
Quintile 2	25.6	20.0	20.2
Quintile 3	14.0	20.4	20.2
Quintile 4	9.4	20.4	20.1
Quintile 5 (most advantaged)	5.3	20.3	19.8

Note: The population of some states/territories was unable to be split into exact quintiles based on the SEIFA index of advantage/disadvantage. In all except one of these cases, the best approximate quintiles were calculated. Approximate population quintiles based on the SEIFA index of advantage/disadvantage were unable to be calculated for Tasmania because of the population spread.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

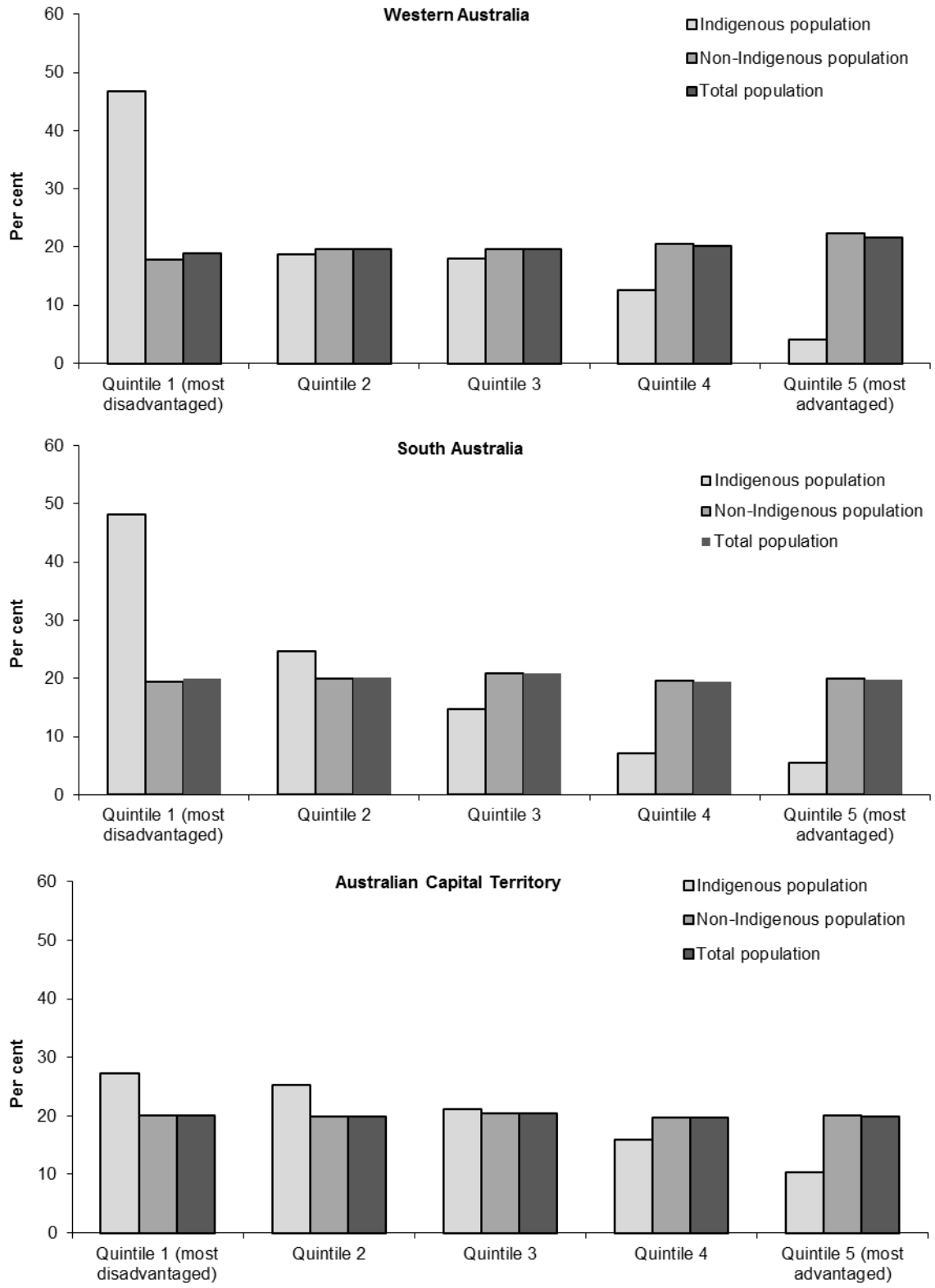
Figure 2.09.2: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage quintiles, by Indigenous status, NSW, Vic & Qld, 2006

Table 2.09.3: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage quintiles, by Indigenous status, WA, SA & ACT, 2006

	Indigenous population	Non-Indigenous population	Total population
		Western Australia	
Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	46.7	17.8	18.9
Quintile 2	18.7	19.7	19.7
Quintile 3	18.1	19.6	19.6
Quintile 4	12.5	20.5	20.2
Quintile 5 (most advantaged)	4.0	22.3	21.6
		South Australia	
Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	48.1	19.5	19.9
Quintile 2	24.6	20.0	20.1
Quintile 3	14.8	20.9	20.8
Quintile 4	7.1	19.7	19.4
Quintile 5 (most advantaged)	5.4	19.9	19.7
		ACT	
Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	27.2	20.0	20.1
Quintile 2	25.3	19.8	19.9
Quintile 3	21.1	20.4	20.4
Quintile 4	16.0	19.7	19.7
Quintile 5 (most advantaged)	10.4	20.0	19.9

Note: The population of some states/territories was unable to be split into exact quintiles based on the SEIFA index of advantage/disadvantage. In all except one of these cases, the best approximate quintiles were calculated. Approximate population quintiles based on the SEIFA Index of Advantage/Disadvantage were unable to be calculated for Tasmania because of the population spread.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

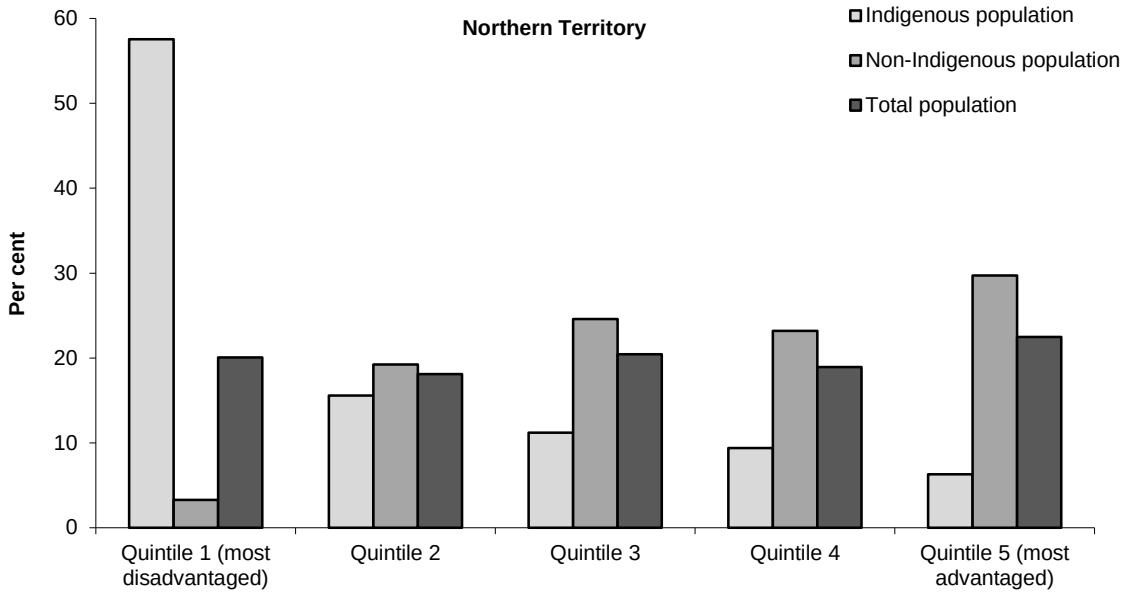
Figure 2.09.3: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage quintiles, by Indigenous status, WA, SA & ACT, 2006

Table 2.09.4: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage quintiles, by Indigenous status, NT, 2006

	Indigenous population	Non-Indigenous population	Total population
		Northern Territory	
Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	57.5	3.3	20.1
Quintile 2	15.6	19.2	18.1
Quintile 3	11.2	24.6	20.4
Quintile 4	9.4	23.2	18.9
Quintile 5 (most advantaged)	6.3	29.7	22.5

Note: The population of some states/territories was unable to be split into exact quintiles based on the SEIFA index of advantage/disadvantage. In all except one of these cases, the best approximate quintiles were calculated. Approximate population quintiles based on the SEIFA Index of Advantage/Disadvantage were unable to be calculated for Tasmania because of the population spread.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.09.4: Population distribution by SEIFA advantage/disadvantage quintiles, by Indigenous status, NT, 2006

Data quality issues

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 unexplained 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 under-counted (ABS 1996).

Although the Census data are adjusted for under-counts 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.

Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

There are a range of data items that can be included in an index on socioeconomic disadvantage and the Census does not collect all of the variables identified as being related to socioeconomic status. Some of the variables may be context-specific (e.g. a low mortgage in Sydney may be high in another city) and some are associated with age (e.g. income), yet the methodology does not allow for age-standardisation. This is particularly relevant in the context of this performance measure where we are comparing two populations that have different age structures.

Analysis of SEIFA results at small area levels has found that within any area there will be individuals and subpopulations with very different characteristics from the overall population of the area. When judgments are made about the individual or subpopulation based on the characteristics of the area, there is considerable potential for error (Baker & Adhikari 2007). This issue is particularly relevant for the Indigenous population, because they make up a small proportion of the population in most areas of Australia.

Kennedy and Firman (2004) found that the traditional approach to analysing SEIFA at an area level masks the socioeconomic status of Indigenous Australians who make up a small proportion of most areas. They found that stratifying SEIFA scores by Indigenous and non-Indigenous households in each area shows that Indigenous populations suffer a high level of social and economic disadvantage, regardless of whether they live in high or low socioeconomic areas.

List of symbols used in tables

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

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ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 1996. Occasional paper: Population issues, Indigenous Australians. ABS cat. no. 4708.0. Canberra: ABS.

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2.10 Community safety

Three parameters of community safety are considered for this measure:

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

Data sources

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

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of social issues including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

National Hospital Morbidity Database

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

Hospitalisation data are presented for the 2-year period from July 2008 to June 2010. An aggregate of 2 years of data has been used, because the number of hospitalisations for some conditions is likely to be small for a single year.

Hospital records are for 'separations' and not individuals, and as there can be multiple admissions for the same individual, hospital separation rates do not usually reflect the incidence or prevalence of the disease or condition in question. For example, it is not possible to identify whether one patient was admitted 5 times or five patients were admitted once. People who receive treatment at hospital but are not admitted are not counted in hospital

records. Hospital separation data are also affected by variations in admission practices, and the availability of and access to hospital and non-hospital services.

Care types 7.3, 9 and 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital border) have been excluded from analysis.

Data are presented for the six jurisdictions that the AIHW has assessed as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations in 2006–08—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (public hospitals only). These six jurisdictions represent approximately 96% of the Indigenous population of Australia. National totals include separations for people resident in these six jurisdictions only and are not necessarily representative of the jurisdictions not included. Indigenous status data are reported for Tasmania and ACT (public hospitals only) with caveats until further audits of the quality of data in these jurisdictions are completed. Hospitalisations for which the Indigenous status of the patient was not reported are excluded from hospitalisations data for non-Indigenous Australians, apart from Western Australia where records with an unknown status are recorded as non-Indigenous.

Data are presented by state/territory of usual residence of the patient.

The following caveats have been recommended for analysis of hospitalisation data from selected jurisdictions (AIHW 2010):

- Interpretation of results should take into account the relative quality of the data from the jurisdictions included (currently a small degree of Indigenous under-identification in data from New South Wales and South Australia, and relatively marked Indigenous under-identification in data from Queensland and Victoria).
- Interpretation of time series analysis should take into account the possible contribution of changes over time in ascertainment of Indigenous status. This will be reflected in Indigenous patient changes in hospitalisation rates for Indigenous people.

National Mortality Database

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

It is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are registered. However, a proportion of these deceased are not reported as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by the family, health worker or funeral director during the death registration process. That is, while data are provided to the ABS for the Indigenous status question for 99% of all deaths, there are concerns regarding the accuracy of the data. The Indigenous status question is not always directly asked of relatives and friends of the deceased by the funeral director.

While the identification of Indigenous Australians in deaths data is incomplete in all state and territory registration systems, 5 jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland, Western

Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory) have been assessed by the ABS and the AIHW as having adequate identification. Longer term mortality trend data are limited to 3 jurisdictions (Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory) with adequate identification of Indigenous deaths in their recording systems from 1991 onwards. The quality of the time-series data is also influenced by the late inclusion of a not stated category for Indigenous status in 1998. Prior to this time, the not stated responses were probably included with the non-Indigenous.

Deaths registered in 2010 with a usual residence of Queensland have been adjusted to exclude deaths registered in 2010 that occurred prior to 2007. This is to minimise the impact of late registration of deaths due to recent changes in the timeliness of death registrations in Queensland.

Western Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths for 2007, 2008 and 2009, have been revised to correct for a data quality issue which resulted in the over-reporting of Indigenous deaths during this period.

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

Data have been combined for the 5-year period 2006–2010 because of the small number of deaths from some conditions each year. Data have been analysed using the year of registration of death for all years.

National Homicide Monitoring Program

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

Data analyses

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

Self-reported data

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on issues of community safety, being witness and victim to violence, physical and threatened violence, personal stressors experienced in the 12 months before the survey and neighbourhood community problems. This information is presented below, as well as (where appropriate) data from the NHS 2007–08 to provide a comparison with the non-Indigenous population.

Issues of community safety

- In the last 12 months prior to the surveys, 79% of Indigenous Australians and 49% of non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported experiencing a stressor relating to community safety; 21% of Indigenous Australians and 11% of non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years were victims of physical or threatened violence (Table 2.10.2).
- The stressor most likely to be experienced related to the death of a family member or close friend, which was reported by 40% of Indigenous people and 19% of non-Indigenous people. This made the greatest rate difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- Twenty four per cent of Indigenous people and 6% of non-Indigenous people reported experiencing a stressor related to alcohol or drug-related problems, and 17% of Indigenous people and 9% of non-Indigenous people experienced a stressor related to mental illness.
- The greatest relative disparity of experienced stressors between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians was for stressors related to trouble with the police, for which Indigenous Australians reported at 5.6 times the rate for non-Indigenous, followed by alcohol or drug-related problems (4.2) and witness to violence (4.0) (Tables 2.10.2). The greatest absolute disparity was for death of a family member or friend (difference of 21%), followed by alcohol or drug-related problems (difference of 19%).

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by age

- In the last 12 months prior to the surveys, Indigenous Australians of all age groups over 18 years were more likely to have experienced a stressor related to community safety than non-Indigenous Australians. The rate ratios were similar across all age groups (1.5 to 1.7) (Table 2.10.1).
- For Indigenous Australians, the proportions experiencing stressors were similar for all age groups (ranged from 77% to 80%).

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by sex

- The proportions experiencing stressors for Indigenous males and females were similar (78% and 80%), while non-Indigenous females were more likely than non-Indigenous males to have experienced a stressor (53% compared to 46%) (Table 2.10.2).

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by state/territory

- In 2008, the proportions of Indigenous persons over 18 years of age reporting experiencing stressors in the 12 months prior to the surveys ranged from 72% in the Northern Territory to 83% in Victoria. For non-Indigenous Australians, the proportions ranged from 48% in New South Wales to 52% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.10.3).

Issues of community safety and personal stressors by remoteness

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over experiencing a stressor in the previous 12 months was highest in *Major cities* (82%) and lowest in *Very remote* areas (72%) (Table 2.10.4). For non-Indigenous Australians, the proportion was highest in *Inner regional* areas (51%) and lowest in *Outer regional* areas (47%).

Table 2.10.1: Issues of community safety, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Type of stressors experienced in last 12 months	18–24			25–34			35–44			45–54			55+			Indig. total 18 years and over - Crude Rate	Total 18 years and over age-standardised[a]			
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio		Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	%		
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months[a]	32.9	24.0	1.4*	27.5	13.5	2.0*	25.0	10.7	2.0*	18.9	9.3	2.0*	8.3	4.4	1.9*	. .	20.5	10.8	1.9	9.7
Stressors experienced by individual, family members and/or close friends in last 12 months[b]																				
Mental illness	14.2	9.1	1.6*	16.6	11.8	1.4*	20.8	10.5	2.0*	19.9	10.6	1.9*	14.0	4.8	2.9*	17.1	. .	. .	. .	. .
Death of family member or close friend	35.0	20.8	1.7*	42.5	18.7	2.3*	45.5	20.2	2.2*	38.3	19.7	1.9*	40.4	18.6	2.2*	40.4	. .	. .	. .	. .
Alcohol or drug-related problems	22.1	9.8	2.3*	27.1	8.6	3.2*	26.6	5.6	4.8*	26.2	5.9	4.4*	16.9	2.4	7.0*	24.2	. .	. .	. .	. .
Abuse or violent crime	6.2	3.7	1.7*	9.0	3.5	2.6*	9.4	2.6	3.6*	7.8	2.2	3.5*	4.4	1.1	4.2*	7.6	. .	. .	. .	. .
Witness to violence	8.5	3.7	2.3*	9.6	3.7	2.6*	10.9	2.8	3.9*	10.2	1.8	5.6*	4.5	0.8	6.0*	9.0	. .	. .	. .	. .
Trouble with the police	16.2	6.2	2.6*	16.6	3.4	4.8*	15.8	2.3	6.9*	14.4	2.5	5.8*	7.6	1.1	7.3*	14.7	. .	. .	. .	. .
One or more of the above stressors	*55.2*	*34.7*	*1.6**	*61.2*	*33.2*	*1.8**	*64.6*	*32.1*	*2.0**	*59.5*	*31.5*	*1.9**	*53.4*	*24.7*	*2.2**	*59.1*	. .	. .	. .	. .
You, a family member or friend spent time in gaol	13.2	. .	. .	14.5	. .	. .	13.8	. .	. .	12.3	. .	. .	8.3	. .	. .	12.8	. .	. .	. .	. .
Overcrowding at home	12.9	. .	. .	14.6	. .	. .	13.7	. .	. .	11.7	. .	. .	8.7	. .	. .	12.7	. .	. .	. .	. .
Treated badly / discrimination	7.9	. .	. .	10.3	. .	. .	13.5	. .	. .	12.7	. .	. .	6.0	. .	. .	10.2	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.10.1 (continued): Issues of community safety, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

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

*Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level for these categories

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

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

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

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

Note: Excludes stressors not stated

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

Table 2.10.2: Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and sex, 2008

	Males				Females				Persons			
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference
	%	%		%	%	%		%	%	%		%
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months[(a)]	20.8	13.4	1.6*	7.4	20.4	8.2	2.5*	12.2	20.5	10.8	1.9*	9.7
Stressors experienced by individual, family members and/or close friends in last 12 months[(b)]												
Mental illness	15.3	7.0	2.2*	8.3	18.8	10.5	1.8*	8.3	17.1	8.8	1.9*	8.3
Death of family member or close friend	38.4	17.8	2.2*	20.6	42.2	20.9	2.0*	21.3	40.4	19.4	2.1*	21.0
Alcohol or drug-related problems	24.4	4.8	5.1*	19.6	24.0	6.6	3.6*	17.4	24.2	5.7	4.2*	18.5
Abuse or violent crime	6.7	1.9	3.5*	4.8	8.4	2.8	3.0*	5.6	7.6	2.3	3.2*	5.3
Witness to violence	8.4	2.1	4.0*	6.3	9.5	2.3	4.0*	7.2	9.0	2.2	4.0*	6.8
Trouble with the police	16.6	2.8	5.9*	13.8	12.9	2.5	5.2*	10.4	14.7	2.6	5.6*	12.1
One or more of the above stressors	*57.2*	*27.3*	*2.1**	*29.9*	*60.8*	*32.9*	*1.8**	*27.9*	*59.1*	*30.2*	*2**	*28.9*
You, a family member or friend spent time in gaol	12.7	..	..	. .	12.8	..	..	. .	12.8	..	..	. .
Overcrowding at home	10.3	..	..	. .	14.8	..	..	. .	12.7	..	..	. .
Treated badly / discrimination	10.2	..	..	. .	10.2	..	..	. .	10.2	..	..	. .
Total experienced stressors[(c)(d)]	*77.8*	*45.5*	*1.7**	*32.3*	*80.2*	*52.6*	*1.5**	*27.6*	*79.0*	*49.1*	*1.6**	*29.9*
No stressors reported	22.2	54.5	0.4*	32.3	19.8	47.4	0.5*	27.6	21.0	50.8	0.4*	29.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	..	..	**100.0**	**100.0**	..	..	**100.0**	**100.0**	..	..

* Differences between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level for these categories.

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

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

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

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

Note: Excludes stressors not stated.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Table 2.10.3: Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

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

(continued)

Table 2.10.3 (continued): Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level for these categories.

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

Note: Excludes stressors not stated.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Table 2.10.4: Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			*Total non-remote*			Remote			Very remote			*Total remote*			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		*%*	*%*		%	%		%	%		*%*	*%*		%	%	
Victim of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months[(a)(b)]	26.1	..	..	24.4	..	..	24.3	..	..	*25.1*	..	..	24.1	..	..	19.4	..	..	*21.1*	..	..	24.1	..	..
Stressors experienced by individual, family members and/or close friends in last 12 months																								
Mental illness	22.2	8.9	2.5	17.8	9.8	1.8	17.8	5.7	3.1	*19.7*	*8.8*	*2.2*	12.6	11.1	1.1	8.2	..	..	*9.8*	..	..	17.1	8.8	1.9
Death of family member or close friend	40.2	18.8	2.1	34.7	20.8	1.7	40.6	20.8	2.0	*38.9*	*19.4*	*2.0*	47.6	17.2	2.8	43.5	..	..	*45.0*	..	..	40.4	19.4	2.1
Alcohol or drug-related problems	26.1	6.3	4.1	21.7	4.3	5.0	22.6	4.7	4.8	*23.9*	*5.7*	*4.2*	33.6	6.1(c)	5.5	20.5	..	..	*25.2*	..	..	24.2	5.7	4.2
Abuse or violent crime	9.2	2.1	4.4	6.7	2.8	2.4	7.2	3.2	2.3	*7.9*	*2.4*	*3.3*	8.3	1.9(d)	4.4	5.7	..	..	*6.7*	..	..	7.6	2.4	3.2
Witness to violence	10.3	2.2	4.7	7.7	2.3	3.3	8.1	2.3	3.5	*9.0*	*2.2*	*4.1*	11.9	4.4(c)	2.7	7.4	..	..	*9.0*	..	..	9.0	2.2	4.1
Trouble with the police	15.1	2.6	5.8	15.0	2.8	5.4	14.2	2.4	5.9	*14.8*	*2.6*	*5.7*	17.3	2.7(c)	6.5	12.6	..	..	*14.3*	..	..	14.7	2.6	5.7
One or more of the above stressors	*61.9*	*29.6*	*2.1*	*54.8*	*31.7*	*1.7*	*60.0*	*30.5*	*2.0*	*59.4*	*30.2*	*2.0*	*65.8*	*30.6*	*2.2*	*54.0*	..	..	*58.2*	..	..	*59.1*	*30.2*	*2.0*

(continued)

Table 2.10.4 (continued): Issues of community safety, persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			*Total non-remote*			Remote			Very remote			*Total remote*			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	*Indig.*	*Non-Indig.*	*Rate ratio*	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	*Indig.*	*Non-Indig.*	*Rate ratio*	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		*%*	*%*		%	%		%	%		*%*	*%*		%	%	
Member of family sent to jail/currently in jail	12.9	..	..	12.9	..	..	12.3	..	..	*12.7*	..	..	14.5	..	..	12.0	..	..	*12.9*	..	..	12.8	..	..
Overcrowding at home	12.6	..	..	9.6	..	..	10.8	..	..	*11.3*	..	..	14.5	..	..	18.0	..	..	*16.7*	..	..	12.7	..	..
Discrimination/racism	12.6	..	..	10.1	..	..	10.5	..	..	*11.3*	..	..	9.0	..	..	6.0	..	..	*7.1*	..	..	10.2	..	..
Total experienced stressors[(d)(e)]	*81.9*	*48.8*	*1.7*	*78.9*	*50.8*	*1.6*	*79.7*	*47.2*	*1.7*	*80.4*	*49.1*	*1.6*	*81.3*	*50.4*	*1.6*	*71.6*	..	..	*75.1*	..	..	*79.1*	*49.1*	*1.6*
No stressors reported	18.1	51.2	0.4	21.1	49.2	0.4	20.3	52.8	0.4	*19.6*	*50.9*	*0.4*	18.7	49.6	0.4	28.4	..	..	*24.9*	..	..	21.0	50.9	0.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	..	**100.0**	**100.0**	..	**100.0**	**100.0**	..	***100.0***	***100.0***	..	**100.0**	**100.0**	..	**100.0**	..	..	***100.0***	..	..	**100.0**	**100.0**	..

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Excludes stressors not stated.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Victim of physical or threatened violence

- In 2008, 25% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months. This is similar to the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months in 2002 (24%) (Table 2.10.5).

Victim of physical or threatened violence, by sex

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous males aged 15 years and over who reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence was similar to the proportion of Indigenous females (24% and 25% respectively).

Table 2.10.5: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting they were victims of physical or threatened violence in previous 12 months, by sex, 2002 and 2008

	Males	Females	Total
2002	25.7	23.1	24.3
2008	24.3	24.7	24.5

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2002 NATSISS and 2008 NATSISS.

Victim of physical or threatened violence, by remoteness

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who reported they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months varied by remoteness. The highest proportion was in *Major cities* (26%) and the lowest proportion was in *Very remote* areas (20%) (Table 2.10.6).

Table 2.10.6: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in previous 12 months[(a)], by remoteness, 2008

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

(a) Excludes not stated responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Victim of physical or threatened violence, by selected population characteristics

- In 2008, Indigenous Australians with a disability or long-term health condition were more likely to have been a victim of physical or threatened violence than those with no disability (29% compared with 21%) (Table 2.10.7).
- Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over in the first quintile of disparity index (most disadvantaged) were more like to have been a victim of physical or threated violence than those in the fifth quintile (least disadvantaged) (24% compared to 19%). House renters were more like to have been a victim of physical or threated violence than house owners (27% compared to 19%).
- Nearly 40% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were removed from natural family were a victim of physical or threated violence in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 2.10.7: Victim of physical or threatened violence, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Not victim of physical or threatened violence	Total[(a)]
		Per cent	
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent/very good	23.2	76.8	120,032
Good	26.1	73.9	99,889
Fair/poor	25.0	75.0	70,825
Disability or long-term health condition			
Has disability or long-term health condition	28.5	71.5	152,245
No disability or long-term condition	20.6	79.4	138,501
Household income			
1st quintile (lowest income)	25.0	75.0	113,690
5th quintile (highest income)	25.3	74.7	11,265
Total excluding income not stated	*24.0*	*76.0*	*231,373*
Index of disparity			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	24.3	75.7	143,296
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	18.6	81.4	10,749
Total excluding not stated	*24.7*	*75.3*	*282,433*
Financial stress—unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	27.3	72.7	137,067
Location			
Remote	21.9	78.1	75,063
Non-remote	25.4	74.6	215,683
Law and justice			
Used legal services in last 12 months	44.3	55.7	54,903
Arrested by police in last 5 years	49.2	50.8	45,790
Incarcerated in last 5 years	41.8	58.2	10,306
Housing			
Owner/purchaser[(b)]	18.8	81.2	84,389
Renter	27.0	73.0	200,134
Dwelling has major structural problems	29.1	70.9	82,131
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms[(c)]	24.9	75.1	71,638
Family and culture			
Participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	25.0	75.0	257,038
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	24.6	75.4	259,503
Person removed from natural family	38.1	61.9	24,556
Relative(s) removed from natural family	31.0	69.0	116,711

(continued)

Table 2.10.7 (continued): Victim of physical or threatened violence, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Not victim of physical or threatened violence	Total[(a)]
		Per cent	
Currently lives in homelands	24.9	75.1	74,612
Participated in cultural activities in last 12mths	27.6	72.4	183,392
Involved in events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months	26.5	73.5	174,995

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

(b) Includes participants in rent/buy schemes.

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

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

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

Tables 2.10.8, 2.10.9 and 2.10.10 present data on whether Indigenous persons were a victim of, or were a witness to violence by selected health and population characteristics. Table 2.10.8 and 2.10.9 both present data for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians however percentages are calculated using different totals as the denominator. Proportions in Table 2.10.8 are calculated within a column using the total of the rows as the denominator; while proportions in Table 2.10.9 are calculated within a row using the total of the columns as the denominator. Table 2.10.10 presents data for Indigenous persons only and compares those who witness violence to those that did not.

- In 2008, of the Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who reported that they or their family members or close friends witnessed violence, 71% had a disability or long-term health condition, 54% were in the first (lowest) quintile of the index of disparity, 56% were under financial stress and 74% lived in non-remote areas (Table 2.10.8).
- Indigenous Australians who had witnessed violence were twice as likely to report fair/poor health as non-Indigenous persons who had witnessed violence (Table 2.10.8).
- Indigenous persons with a disability or long-term health condition were more likely to have witnessed violence than those who did not have a disability or long-term health condition (12% compared to 6%). Indigenous renters were more likely to have witnessed violence that Indigenous home owners (10% compared to 7%) (Table 2.10.9).
- In 2008, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who witnessed violence were more likely than Indigenous persons of the same age who did not witness violence to report fair or poor health, be in the lowest income quintile, live in remote areas, be arrested by the police in the last 5 years and to have been removed or had a relative removed from their natural family (Table 2.10.10).

Table 2.10.8: Victim of and witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Witness to violence[a]						
	Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate difference[b]	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	Rate difference	Rate ratio
	Proportion who were victim of physical or threatened violence	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence						
Self-assessed health status								
Excellent/good	38.9	32.0	50.0	18.0	27.6	49.6	22.0	0.6
Good	36.4	33.4	33.6	0.2	32.3	30.5	–1.8	1.1
Fair/poor	24.6	34.6	16.4	–18.2	40.1	19.9	–20.2	2.0
Disability or long-term health condition[c]								
Has disability or long-term health condition	60.1	71.2	51.7	–19.5	78.1	55.5	–22.6	1.4
No disability or long-term condition	39.9	28.8	48.3	19.5	21.9	45.5	23.6	0.5
Household income								
1st quintile	51.2	54.1	13.1	–41.0	. .	. .	. .	4.1
5th quintile	5.1	5.1	22.6	17.5	. .	. .	. .	0.2
Index of disparity								
1st quintile	50.6	51.9	22.0	–29.9	. .	. .	. .	2.4
5th quintile	2.6[d]	4.4	15.5	11.1	. .	. .	. .	0.3
Financial stress—unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important[e]	57.2	55.7	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.10.8 (continued): Victim of and witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Witness to violence[a]						
	Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate difference[b]	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	Rate difference	Rate ratio
	Proportion who were victim of physical or threatened violence	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence						
Location								
Remote	22.7	25.9	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Non-remote	77.3	74.1	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Law and justice								
Used legal services in last 12 months	34.9	31.9	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Arrested by police in last 5 years	32.2	24.6	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Incarcerated in last 5 years	6.2	5.3(c)	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Housing(e)								
Owner	21.6	22.8	44.9	22.1	. .	. .	. .	0.5
Renter[f]	76.6	75.4	47.7	–27.7	. .	. .	. .	1.6
Dwelling has structural problems	33.1	36.2	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms[g]	24.3	24.2	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Family and culture			. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Involved in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	89.8	93.6	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	89.2	86.0	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Person removed from natural family	13.0	14.9	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.10.8 (continued): Victim of and witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Victim of physical or threatened violence	Witness to violence[a]						
	Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate difference[b]	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	Rate difference	Rate ratio
	Proportion who were victim of physical or threatened violence	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence						
Relative removed from natural family	58.1	71.3	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Currently lives in homelands	25.6	25.4	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Involved in events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months[h]	68.7	79.6	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Participated in cultural activities in last 12 months[i]	67.4	75.4	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**
Total number	**69,909**	**26,089**	**347,355**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**	**. .**

(a) Respondent, their family members or close friends may have been a witness to violence.

(b) Rate difference = Indigenous – non-Indigenous.

(c) Non-remote only.

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

(e) Information provided by a household spokesperson on behalf of household members.

(f) Includes boarders.

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

(h) Includes NAIDOC week activities, sports carnivals, arts/craft festivals and funerals/sorry business.

(i) Includes fishing, hunting, gathering bush foods, making art/craft, performing music/dance/theatre, and storytelling.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.10.9: Witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Witness to violence[a]						
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate difference[b]	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	Rate difference	Rate ratio
	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence						
Self-assessed health status							
Excellent/good	7.0	2.0	5.0	6.5	1.9	4.6	3.3
Good	8.7	2.6	6.1	7.8	2.7	5.1	2.8
Fair/poor	12.7	2.4	10.3	12.8	3.5	9.3	3.7
Disability or long-term health condition[c]							
Has disability or long-term health condition	12.0	2.7	9.3	11.1	3.6	7.5	3.1
No disability or long-term condition	5.5	1.9	3.6	4.5	1.7	2.8	2.7
Household income							
1st quintile	10.1	1.8	8.3	. .	. .	. .	5.5
5th quintile	9.7	2.4	7.3	. .	. .	. .	4.0
Index of disparity							
1st quintile	9.2	2.9	6.3	. .	. .	. .	3.1
5th quintile	10.3	1.6	8.7	. .	. .	. .	6.6
Financial stress—unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important[d]	9.5	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Location							
Remote	9.0	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Non-remote	9.0	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.10.9 (continued): Witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Witness to violence[a]						
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate difference[b]	Indigenous age-standardised	Non-Indigenous age-standardised	Rate difference	Rate ratio
	Proportion who reported that they, their family members or close friends, were a witness to violence						
Law and justice							
Used legal services in last 12 months	15.2	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Arrested by police in last 5 years	14.0	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Incarcerated in last 5 years	13.4[e]	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Housing[d]							
Owner	7.0	1.5	5.5	. .	. .	. .	4.6
Renter[f]	9.8	3.7	6.1	. .	. .	. .	2.6
Dwelling has structural problems	11.5	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms[g]	8.8	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Family and culture							
Involved in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	9.5	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	8.6	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Person removed from natural family	15.5	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Relative removed from natural family	14.5	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Currently lives in homelands	8.9	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Involved in events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months[h]	11.3	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Participated in cultural activities in last 12 months[i]	11.2	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.10.9 (continued): Witness to violence, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

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

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.10.10: Witness to violence[a], by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

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

(continued)

Table 2.10.10 (continued): Witness to violence[(a)], by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

* Differences between rates for Indigenous persons who had witnessed violence in the last 12 months, and those who hadn't, are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level for these categories.

(a) Respondent reported having personally witnessed violence in the last 12 months.
(b) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.
(d) Information obtained from a household spokesperson on behalf of household members.
(e) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness.
(f) This item not available from the 2008 NATSISS.
(g) Includes NAIDOC week activities, sports carnivals, arts/craft festivals and funerals/sorry business.
(h) Includes fishing, hunting, gathering bush foods, making art/craft, performing music/dance/theatre, and storytelling.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Neighbourhood/community problems

In the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Social Survey, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were asked if they thought that there were any problems as listed in Tables 2.10.11 to 2.10.14 in the community or neighbourhood. Tables 2.10.11 to 2.10.14 present for each listed problem the proportions of Indigenous population aged 15 years and over who reported that their community/neighbourhood had the problem by age group, sex, state/territory, and remoteness.

- In 2008, 74% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over thought that neighbourhood or community problems were present in their neighbourhood/community (Table 2.10.11).
- Dangerous or noisy driving was the most common neighbourhood/community problem reported (46%), followed by theft (43%). Problems involving youth, vandalism/graffiti/damage to property, alcohol and illegal drugs were also common problems reported.

Neighbourhood/community problems by age

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who thought that neighbourhood/community problems existed was lowest among those aged 55 years and over (68%) and highest among those aged 35–44 (78%) (Table 2.10.11).

Table 2.10.11: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by age group, 2008

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

(a) Excludes unknown responses

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by sex

- In general, the proportion of Indigenous males thinking that neighbourhood/community problems existed was similar to the proportion of females (73% and 75% respectively) (Table 2.10.12).
- Indigenous females had a higher proportion that reported problems with neighbours as a neighbourhood/community problem than Indigenous males (17% compared to 14%).

Table 2.10.12: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by sex, 2008

	Male	Female	Total
		Per cent	
Neighbourhood/community problem present			
Theft[(a)]	42.4	42.6	42.5
Problems involving youth	33.6	35.0	34.4
Prowlers/loiterers	19.1	19.2	19.1
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	35.6	35.0	35.3
Dangerous or noisy driving	44.7	47.4	46.1
Alcohol	42.0	40.6	41.3
Illegal drugs	36.8	36.1	36.4
Family violence	23.4	26.1	24.8
Assault	22.9	22.4	22.7
Sexual assault	11.2	12.1	11.7
Problems with your neighbours	13.5	17.1	15.4
Levels of neighbourhood conflict	13.5	14.6	14.1
Level of personal safety day or night	12.8	14.7	13.8
Total with neighbourhood/community problems	*72.9*	*75.4*	*74.2*
No neighbourhood/community problems reported	27.1	24.6	25.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**156,052**	**171,049**	**327,101**

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by state/territory

- In general, for all states and territories, the proportions of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over thinking that neighbourhood/community problems existed were similar, ranging from 71% (Queensland) to 77% (New South Wales) (Table 2.10.13).
- For each of the listed neighbourhood/community problems, the proportions varied with state/territory. Nearly half (49%) of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over in New South Wales thought that theft was a neighbourhood/community problem, while the proportion in the Northern Territory was 34%. Nearly 14% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over in New South Wales reported sexual assault as a neighbourhood/community problem, but the proportion in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania combined was 5%.

Table 2.10.13: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by state/territory, 2008

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

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by remoteness

- In general, the proportions of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting neighbourhood/community problems for remote and non-remote areas were similar (76% and 73% respectively) (Table 2.10.14).
- However, for some of the neighbourhood/community problems, the proportions in remote areas were very different from that in non-remote areas. For example, in remote areas, 37% Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reported assault as a neighbourhood/community problem, which was almost twice the proportion in non-remote areas (19%).

Table 2.10.14: Neighbourhood/community problems, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and older, by remoteness, 2008

	Remote	Non-remote	Total
		Per cent	
Neighbourhood/community problem present			
Theft	39.4	43.5	42.5
Problems involving youth	40.2	33.9	35.5
Prowlers/loiterers	19.7	19.7	19.7
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	36.7	36.3	36.4
Dangerous or noisy driving	44.5	48.6	47.6
Alcohol	55.4	38.3	42.6
Illegal drugs	43.7	35.5	37.5
Family violence	37.9	21.5	25.6
Assault	37.1	18.8	23.4
Sexual assault	16.3	10.6	12.0
Problems with your neighbours	16.5	15.6	15.8
Levels of neighbourhood conflict	22.1	12.0	14.5
Level of personal safety day or night	15.1	13.9	14.2
Total with neighbourhood/community problems	*76.2*	*72.5*	*73.4*
No neighbourhood/community problems reported	23.8	27.5	26.6
Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**81,501**	**245,600**	**327,101**

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Neighbourhood/community problems by selected health and population characteristics

Table 2.10.15 present the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting neighbourhood/community problems by selected health and population characteristics.

- In 2008, around one-third (33%) of Indigenous persons who reported family violence as a neighbourhood/community problem currently lived in their homelands; 11% had been removed from their natural family; 76% were home owners and 51% were in the lowest income quintile. These proportions were similar for Indigenous persons who reported assault, sexual assault or personal safety as a neighbourhood/community problem.

Table 2.10.15: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reporting neighbourhood/community problems by selected health and population characteristics, 2008

	Neighbourhood/community problem reported			
	Family violence	Assault	Sexual assault	Personal safety day or night
	Per cent			
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/good	38.4	41.1	36.8	36.0
Good	36.8	35.9	36.7	37.2
Fair/poor	24.8	23.1	26.6	26.8
Disability or long-term health condition				
Yes	56.0	55.7	59.2	61.3
No	44.0	44.3	40.8	38.7
Household income				
1st quintile	51.3	51.9	47.5	51.4
5th quintile	7.0	7.8	7.3	5.7
Financial stress—unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	60.1	58.7	58.2	60.3
Location				
Remote	37.0	39.7	33.8	26.6
Non-remote	63.0	60.3	66.2	73.4
Law and justice				
Used legal services in last 12 months	22.7	22.0	21.6	23.8
Arrested by police in last 5 years	20.2	22.2	20.4	21.1
Incarcerated in last 5 years	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.0
Housing				
Owner	22.3	19.3	22.3	23.5
Renter	75.7	78.5	75.9	75.4
Dwelling has major structural problems	38.7	37.9	36.1	35.4
Family and culture				
Participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	90.8	91.5	90.5	88.9
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside family	90.9	90.4	90.4	89.1
Has been removed from natural family	10.8	11.3	11.4	12.2
Relative removed from natural family	55.1	54.4	57.7	55.9
Currently lives in homelands	33.4	34.0	30.1	26.4
Attended cultural event(s) in last 12 months	72.2	72.3	71.6	64.9
Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Excludes 'not known' or 'not stated' cases. Proportions will not sum to 100% for 'family and culture' characteristics as persons can respond yes to multiple items.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Hospitalisations

- For the period July 2008 to June 2010, there were 10,606 hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined, in which assault was recorded as the principal diagnosis (Table 2.10.16). This represented approximately 2% of total hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians in these states and territories.
- Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for assault at a rate of 10.7 per 1,000 population, while non-Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for assault at 0.9 per 1,000 population. This was a difference of 9.8 hospitalisations per 1,000 population and indicates that Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for assault at over 12 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.

Hospitalisations by age and sex

- The hospitalisation rate for assault was highest for the age group 25–34 for the Indigenous population (23 per 1,000 population), followed by the 35–44 age group (21 per 1,000). For non-Indigenous Australians, the highest rate was for the 15–24 age group (2.2 per 1,000), followed by the 25–34 age group (1.6 per 1,000) (Table 2.10.16).
- Indigenous males and females were hospitalised for assault at similar rates (10.9 and 10.6 per 1,000 respectively). While the rate difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous was similar for males and females (9.4 and 10.3 per 1,000 respectively), the rate ratio was much higher for females (34.4) than for males (7.5).
- The age-groups with the largest disparity in hospitalisation rates for assault were 25–34, 35–44 and 45–54 years (rate differences of 22, 20 and 11 per 1,000 respectively). Indigenous males in the age groups 35–44, 45–54 and 55–64 age groups were hospitalised for assault at over 10 times the rate of non-Indigenous males in those age groups. Indigenous females aged 25–34 and 35–44 years were hospitalised for assault at over 40 times the rate of non-Indigenous females.

Table 2.10.16: Hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault, by Indigenous status, sex and age, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010 [a][b][c][d]

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous					
	Number	Number per 1,000[e]	LCL 95%[f]	UCL 95%[g]	Number	Number per 1,000[e]	LCL 95%[f]	UCL 95%[g]	Ratio[h]	Difference[i]
					Males					
0–4	58	0.9	0.7	1.1	182	0.1	0.1	0.2	6.4*	0.7*
5–14	99	0.8	0.6	0.9	542	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.7*	0.6*
15–24	1,464	13.4	12.7	14.1	11,278	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.5*	9.6*
25–34	1,557	21.3	20.3	22.4	7,898	2.7	2.6	2.7	7.9*	18.6*
35–44	1,312	20.9	19.7	22	5,317	1.8	1.8	1.9	11.5*	19*
45–54	605	13.2	12.2	14.3	3,009	1.1	1	1.1	12.3*	12.1*
55–64	122	4.7	3.9	5.6	1,023	0.4	0.4	0.5	10.8*	4.3*
65+	27	1.8	1.1	2.5	546	0.2	0.2	0.2	8.5*	1.6*
Total[j]	**5,244**	**10.9**	**10.5**	**11.2**	**29,795**	**1.4**	**1.4**	**1.5**	**7.5***	**9.4***
					Females					
0–4	59	0.9	0.7	1.2	146	0.1	0.1	0.1	8.1*	0.8*
5–14	82	0.7	0.5	0.8	189	0.1	0.1	0.1	8.8*	0.6*
15–24	1,364	13.1	12.4	13.8	1,583	0.6	0.5	0.6	23*	12.5*
25–34	1,837	25	23.9	26.1	1,562	0.5	0.5	0.6	46.3*	24.5*
35–44	1,402	20.6	19.5	21.6	1,369	0.5	0.4	0.5	44.7*	20.1*
45–54	502	10.1	9.2	10.9	808	0.3	0.3	0.3	35.6*	9.8*
55–64	93	3.2	2.5	3.8	288	0.1	0.1	0.1	26.1*	3.1*
65+	23	1.2	0.7	1.7	327	0.1	0.1	0.1	10.9*	1.1*
Total[j]	**5,362**	**10.6**	**10.3**	**10.9**	**6,272**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**34.4***	**10.3***
					Persons					
0–4	117	0.9	0.7	1.1	328	0.1	0.1	0.1	7.2*	0.8*
5–14	181	0.7	0.6	0.8	731	0.1	0.1	0.2	5.1*	0.6*
15–24	2,828	13.2	12.7	13.7	12,861	2.2	2.2	2.3	5.9*	11*
25–34	3,394	23.2	22.4	23.9	9,460	1.6	1.6	1.7	14.3*	21.5*
35–44	2,714	20.7	19.9	21.5	6,686	1.1	1.1	1.2	18.3*	19.6*
45–54	1,107	11.6	10.9	12.3	3,817	0.7	0.7	0.7	17.2*	10.9*
55–64	215	3.9	3.4	4.4	1,311	0.3	0.3	0.3	14*	3.6*
65+	50	1.5	1.1	1.9	873	0.2	0.1	0.2	9.3*	1.3*
Total[j]	**10,606**	**10.7**	**10.5**	**10.9**	**36,067**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**12.2***	**9.8***

(continued)

Table 2.10.16 (continued): Hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault, by Indigenous status, sex and age, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010 [(a)(b)(c)(d)]

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

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

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010). Causes of injury are based on the first reported external cause as 'assault' ICD–10–AM codes X85–Y09, where the principal diagnosis was 'injury and poisoning' (S00–T98).

(c) Financial year reporting.

(d) Data are reported by state/territory of usual residence of the patient hospitalised and are for New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland only. These six jurisdictions are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification, although the level of accuracy varies by jurisdiction and hospital. Hospitalisation data for these six jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the hospitalisation experience in the other jurisdictions.

(e) Age-specific rate per 1,000 population.

(f) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(g) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(h) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(i) Rate difference Indigenous minus non-Indigenous Australians.

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

Note: Population estimates are based on the 2006 Census.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisations by state/territory

Table 2.10.17 presents hospitalisations for a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault for the 2-year period July 2008 to June 2010 for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Rates for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory have also been included however should be interpreted with caution.

- Over the period July 2008 to June 2010, Indigenous hospitalisation rates for assault ranged from 4.2 per 1,000 in Victoria to 21.7 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory.
- Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for assault at more than 15 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, rate ratios were between 5 and 7.
- The highest rate difference of hospitalisation for assault between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, which was 20.3 per 1,000 population, occurred in the Northern Territory, followed by Western Australia (17.9 per 1,000) and South Australia (15.8 per 1,000).

Hospitalisation rates by state/territory should be interpreted with caution due jurisdictional differences in the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital separations data.

Table 2.10.17: Hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault, by Indigenous status and jurisdiction, July 2008 to June 2010 [(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)]

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous			
	Number	Rate per 1,000[(f)]	Number	Rate per 1,000[(f)]	Ratio[(g)]	Difference[(h)]
NSW	1,552	5.1	10,892	0.8	6.5*	4.3*
Vic	282	4.2	9,294	0.9	4.9*	3.4*
Qld	2,261	7.6	8,759	1.0	7.3*	6.6*
WA	2,749	18.9	4,017	0.9	20.5*	17.9*
SA	917	16.6	2,631	0.9	19.2*	15.8*
NT	2,845	21.7	474	1.4	15.5*	20.3*
NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT[(i)]	**10,606**	**10.7**	**36,067**	**0.9**	**12.2***	**9.8***
Tas	37	0.9	727	0.8	1.1	0.1
ACT	35	3.4	555	0.7	4.6*	2.6*

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

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

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010). Causes of injury are based on the first reported external cause as 'assault' ICD–10–AM codes X85–Y09, where the principal diagnosis was 'injury and poisoning' (S00–T98).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

(e) Age standardised rates for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Australia have been calculated using the direct method, age standardised by 5 year age groups to 75+. Age standardised rates for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have been calculated using the direct method, age standardised by 5 year age group to 65+.

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

(g) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(h) Rate difference Indigenous minus non-Indigenous.

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

Notes

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

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisations by remoteness

Hospitalisation with a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined are presented by Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) in Table 2.10.18.

- During the period July 2008 to June 2010, Indigenous Australians across all remoteness categories were more likely to be hospitalised for assault than non-Indigenous Australians.
- Hospitalisation rates for assault were highest for Indigenous people living in *Remote* areas, at 24.6 per 1,000 and lowest in *Major cities* (4.6 per 1,000). The same pattern was evident for non-Indigenous Australians.
- The greatest rate ratio between Indigenous and non-Indigenous hospitalisation rates for assault were in *Remote* areas of Australia, where Indigenous people were hospitalised at more than 16 times that of non-Indigenous Australians. Inner regional areas had the lowest rate ratio, with Indigenous persons hospitalised for assault at 5.4 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians. Nationally the rate ratio was 12.2.
- Remote areas had the greatest rate difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous hospitalisation rates for assault (23.1 per 1,000).

Table 2.10.18: Hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault, by Indigenous status and remoteness, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)]

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous					
	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Ratio[(i)]	Difference[(j)]
Major cities	1,558	4.6	4.4	4.9	24,602	0.8	0.8	0.8	5.6*	3.8*
Inner regional	1,012	5.3	4.9	5.6	6,662	1.0	0.9	1.0	5.4*	4.3*
Outer regional[(k)]	2,207	10.7	10.3	11.2	3,552	1.1	1.0	1.1	9.9*	9.6*
Remote[(l)]	2,374	24.6	23.5	25.6	796	1.5	1.4	1.6	16.4*	23.1*
Very remote	3,424	20.5	19.7	21.2	289	1.7	1.5	1.9	12.1*	18.8*
Total[(m)]	**10,606**	**10.7**	**10.5**	**10.9**	**36,067**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**12.2***	**9.8***

* Indicates a significant difference at the p <0.05 level.

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

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010). Causes of injury are based on the first reported external cause as 'assault' ICD–10–AM codes X85–Y09, where the principal diagnosis was 'injury and poisoning' (S00–T98).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

(e) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population, by 5 year age groups to 65+

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

(g) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(h) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(i) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.

(j) Rate difference Indigenous- non-Indigenous.

(k) Includes remote Victoria.

(l) Excludes remote Victoria.

(m) Total includes hospitalisations where ASGC is missing.

Notes

1. Rates are calculated using the remoteness distribution by Indigenous status, age and sex based on the 2006 ERP and applied to the 2008–10 population projections (Series B) based on the 2006 Census.
2. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded from analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Time series analyses

Time series data are presented for the four jurisdictions that have been assessed as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations for all years from 1998–99 to 2009–10—Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. These four jurisdictions represent approximately 60% of the Indigenous Australian population. New South Wales and Victoria were identified as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations from 2004–05 onwards; therefore, they were included as part of the current period analysis (2008–10) but not as part of the time series analyses.

Hospitalisation rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for assault over the 12-year period 1998–99 to 2009–10 are presented in Table 2.10.19 and Figure 2.10.1.

- Over the period 1998–99 to 2009–10, there were no significant changes in the hospitalisation rates for assault among Indigenous males and females.
- Over the same period there were significant increases in the hospitalisation rates for assault for non-Indigenous Australians (increase of 22%).
- There was a significant decline in the hospitalisation rate ratios between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for assault over the period 1998–99 to 2009–10, and no significant change in the rate differences.

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

Table 2.10.19: Age-standardised hospitalisation rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 1998–99 to 2009–10 [a]

	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	Annual change[b]	Per cent change[c]
Indigenous separations														
Males	1,602	1,571	1,580	1,960	1,835	1,764	1,803	1,868	1,880	1,994	2,032	2,093	43*	29.3*
Females	1,749	1,782	1,701	2,180	2,132	2,127	2,181	2,255	2,363	2,232	2,277	2,370	57*	35.9*
Persons	3,351	3,353	3,281	4,140	3,967	3,891	3,984	4,123	4,243	4,226	4,309	4,463	100*	32.7*
Non-Indigenous separations														
Males	4,589	4,510	4,835	5,039	4,814	4,729	5,062	5,496	5,916	6,296	6,632	6,365	194*	46.6*
Females	1,022	967	1,028	1,117	1,078	1,090	1,029	1,160	1,154	1,243	1,424	1,460	38*	40.7*
Persons	5,611	5,477	5,864	6,156	5,893	5,819	6,091	6,656	7,070	7,539	8,056	7,825	232*	45.5*
Indigenous rate (separations per 1,000)														
Males	13.9	13.1	12.7	15.7	14.4	13.3	13.3	13.5	13.2	13.8	13.6	13.7	–0.02	–1.6
Females	13.7	13.5	12.6	15.7	15.2	14.7	15.1	15.2	15.5	14.4	14.4	14.7	0.1	9.0
Persons	13.7	13.3	12.6	15.7	14.7	14.0	14.2	14.3	14.4	14.1	14.0	14.2	0.05	3.7
Non-Indigenous rate (separations per 1,000)														
Males	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.03*	22.0*
Females	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.01*	19.1*
Persons	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.02*	22.1*
Rate ratio[d]														
Males	10.5	10.2	9.2	11.0	10.7	10.3	9.7	9.3	8.6	8.7	8.4	9.0	–0.2*	–19.5*
Females	45.4	47.8	42.4	49.2	50.0	48.5	53.5	48.4	50.8	44.8	40.0	40.6	–0.3	–8.3
Persons	16.8	16.8	15.0	17.8	17.8	17.4	17.1	16.1	15.5	14.6	13.9	14.9	–0.2*	–15.3*

(continued)

Table 2.10.19 (continued): Age-standardised hospitalisation rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 1998–99 to 2009–10 (a)

	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	Annual change(b)	Per cent change(c)
Rate difference(e)														
Males	12.5	11.8	11.3	14.2	13.0	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.7	12.2	12.0	12.1	–0.05	–4.1
Females	13.4	13.2	12.3	15.4	14.9	14.4	14.8	14.9	15.2	14.1	14.1	14.3	0.1	8.8
Persons	12.9	12.5	11.8	14.8	13.9	13.2	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.1	13.0	13.2	0.03	2.6

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the p < 0.05 level over the period 1998–99 to 2009–10.

(a) Data are reported by state/territory of usual residence of the patient hospitalised. Data are from public and most private hospitals. Data exclude private hospitals in the Northern Territory.

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

(c) Per cent change between 1998–99 and 2009–10 based on the average annual change over the period.

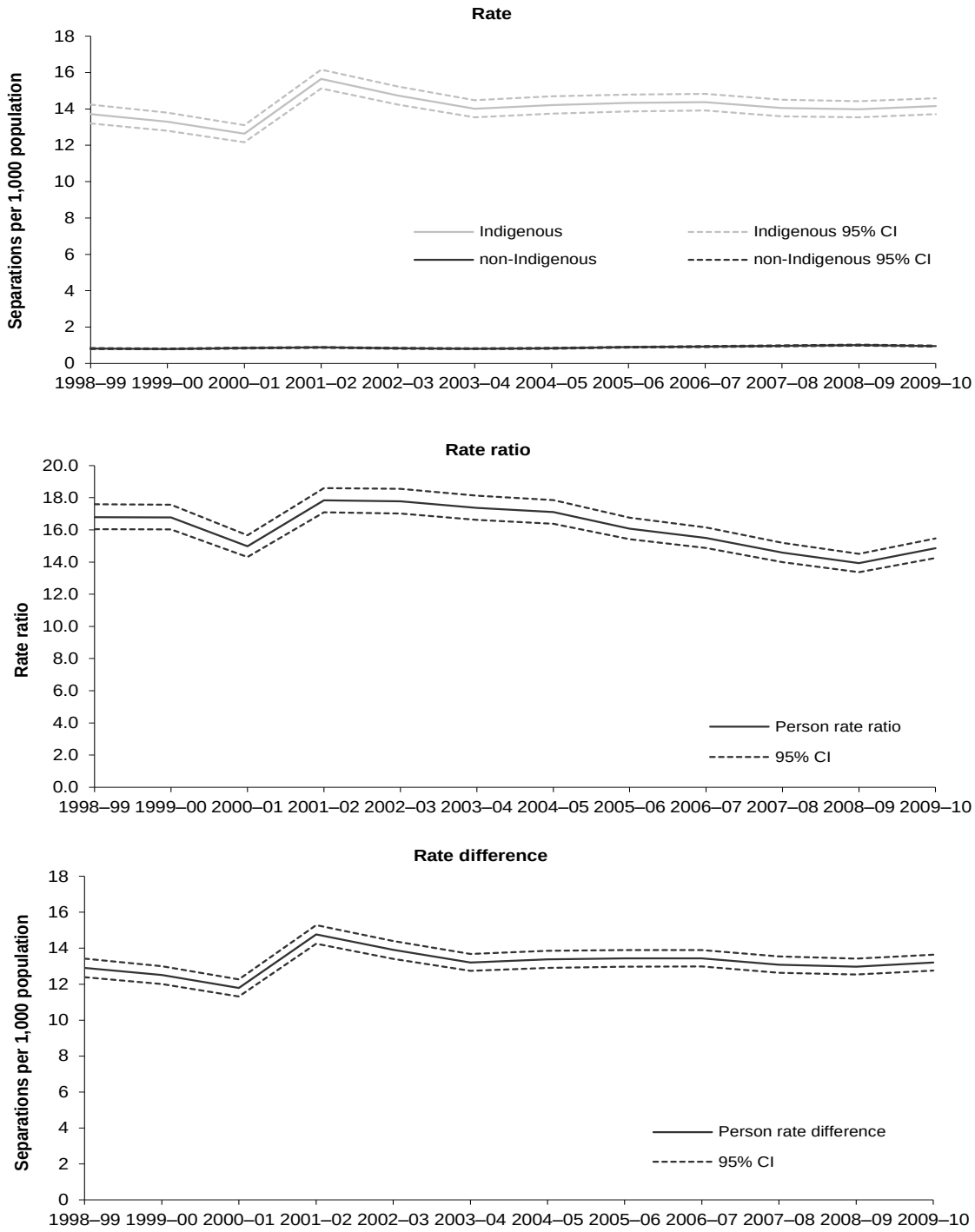
(d) Hospitalisation rates for Indigenous Australians divided by the hospitalisation rates for non-Indigenous Australians.

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

Notes

1. Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010). Causes of injury are based on the first reported external cause as 'assault' ICD–10–AM codes X85–Y09, where the principal diagnosis was 'injury and poisoning' (S00–T98).
2. Rates have been directly age-standardised using the 2001 Australian standard population.
3. Population estimates are based on 2006 census.
4. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded from analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.



Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Figure 2.10.1: Hospitalisation rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for a principal diagnosis of injury and poisoning and a first reported external cause of assault, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 1998-1999 to 2009-2010

Mortality

Table 2.10.20 and 2.10.21 present deaths from assault in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the 5-year period 2006–2010.

- Over the period 2006–2010, there were 178 deaths of Indigenous people from assault (homicide) in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined (Table 2.10.20). This represented approximately 1.6% of total deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in these states and territories.
- The mortality rate from assault was 8.6 per 100,000 population for Indigenous Australians, compared to 1.0 per 100,000 population for non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians in the five states and territories combined died from assault at 8.9 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.

Mortality by age and sex

- Mortality rates for assault was highest for Indigenous persons aged 35–44 (19 per 100,000 population), followed by 25–34 and 45–54 (13 per 100,000). For non-Indigenous persons, mortality rates for assault were highest amongst those aged 25–34 and 35–44 (1.4 per 100,000), followed by 45–54 (1.1 per 100,000). In these age groups, Indigenous Australians died from assault at between 9.6 and 13.6 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.10.20; Figure 2.10.2).
- For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, the mortality rate for assault among males was higher than among females. Indigenous males and females died from assault at around 8 and 11 times the rate of non-Indigenous males and females respectively (Table 2.10.21).

Table 2.10.20: Deaths from assault (homicide), by Indigenous status and age, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2006–2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)]

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous					
	Number	Age-specific rate. per 100,000[(f)]	95% LCL[(g)]	95% UCL[(h)]	Number	Age-specific rate. per 100,000[(g)]	95% LCL[(g)]	95% UCL[(h)]	Rate ratio[(i)]	Rate difference[(j)]
0–4	6	2.0	0.4	3.6	48	1.0	0.7	1.3	2.0	1.0
5–14	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19	0.2	0.1	0.3	n.p.	n.p.
15–24	31	6.5	4.2	8.8	105	1.0	0.8	1.2	6.3*	5.5*
25–34	44	13.1	9.2	16.9	141	1.4	1.1	1.6	9.6*	11.7*
35–44	56	18.6	13.7	23.5	147	1.4	1.2	1.6	13.6*	17.3*
45–54	28	13.0	8.2	17.8	110	1.1	0.9	1.3	12.2*	12.0*
55–64	7	5.8	1.5	10.1	76	0.9	0.7	1.1	6.5*	4.9*
65+	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	72	0.7	0.6	0.9	n.p.	n.p.
Total (crude)	**178**	**7.4**	**6.3**	**8.5**	**718**	**1.0**	**0.9**	**1.0**	**7.7***	**6.4***
Total (age standardised)[(k)]	**178**	**8.6**	**7.2**	**9.9**	**718**	**1.0**	**0.9**	**1.0**	**8.9***	**7.6***

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

(a) Data are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These five states and territories are currently considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data for these periods. Data for these five jurisdictions over-represent Indigenous populations in less urbanised and more remote locations. Mortality data for the five jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the experience in the other jurisdictions.

(b) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous mortality rate. It is also difficult to exactly identify the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous mortality rates because of these data quality issues.

(c) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.

(d) Care should be taken when interpreting mortality rates for Queensland due to recent changes in the timeliness of birth and death registrations. Queensland deaths data for 2010 have been adjusted to minimise the impact of late registration of deaths on mortality indicators.

(e) All causes of death data from 2007 onward are subject to a revisions process - once data for a reference year are 'final', they are no longer revised. Affected data in this table are: 2007 (final), 2008 (final), 2009 (revised) and 2010 (preliminary). See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information.

(f) Age-specific death rates for age groups calculated per 100,000 estimated resident population for selected age group.

(g) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(h) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(i) Rate ratio is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(j) Rate difference is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(k) Rates are directly age-standardised death rates per 100,000, using the 2001 Australian Estimated Resident population, by 5-year age group to 75+.

Notes

1. ICD–10 codes X85–Y09.
2. Deaths with not stated age have been excluded from the calculation of rates, but included in totals. Note that the ABS pro ratas not stated age across each age group in the calculation of mortality rates. This leads to some small differences in the mortality rates as calculated by ABS and AIHW.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.

Table 2.10.21: Deaths from assault (homicide), by Indigenous status and sex, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2006–2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)]

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous					
	Deaths	No. per 100,000[(f)]	95% LCL[(g)]	95% UCL[(h)]	Deaths	No. per 100,000[(f)]	95% LCL[(g)]	95% UCL[(h)]	Rate ratio[(i)]	Rate difference[(j)]
Males	101	10.3	8.1	12.5	481	1.3	1.2	1.4	8.0*	9.0*
Females	77	7.0	5.4	8.6	237	0.6	0.6	0.7	10.9*	6.3*
Persons	**178**	**8.6**	**7.2**	**9.9**	**718**	**1.0**	**0.9**	**1.0**	**8.9***	**7.6***

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

(a) Data are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These five states and territories are currently considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data for these periods. Data for these five jurisdictions over-represent Indigenous populations in less urbanised and more remote locations. Mortality data for the five jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the experience in the other jurisdictions.

(b) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous mortality rate. It is also difficult to exactly identify the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous mortality rates because of these data quality issues.

(c) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.

(d) Care should be taken when interpreting mortality rates for Queensland due to recent changes in the timeliness of birth and death registrations. Queensland deaths data for 2010 have been adjusted to minimise the impact of late registration of deaths on mortality indicators.

(e) All causes of death data from 2007 onward are subject to a revisions process - once data for a reference year are 'final', they are no longer revised. Affected data in this table are: 2007 (final), 2008 (final), 2009 (revised) and 2010 (preliminary). See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information.

(f) Rates are directly age-standardised death rates per 100,000, using the 2001 Australian Estimated Resident population, by 5-year age group to 75+.

(g) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(h) UCL = upper confidence limit.

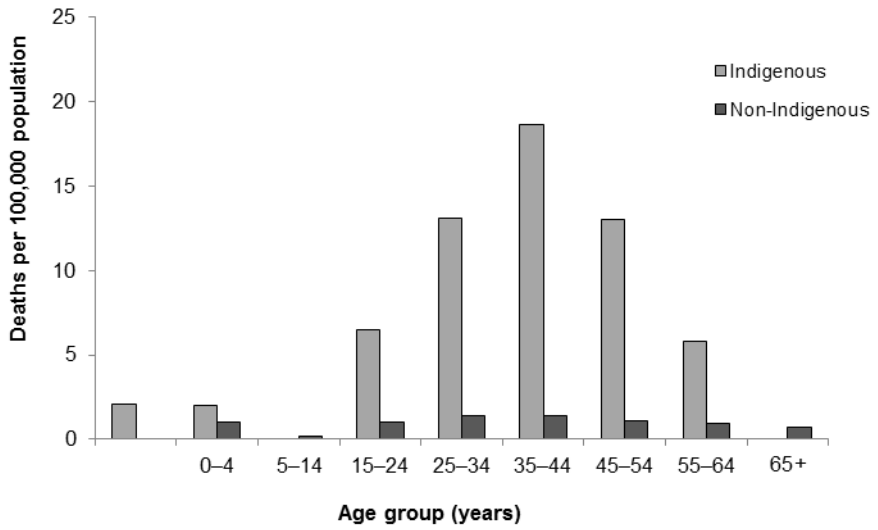
(i) Rate ratio is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(j) Rate difference is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

Notes

1. ICD–10 codes X85–Y09.
2. Deaths with not stated age have been excluded from the calculation of rates, but included in totals. Note that the ABS pro ratas not stated age across each age group in the calculation of mortality rates. This leads to some small differences in the mortality rates as calculated by ABS and AIHW.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database

Figure 2.10.2: Age-specific mortality rates for assault (homicide), by Indigenous status and age, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2006–2010

Mortality by state/territory

- During 2006–2010, in the Northern Territory, the age standardised mortality rate from assault among Indigenous Australians was 18 per 100,000, while in New South Wales, the rate was 3.8 per 100,000 (Table 2.10.22).
- The highest rate ratio of mortality from assault occurred in Western Australia, where Indigenous Australians died from assault at about 16 times the rate for non-Indigenous Australians. New South Wales had the lowest rate ratio, which was 3.8. Nationally, the rate ratio was 8.9. The highest rate difference (16.2 per 100,000) occurred in the Northern Territory. Nationally, the rate difference was 7.6 per 100,000 population.

Table 2.10.22: Deaths from assault (homicide), by Indigenous status, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2006–2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)]

	Indigenous					Non-Indigenous						
	Number	Crude rate[(g)]	No. per 100,000[(h)]	95% LCL[(i)]	95% UCL[(j)]	Number	Crude rate[(g)]	No. per 100,000[(h)]	95% LCL[(i)]	95% UCL[(j)]	Rate ratio[(k)]	Rate difference[(l)]
NSW	28	3.5	3.8	2.3	5.2	343	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	3.8*	2.8*
Qld	37	4.8	5.4	3.6	7.3	176	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.0	6.4*	4.6*
WA	44	12	15.0	10.2	19.9	102	1	1	0.8	1.1	15.7*	14.1*
SA	12	8.2	10.3	4.1	16.5	80	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.3	9.8*	9.2*
NT	57	17.2	18.4	13.5	23.4	17	2.2	2.2	1.0	3.4	8.4*	16.2*
NSW, Qld, WA, SA & NT	**178**	**7.4**	**8.6**	**7.2**	**9.9**	**718**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**0.9**	**1.0**	**8.9***	**7.6***

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

(a) Data are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These five states and territories are currently considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data for these periods. Data for these five jurisdictions over-represent Indigenous populations in less urbanised and more remote locations. Mortality data for the five jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the experience in the other jurisdictions.

(b) Data are presented in 5-year groupings because of small numbers each year.

(c) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous mortality rate. It is also difficult to exactly identify the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous mortality rates because of these data quality issues.

(d) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.

(e) Care should be taken when interpreting mortality rates for Queensland due to recent changes in the timeliness of birth and death registrations. Queensland deaths data for 2010 have been adjusted to minimise the impact of late registration of deaths on mortality indicators.

(f) All causes of death data from 2007 onward are subject to a revisions process - once data for a reference year are 'final', they are no longer revised. Affected data in this table are: 2007 (final), 2008 (final), 2009 (revised) and 2010 (preliminary). See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information.

(g) Rates are crude rates per 100,000 population.

(h) Rates are directly age-standardised death rates per 100,000, using the 2001 Australian Estimated Resident population, by 5-year age group to 75+.

(i) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(j) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(k) Rate ratio is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(l) Rate difference is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

Notes

1. ICD–10 codes X85–Y09.
2. Deaths with not stated age have been excluded from the calculation of rates, but included in totals. Note that the ABS pro ratas not stated age across each age group in the calculation of mortality rates. This leads to some small differences in the mortality rates as calculated by ABS and AIHW.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.

Time series analyses

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

There is a consistent time series of population estimates from 1991. Because of changes in the classification and coding of causes of death from ICD–9 (used up until 1996) to ICD–10 (used from 1997 onwards) which affect the comparability of the data, the analysis reported for this indicator has been undertaken for two time periods—1991–1996 and 1997–2010. Data are presented in 3-year or 4-year groupings because of low numbers of deaths from assault each year.

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

Mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and other Australians for assault over the periods 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2009–2010 are presented in Table 2.10.23 and Figure 2.10.3. Mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences between Indigenous and other Australians for assault over the period 2001–2002 to 2009–2010 are presented in Table 2.10.24 and Figure 2.10.4.

- For the two time periods 1991–1993 and 1994–1996, the mortality rate from assault for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined was 25.0 and 18.6 per 100,000 respectively. For other Australians, the mortality rate for assault was 1.5 per 100,000 in 1991–1993 and 1.7 per 100,000 in 1994–1996 (Table 2.10.23).
- Over the period 1997–1999 to 2009–2010, there was a non-significant increase in the mortality rates from assault for Indigenous Australians and a non-significant decline in mortality rates from assault for other Australians (Table 2.10.23).

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

Table 2.10.23: Age-standardised mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences for deaths from assault (homicide), WA, SA and NT, 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2009–2010[a][b][c][d]

	Indigenous				Other[e]					
	Number	No. per 100,000[f]	95% LCL[g]	95% LCL[h]	Number	No. per 100,000[f]	95% LCL[g]	95% LCL[h]	Rate ratio[i]	Rate difference[j]
1991–1996										
1991–1993	78	25.0	19.5	30.5	147	1.5	1.3	1.7	16.2	23.5
1994–1996	66	18.6	14.1	23.1	171	1.7	1.4	2.0	10.9	16.9
Difference in rates[k]	. .	–6.4	. .	. .	. .	0.2	. .	. .	. .	. .
1997–2010										
1997–1999	39	9.7	6.7	12.7	156	1.5	1.3	1.7	6.3	8.2
2000–2003	101	18.8	15.1	22.5	171	1.2	1	1.4	15.3	17.5
2004–2006	51	11.9	8.4	15.43	97	0.9	0.7	1.1	13.3	11.0
2007–2008[d]	44	15.7	10.6	20.8	83	1.1	0.9	1.3	14.4	14.6
2009–2010	46	15	10.5	19.5	87	1.1	0.9	1.3	13.8	13.9
Annual change[l]	**–1.3**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**–7.9***	**–0.04**	**–0.04***	**0.0**	**0.5**	**0.3**
Per cent change over period[m]	**–40.7**	**32.8**	**20.5**	**39.3**	**–60.9***	**–28.5**	**–35.6***	**–23.0**	**99.0**	**44.5**

(continued)

Table 2.10.23 (continued): Age-standardised mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences for deaths from assault (homicide), WA, SA and NT, 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2009–2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)]

* Represents statistically significant differences at the p < 0.05 level over the periods 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2009–2010.

(a) Data are reported for Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These three jurisdictions are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data for the time periods shown. They do not represent a quasi-Australian figure.

(b) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous mortality rate. It is also difficult to exactly identify the difference between the Indigenous and other mortality rates because of these data quality issues.

(c) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.

(d) All causes of death data from 2007 onward are subject to a revisions process - once data for a reference year are 'final', they are no longer revised. Affected data in this table are: 2007 (final), 2008 (final), 2009 (revised) and 2010 (preliminary). See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information.

(e) Other includes non-Indigenous and Indigenous not stated.

(f) Rates are directly age-standardised death rates per 100,000, using the 2001 Australian Estimated Resident population, by 5-year age group to 75+.

(g) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(h) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(i) Rate ratio is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for other Australians.

(j) Rate difference is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for other Australians.

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

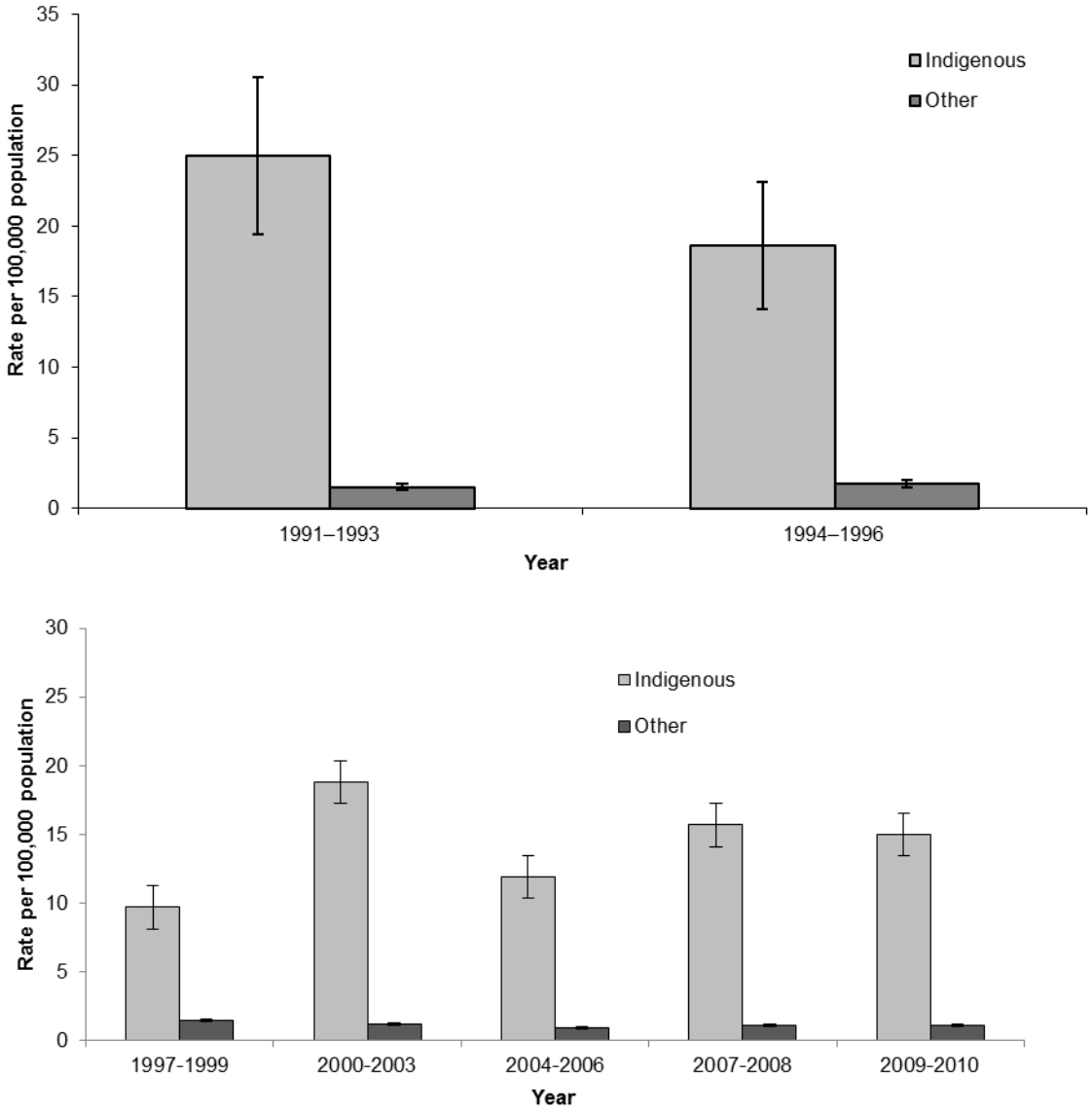
(l) Average annual change in rates, rate ratios and rate differences determined using linear regression analysis over the periods 1997–2010.

(m) Per cent change between 1997 and 2010 based on the average annual change over the period.

Notes

1. 1991–1996 ICD9 codes E960–E969, 1997–2010 ICD–10 codes X85–Y09.
2. Deaths with not stated age have been excluded from the calculation of rates, but included in totals. Note that the ABS pro ratas not stated age across each age group in the calculation of mortality rates. This leads to some small differences in the mortality rates as calculated by ABS and AIHW.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.



Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database

Figure 2.10.3: Age-standardised mortality rates from assault (homicide), by Indigenous status, 1991–1993 to 1994–1996 and 1997–1999 to 2009–2010

Additional trends analysis has been presented for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined from 2001–2002 to 2009–2010 for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in Table 2.10.24 and Figure 2.10.5. Data are presented in 2-year groupings because of low numbers of deaths from assault each year. Queensland has had adequate identification of Indigenous deaths in its recording systems since 1998, and these have been compared with those of non-Indigenous Australians (excluding deaths for which Indigenous status was not stated).

- Over the period 2001–2002 to 2009–2010 in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined, there was a non-significant decline in mortality rates from assault for Indigenous Australians; and a significant decline for non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.10.24).
- There was no significant change in the mortality rate ratio or rate difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians over the period 2001 to 2010 (Table 2.10.24).

Table 2.10.24: Age-standardised mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences for deaths from assault (homicide), NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2001–2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)]

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2009–2010	Annual change[(g)]	Per cent change[(h)]
Indigenous deaths per 100,000[(i)]							
Males	11.4	9.6	10.8	9.8	9.5	–0.2	–13.6
Females	8.8	4.2	5.9	8.7	5.7	–0.1	–7.9
Persons	10.0	6.9	8.3	9.2	7.6	–0.1	–11.6
Non-Indigenous deaths per 100,000[(i)]							
Males	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.2	–0.05*	–25.9*
Females	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.0	–29.1
Persons	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	–0.04*	–27.0*
Rate ratio[(k)]							
Males	6.7	7.1	8.8	7.8	7.6	0.1	16.8
Females	9.5	6.8	9.2	13.3	9.5	0.3	30.6
Persons	7.7	7.0	8.9	9.6	8.2	0.2	21.1
Rate difference[(l)]							
Males	9.7	8.3	9.6	8.6	8.3	–0.1	–11.5
Females	7.8	3.6	5.3	8.0	5.1	0.0	–5.4
Persons	8.7	5.9	7.3	8.2	6.7	–0.1	–9.2

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the $p < 0.05$ level over the period 2001–2002 to 2009–2010.

(a) Data are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These five states and territories are considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data. Data for these five jurisdictions over-represent Indigenous populations in less urbanised and more remote locations. Mortality data for the five jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the experience in the other jurisdictions.

(b) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous mortality rate. It is also difficult to exactly identify the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous mortality rates because of these data quality issues.

(c) Data are presented in 2-year groupings because of small numbers each year.

(d) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.

(e) Care should be taken when interpreting mortality rates for Queensland due to recent changes in the timeliness of birth and death registrations. Queensland deaths data for 2010 have been adjusted to minimise the impact of late registration of deaths on mortality indicators.

(f) All causes of death data from 2007 onward are subject to a revisions process - once data for a reference year are 'final', they are no longer revised. Affected data in this table are: 2007 (final), 2008 (final), 2009 (revised) and 2010 (preliminary). See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information.

(g) Average annual change in rates, rate ratios and rate differences determined using linear regression analysis over the periods 2001–2010.

(h) Per cent change between 2001 and 2010 based on the average annual change over the period.

(i) Rates are directly age-standardised death rates per 100,000, using the 2001 Australian Estimated Resident population, by 5-year age group to 75+.

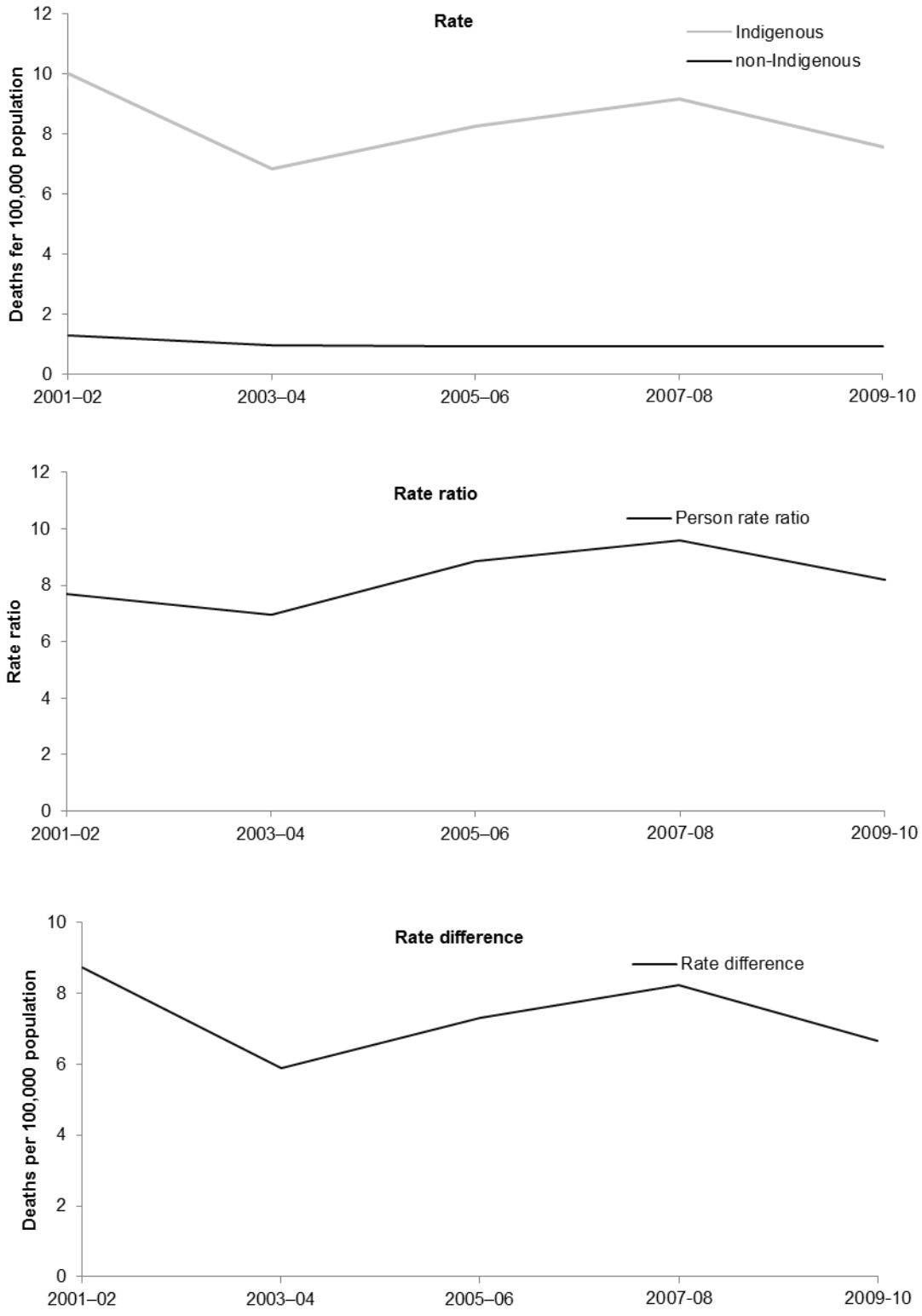
(j) Rate ratio is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(k) Rate difference is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

Notes

1. ICD–10 codes X85–Y09.
2. Deaths with not stated age have been excluded from the calculation of rates, but included in totals. Note that the ABS pro ratas not stated age across each age group in the calculation of mortality rates. This leads to some small differences in the mortality rates as calculated by ABS and AIHW.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.



Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database

Figure 2.10.4: Mortality rates, rate ratios and rate differences for deaths from assault (homicide) between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2001–2002 to 2009–2010

Victims of homicide

The National Homicide Monitoring Program collects data on all homicides recorded in Australia. Table 2.10.25 presents data from 1998 to 2010 as four periods of 3-financial years.

- In general, over the four 3-year periods from 1998–99 to 2000–01 until 2007–08 to 2009–10, the number of deaths from homicide decreased for Indigenous Australians (from 134 in 1998–99 to 2000–01, to 99 in 2007–08 to 2009–10) and non-Indigenous Australians (from 864 in 1998–99 to 2000–01, to 686 in 2007–08 to 2009–10) (Table 1.10.25).
- In 2007–08 to 2009–10, 12% of persons who died from homicide were Indigenous Australians. This was the lowest over the four periods. The highest occurred in in 2004–05 to 2006–07 at 14%.
- Most of the deaths from homicide were caused by male offenders (about 80% for Indigenous and 90% for non-Indigenous).
- For Indigenous Australians, in most of cases of homicide, both the offender and the victim were not working (unemployed/not in the labour force), ranging from 76% in 2007–08 to 2009–10, to 88% in 2004–05 to 2006–07. For non-Indigenous Australians, the proportions ranged from 39% in 2007–08 to 2009–10, to 47% in 1998–99 to 2001–02.
- For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, most of the homicides happened between intimate partners, family members, friends and acquaintances (around 90% for Indigenous and 80% for non-Indigenous).

Table 2.10.25: Victims of homicide for all jurisdictions where data are available, by Indigenous status, with selected data on circumstances surrounding the homicide[a], 1998–99 to 2009–10

	1998–99 to 2000–2001				2001–02 to 2003–04				2004–05 to 2006–07				2007–08 to 2009–10			
	Indig.		Non-Indig.		Indig.		Non-Indig.		Indig.		Non-Indig.		Indig.		Non-Indig.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sex[b]																
Male victim/ male offender	49	38.9	394	55.6	51	41.8	433	55.2	47	41.6	372	56.1	36	37.1	370	58.5
Female victim/ male offender	50	39.7	244	34.5	43	35.2	252	32.1	38	33.6	195	29.4	38	39.2	195	30.8
Male victim/ female offender	20	15.9	59	8.3	25	20.5	68	8.7	21	18.6	70	10.6	15	15.5	47	7.4
Female victim/ female offender	7	5.6	31	4.4	3	2.5	31	4.0	7	6.2	26	3.9	8	8.2	21	3.3
Total	**126**	**100.0**	**728**	**102.8**	**122**	**100.0**	**784**	**100.0**	**113**	**100.0**	**663**	**100.0**	**97**	**100.0**	**633**	**100.0**
Employment status[b]																
Offender & victim both working	2	1.7	83	13.3	3	2.9	131	20.8	1	1.3	103	21.7	2	3.6	97	23.7
Neither working	97	83.6	293	47.0	81	79.4	257	40.7	67	88.2	207	43.7	42	76.4	160	39.0
Offender working only	5	4.3	100	16.1	10	9.8	112	17.7	4	5.3	71	15.0	7	12.7	65	15.9
victim working only	12	10.3	147	23.6	8	7.8	131	20.8	4	5.3	93	19.6	4	7.3	88	21.5
Total	**116**	**100.0**	**623**	**100.0**	**102**	**100.0**	**631**	**100.0**	**76**	**100.0**	**474**	**100.0**	**55**	**100.0**	**410**	**100.0**
Circumstance																
Domestic altercation	56	42.7	164	21.1	47	36.4	172	20.6	24	21.2	127	19.7	41	53.2	123	22.4
Alcohol-related argument	41	31.3	62	8.0	32	24.8	82	9.8	27	23.9	75	11.6	14	18.2	60	10.9
Other argument	9	6.9	117	15.0	12	9.3	124	14.9	15	13.3	86	13.3	8	10.4	95	17.3
Other	17	13.0	347	44.6	21	16.3	336	40.3	29	25.7	249	38.6	9	11.7	191	34.7
No apparent motive/unknown	8	6.1	88	11.3	17	13.2	120	14.4	18	15.9	108	16.7	5	6.5	81	14.7
Total	**131**	**100.0**	**778**	**100.0**	**129**	**100.0**	**834**	**100.0**	**113**	**100.0**	**645**	**100.0**	**77**	**100.0**	**550**	**100.0**

(continued)

Table 2.10.25 (continued): Victims of homicide for all jurisdictions where data are available, by Indigenous status, with selected data on circumstances surrounding the homicide[a], 1998–99 to 2009–10

	1998–99 to 2000–01				2001–02 to 2003–04				2004–05 to 2006–07				2007–08 to 2009–10			
	Indig.		Non-Indig.		Indig.		Non-Indig.		Indig.		Non-Indig.		Indig.		Non-Indig.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Victim–offender relationship[c]																
Intimate partners and other family	76	56.7	276	31.9	81	59.1	352	40.1	73	64.0	284	40.0	61	61.6	270	39.4
Friends & acquaintances	46	34.3	345	39.9	33	24.1	316	36.0	32	28.1	263	37.0	27	27.3	243	35.4
Strangers	4	3.0	103	11.9	8	5.8	102	11.6	6	5.3	110	15.5	4	4.0	94	13.7
Other relationship	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	8	6.0	140	16.2	15	10.9	107	12.2	3	2.6	53	7.5	7	7.1	79	11.5
Total	**134**	**100.0**	**864**	**100.0**	**137**	**100.0**	**877**	**100.0**	**114**	**100.0**	**710**	**100.0**	**99**	**100.0**	**686**	**100.0**
Total[d]	**134**	**13.4**	**864**	**86.6**	**137**	**13.5**	**877**	**86.5**	**114**	**13.8**	**710**	**86.2**	**99**	**12.6**	**686**	**87.4**

(a) Where an offender has been identified.

(b) Where a victim is killed by more than one offender, only the gender and employment status of the first recorded offender is used. Each victim is counted once only.

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

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

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, National Homicide Monitoring Program, 1998–2010 data.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 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).

Community safety and family violence data

The sensitive nature of many of the issues surrounding community safety could also influence responses to these questions. Any data that are self-reported are likely to underestimate circumstances in which the respondent may feel frightened or ashamed or be unwilling to admit to the data collector, such as experience of family violence involvement

with the police. Any such self-reported figures are likely to underestimate the occurrence of the circumstance in question.

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

National Hospital Morbidity Database

The scope of the NMDS is episodes of care for admitted patients in essentially all hospitals in Australia, including public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals, free-standing day hospital facilities, alcohol and drug treatment hospitals and dental hospitals. Hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and in Australia's off-shore territories are not included. Hospitals specialising in ophthalmic aids and other specialised acute medical or surgical care are included. The NHMD does not include episodes of non-admitted patient care provided in outpatient clinics or emergency departments.

For 2009–10 almost all public hospitals provided data for the NHMD, with the exception of all separations for a mothercraft hospital in the Australian Capital Territory and about 2,400 separations for one public hospital in Western Australia. The majority of private hospitals provided data, with the exception of the private day hospital facilities in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. In addition, Western Australia was not able to provide about 10,600 separations for one private hospital.

Separations

Data are a count of hospital separations (episodes of admitted patient care, which can be a total hospital stay or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care) and not patients. Patients who separated from hospital more than once in the year will be counted more than once in the data set.

The number and pattern of hospitalisations can be affected by differing admission practices among the jurisdictions and from year to year, and differing levels and patterns of service delivery.

Separations with care types of *Newborn* episodes that did not include qualified days, and records for *Hospital boarders* and *Posthumous organ procurement* have been excluded as these activities are not considered to be admitted patient care.

Indigenous status question

Some jurisdictions have slightly different approaches to the collection and storage of the standard Indigenous status question and categories in their hospital collections.

Approximately 2% of hospital records have missing Indigenous status information.

Hospitalisations for which the Indigenous status of the patient was not reported are excluded from hospitalisations data for non-Indigenous Australians, apart from Western Australia where records with an unknown status are recorded as non-Indigenous.

Under-identification

The incompleteness of Indigenous identification means the number of hospital separations recorded as Indigenous is an underestimate of hospitalisations involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2007, the AIHW completed an assessment of the level of Indigenous under-identification in selected public hospitals in all states and territories. Results from this assessment indicate that New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory have adequate Indigenous

identification (20% or less overall under-identification of Indigenous patients) in their hospital separations data.

It has therefore been recommended that reporting of Indigenous hospital separations data be limited to aggregated information from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Interpretation of results should take into account the relative quality of the data from the jurisdictions. The proportion of the Indigenous population covered by these six jurisdictions is 96%. Tasmania and ACT data are presented at the State/Territory level and should be used with caution, but they are not aggregated with the other 6 jurisdictions.

From the AIHW study, it was possible to produce correction factors for the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital data for each jurisdiction and at the national level. Adjustments for Indigenous under-identification have been made at the national level for the total number of hospital separations using an adjustment factor of 89%. No adjustments for under-identification have been made at the state/territory level or principal diagnosis level.

The 2007 AIHW study indicated acceptable levels of Indigenous identification for all remoteness areas, ranging from 80% in *Major cities* to 97% in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas. The quality of data supports analyses for hospitalisations by remoteness areas at the national level only (AIHW 2010).

In 2011–12, the AIHW commenced another study to re-assess the level of under-identification in public hospitals data. All states and territories have participated in the study to assess improvements in data quality. A report on the findings is expected to be published in mid-2013 which will include new correction factors for the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital separations data at the national, state/territory and remoteness levels.

Numerator and denominator

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

Mortality data

Mortality data presented in this report are from the AIHW National Mortality Database. The AIHW National Mortality Database includes information on the factors that caused death, as well as other information about the deceased person, such as age at death, place of death, country of birth, and where applicable, the circumstances of their death. These data are collected in Australia by the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory. The data are then compiled nationally by the ABS, which codes the data according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

Deaths

Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased.

Qld deaths

In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010**.**

Western Australia deaths

Indigenous deaths registered in Western Australia in 2007, 2008 and 2009 were corrected by the ABS in mid-2012 due to some non-Indigenous deaths being incorrectly recorded as Indigenous for these years. Data presented in this report are based on the corrected data and will differ from mortality data presented in the 2010 Health Performance Framework report which presented data prior to the ABS corrections.

Indigenous status question

All jurisdictions comply with the standard wording for the Indigenous status question and categories for their death registration forms.

Under-identification

At present, there is considerable variation across the states and territories in the completeness of mortality data for Indigenous people. Information concerning the number of deaths of Indigenous people is limited by the accuracy with which Indigenous persons are identified in death records. Problems associated with identification result in an underestimation of deaths of Indigenous people and in the gap in mortality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Mortality data for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory are considered to have sufficient coverage to produce reliable statistics on Indigenous Australian deaths for the period 2001–2010.

Longer term mortality trend data are limited to three jurisdictions (Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory) which are considered to have adequate identification from 1991. Queensland is considered to have sufficient coverage of Indigenous deaths from 1998.

The quality of the time series data is also influenced by the late inclusion of a 'not stated' category for Indigenous status in 1998. Before this time, the 'not stated' responses were probably included with the non-Indigenous.

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

Indigenous Mortality Quality Study

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

death registration records for the 11-month period following the Census and examined differences in the reporting of Indigenous status across the two data sets.

For the purpose of this study, the linked record was assumed to be an Indigenous record if a positive response was recorded against the Indigenous status question on either the death registration or the corresponding Census record. Following linkage, the number of death records identified as Indigenous increased from 1,800 to 2,123 records, or from 1.7% to 2.0% of all registered deaths.

'While 323 additional death records were able to be identified as Indigenous from Census records, more may have been expected if all death records had been linked. A key reason records could not be linked appears to be Census undercount, with a corresponding Census record not existing to link to for many Indigenous death records' (ABS 2008).

The results from the study suggested that coverage of Indigenous deaths in death registrations is considerably higher, at least in 2006–07, than previous estimates have indicated. Nationally, the coverage rate was estimated to be 85%. State/territory coverage estimates were: New South Wales 76%, Victoria 74%, Queensland 87%, South Australia 86%, Western Australia 92% and Northern Territory 99% (ABS 2008).

Numerator and denominator

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

National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP)

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

List of symbols used in tables

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

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2.11 Contact with criminal justice system

The prevalence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison custody, other contact with the criminal justice system, including police custody and juvenile justice, and relationships with health and social factors.

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the National Prison Census, the National Deaths in Custody Program annual report, the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia survey and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set and the National Prisoner Health Census.

National Prisoner Census

The ABS collects data from administrative records on persons in prison custody on 30 June each year in all jurisdictions. This Census includes all prisoners in adult corrective services, but not persons in juvenile institutions, psychiatric care or police. The Census collects information on the number of people in custody, legal status (sentenced or unsentenced), prior imprisonment, the most serious offence committed and length of sentence.

Most jurisdictions collect Indigenous status from individual prisoners. It is uncommon for corrective services agencies to collect Indigenous status from anyone other than the prisoners themselves. However, the accuracy of these data has not been assessed.

Deaths in Custody Australia

As a requirement of the Deaths in Custody Royal Commission, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) collects data on deaths in custody each year for all jurisdictions. Data collected include custodial authority (police, prison, juvenile justice/welfare), legal status (sentenced or unsentenced), cause of death, manner of death, location of death and most serious offence.

Indigenous status is determined by previous self-identification to prison authorities.

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) Survey

DUMA is an annual survey which has been conducted by the AIC since 1999 at some locations across Australia. The survey reports on drug use among police detainees at selected police stations. The survey is by a voluntary questionnaire and drug use is confirmed by a urine sample provided by the detainee.

The number of detainees questioned is quite low and thus includes a very small Indigenous sample. The Indigenous status of the detainee is established by the following question: 'What is your ethnic background?' (if the respondent mentions 'Australian' but not 'Aboriginal', prompt: 'Do you consider yourself an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?').

Analysis is presented by state/territory, as the figures do not permit national coverage.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

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 social issues 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.

Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set

The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set is held by the AIHW and contains data on young people under juvenile justice supervision in the community and in detention. These data are collected by the AIHW from the departments in each state and territory with responsibility for juvenile justice.

The JJ NMDS was initially developed between 2002 and 2004 and the first report containing data from the JJ NMDS was published in 2006. This first version of the JJ NMDS, contained information on only the most serious supervised legal arrangement or order for each young person under juvenile justice supervision. In 2009, the JJ NMDS was redeveloped to capture all supervised legal arrangements and orders for young people under juvenile justice supervision, rather than only the most serious one. This version of the JJ NMDS (known as JJ NMDS 2009) allows for a more complete analysis of the numbers and types of supervised orders that juvenile justice agencies administer.

National Prisoner Health Census

In 2010 the AIHW conducted the second National Prisoner Health Census. This census collected information from prisoners during a two week period in all states and territories except New South Wales and Victoria. It includes information on the health of prisoners at the time of entry to prisons, their use of health services while in prison, as well as some information on the prison environment. The Census data was used in compiling a report on indicators of the health of prisoners.

Most jurisdictions collect Indigenous status information from individual prisoners. It is uncommon for corrective services agencies to collect Indigenous status from anyone other than the prisoner themselves. The accuracy of this data has not been assessed.

Data analyses

People in prison custody

Data on Indigenous people in prison custody come from the ABS National Prison Census which collected information about persons held in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2011. These data are published in the ABS publication *Prisoners in Australia 2011* (ABS 2011).

- As at 30 June 2011, there were 7,655 Indigenous prisoners (7,639 aged 18 years and over) recorded in the National Prison Census (Table 2.11.1).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, the age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Indigenous persons was 1,868 per 100,000 adult population compared with 130 per 100,000 adult population for non-Indigenous prisoners, making Indigenous people 14 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2009 (Table 2.11.2).
- Indigenous Australians were imprisoned at a crude rate of 2,248 per 100,000 (Table 2.11.2).

People in prison custody by age and sex

- The median age of Indigenous prisoners was 32 years compared with 37 years for non-Indigenous prisoners (Table 2.11.1).
- Imprisonment rates were highest among those aged 25–29 and 20–24 in the Indigenous population and among those aged 25–29 and 30–34 in the non-Indigenous population.
- Approximately 92% of the total Indigenous prisoners were male, and 8% were female. Imprisonment rates were much higher for Indigenous males than Indigenous females (4228 per 100,000 compared with 358 per 100,000). The non-Indigenous proportions of prisoners are similar, 93% are male, 7% are female, however the crude rates are lower 237 and 16 per 100,000 respectively (Table 2.11.1).

People in prison custody by state/territory

- Western Australia and South Australia recorded the highest age-standardised ratios of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates of imprisonment, with Indigenous persons being 18 and 17 times as likely to be in prison as non-Indigenous Australians in these jurisdictions respectively (Table 2.11.2).

Table 2.11.1: People in prison custody, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 30 June 2011

	Males			Females			Persons				
Age group (years)	No.	%	Rate per 100,000	No.	%	Rate per 100,000	No.	%	Rate per 100,000	Rate ratio[a]	Rate difference[b]
						Indigenous					
Under 18	13	0.2	173.2	3	0.5	41.4	16	0.2	108.5	12.5	99.8
18	153	2.2	2,296.6	10	1.6	161.3	163	2.1	1,267.3	21.2	1,207.4
19	217	3.1	3,322.6	15	2.4	241.2	232	3.0	1,819.6	15.4	1,701.5
20–24	1,495	21.3	5,319.3	105	16.9	386.1	1,600	20.9	2,893.2	15.2	2,702.6
25–29	1,525	21.7	6,809.3	148	23.8	673.5	1,673	21.9	3,770.5	16.6	3,543.0
30–34	1,201	17.1	6,685.6	106	17.0	574.2	1,307	17.1	3,588.3	15.1	3,350.8
35–39	1,035	14.7	5,976.1	120	19.3	654.4	1,155	15.1	3,239.2	16.1	3,037.4
40–44	695	9.9	4,320.3	68	10.9	381.1	763	10.0	2,248.7	13.6	2,083.1
45–49	401	5.7	2,874.6	30	4.8	194.9	431	5.6	1,468.7	11.8	1,344.3
50–54	165	2.3	1,440.4	11	1.8	87.1	176	2.3	730.7	8.4	644.2
55–59	79	1.1	877.6	6	1.0	61.2	85	1.1	451.9	7.3	389.6
60–64	32	0.5	509.8	0	0.0	0.0	32	0.4	239.0	9.4	213.5
65 and over	22	0.3	254.2	0	0.0	0.0	22	0.3	110.1	6.2	92.2
Total (crude)	**7,033**	**100.0**	**4,227.5**	**623**	**100.0**	**357.5**	**7,655**	**100.0**	**2,247.2**	**18.0**	**2,122.1**
Total (Age-standardised)[c]	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**. .**	**. .**	**1,867.6**	**14.3**	**1,737.4**
Mean age	32.0	. .	. .	32.4	. .	. .	32.1	. .	. .	. .	. .
Median age	30.4	. .	. .	31.6	. .	. .	30.5	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.11.1 (continued): People in prison custody, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 30 June 2011

	Males			Females			Persons				
Age group (years)	No.	%	Rate per 100,000	No.	%	Rate per 100,000	No.	%	Rate per 100,000	Rate ratio[a]	Rate difference[b]
						Non-Indigenous					
Under 18	26	0.1	17.0	0	0.0	0.0	26	0.1	8.7	. .	. .
18	168	0.8	112.7	6	0.4	4.2	174	0.8	59.9	. .	. .
19	342	1.7	222.4	12	0.9	8.2	354	1.7	118.1	. .	. .
20–24	2,923	14.6	354.2	132	9.4	17.0	3,055	14.3	190.6	. .	. .
25–29	3,351	16.7	403.1	211	15.0	26.1	3,562	16.6	227.5	. .	. .
30–34	3,362	16.8	440.8	283	20.2	37.3	3,645	17.0	237.5	. .	. .
35–39	2,919	14.6	376.0	215	15.3	27.4	3,134	14.6	201.8	. .	. .
40–44	2,354	11.8	305.8	196	14.0	25.2	2,550	11.9	165.6	. .	. .
45–49	1,719	8.6	225.2	143	10.2	18.5	1,862	8.7	124.4	. .	. .
50–54	1,101	5.5	152.0	106	7.6	14.3	1,207	5.6	86.5	. .	. .
55–59	740	3.7	112.9	54	3.9	8.1	794	3.7	62.3	. .	. .
60–64	496	2.5	81.5	20	1.4	3.2	516	2.4	25.5	. .	. .
65 and over	525	2.6	37.4	24	1.7	1.5	549	2.6	17.9	. .	. .
Total (crude)	**20,026**	**100.0**	**236.9**	**1,402**	**100.0**	**16.2**	**21,428**	**100.0**	**125.1**	**. .**	**. .**
Total (Age-standardised)[c]	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**. .**	**. .**	**130.2**	**. .**	**. .**
Mean age	36.8	. .	. .	37.9	. .	. .	36.8	. .	. .	. .	. .
Median age	34.8	. .	. .	36.3	. .	. .	34.9	. .	. .	. .	. .

(a) Rate ratio is the Indigenous age-standardised rate divided by the non-Indigenous age-standardised rate.

(b) Rate difference is the Indigenous age-standardised rate minus the non-Indigenous age-standardised rate.

(c) Data are age standardised by the 2001 Australian standard population.

Source: ABS 2011.

Table 2.11.2: People in prison custody, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 30 June 2011

	Indigenous					Non-Indigenous					
	Number					Number					
	Males	Females	Persons	Crude rate[a]	Age-standardised rate[b]	Males	Females	Persons	Age-standardised rate[b]	Rate ratio[c]	Rate difference[d]
NSW	2,083	211	2,294	2,350.9	1,985.2	7,239	489	7,728	146.4	13.6	1,838.8
Vic	276	18	294	1,320.7	1,155.2	4,142	299	4,441	105.4	11.0	1,049.8
Qld	1,510	140	1,650	1,693.2	1,397.0	3,646	273	3,919	118.6	11.8	1,278.4
SA	449	32	481	2,633.9	2,209.3	1,455	90	1,545	132.3	16.7	2,077.0
WA	1,618	157	1,775	3,809.9	3,105.7	2,678	198	2,876	170.1	18.3	2,935.6
Tas	65	3	68	605.2	486.3	405	29	434	133.5	3.6	352.8
NT	992	49	1,041	2,418.6	2,028.4	222	9	231	181.7	11.2	1,846.7
ACT	44	3	47	1,455.8	1,116.7	237	13	250	87.5	12.8	1,029.2
Aust.	**7,037**	**613**	**7,650**	**2,247.5**	**1,867.6**	**20,024**	**1,400**	**21,424**	**130.2**	**14.3**	**1,737.4**

(a) Number per 100,000 adult population.

(b) Number per 100,000 adult population directly age standardised to 2001 Australian standard population.

(c) Rate ratio is the Indigenous age-standardised rate divided by the non-Indigenous age-standardised rate.

(d) Rate difference is the Indigenous age-standardised rate minus the non-Indigenous age-standardised rate.

(e) The total number of Indigenous Australian counted in this table is different with the total number of Indigenous Australia counted by age groups in table 2.11.1. This lead s to a smidgen different in the crude rate reported in this table.

Source: ABS 2011.

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People in prison custody by legal status and most serious offence/charge

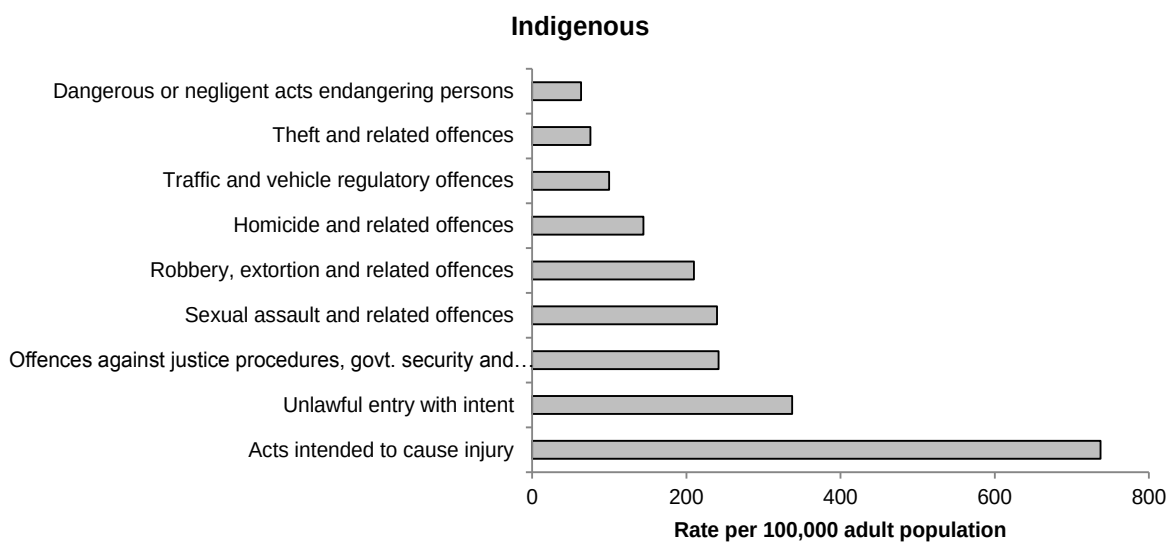
- As at 30 June 2011, approximately 76% of Indigenous prisoners had a prior imprisonment under sentence, compared with 48% of non-Indigenous prisoners (Table 2.11.3).
- The most common offences for Indigenous prisoners were acts intended to cause injury and unlawful entry with intent, being the most serious offences for 32% and 15% or all Indigenous prisoners respectively.
- For non-Indigenous prisoners the most common offences were illicit drug offences and acts intended to cause injury, each accounting for 15% of all imprisonments. Illicit drug offences were recorded as the most serious offence for only 1.4% of Indigenous prisoners.
- Indigenous prisoners were also less likely than non-Indigenous prisoners to have homicide recorded as the most serious offence (6% compared with 11%).
- Indigenous Australians were taken into prison custody for acts intended to cause injury and unlawful entry with intent at rates of 749 and 320 per 100,000 adult population respectively (Figure 2.11.1).
- Non-Indigenous Australians were taken into prison custody for acts intended to cause injury and unlawful entry with intent at rates of 19 and 13 per 100,000 adult population respectively (Figure 2.11.2).

Table 2.11.3: People in prison custody, by Indigenous status, legal status and most serious offence/charge and prior imprisonment[(a)], 30 June 2011

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	No.	Prior %	No.	Prior %
Sentenced	5,848	76.2	16,510	48.7
Unsentenced	1,808	68.5	4,915	44.1
Acts intended to cause injury	2,480	75.8	3,108	50.8
Unlawful entry with intent	1,135	78.4	2,106	75.6
Offences against justice procedures, govt. security and operations	814	88.3	2,106	62.9
Sexual assault and related offences	806	59.6	2,856	26.3
Robbery, extortion and related offences	706	68.4	2,088	57.4
Homicide and related offences	486	58.0	2,346	31.5
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	336	85.7	622	67.5
Theft and related offences	254	81.1	865	67.3
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	213	77.9	447	57.3
Illicit drug offences	106	67.9	3,184	33.8
Property damage and environmental pollution	101	71.3	274	50.7
Public order offences	67	76.1	133	49.6
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	75	76.0	250	51.2
Fraud, deception and related offences	35	65.7	714	30.5
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	36	63.9	168	57.1
Miscellaneous offences	3	0.0	146	15.8
Unknown	3	0.0	12	83.3
Total	**7,656**	**74.4**	**21,425**	**47.6**

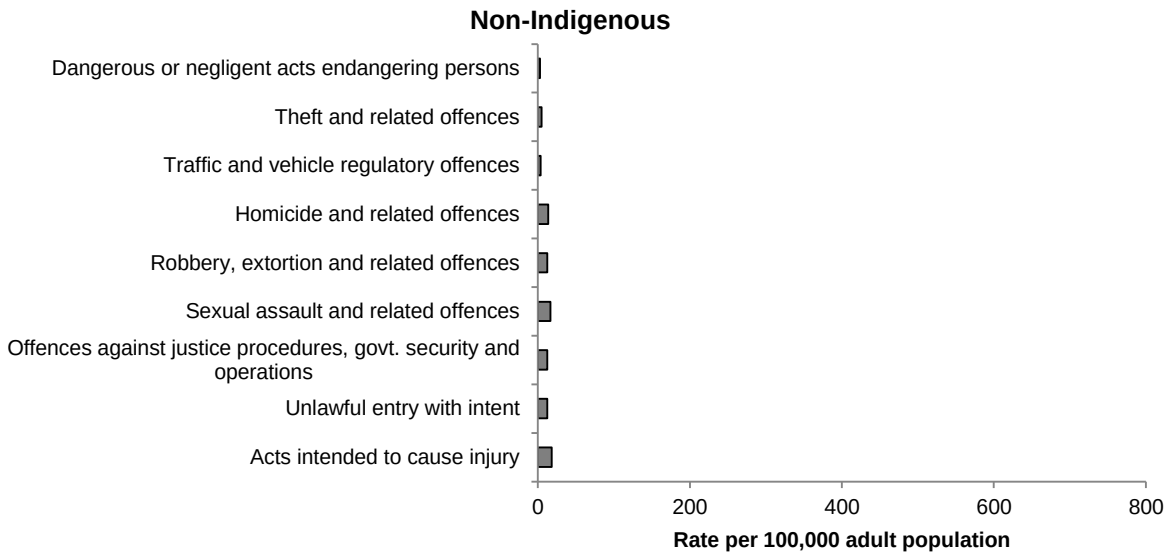
(a) Prior adult imprisonment under sentence.

Source: ABS 2011.



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2011 data.

Figure 2.11.1: Most serious offence/charge, crude rates, Indigenous adults, 30 June 2011



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2011 data.

Figure 2.11.2: Most serious offence/charge, crude rates, non-Indigenous adults, 30 June 2011

People in prison custody by sentence length

- As at 30 June 2011, the median sentence length for Indigenous sentenced prisoners was 24 months. The longest median sentence lengths were for homicide and related offences (120 months, or 10 years), sexual assault and related offences (84 months, or 7 years) and robbery, extortion and related offences (60 months, or 5 years) (Table 2.11.4).
- The mean (66 months) and median (47 months) sentence lengths for non-Indigenous sentenced prisoners was longer than those for Indigenous sentenced prisoners (44 months and 24 months, respectively) (ABS 2011).
- The mean (5.5 months) and median (3.2 months) time on remand for non-Indigenous unsentenced prisoners was longer than for Indigenous unsentenced prisoners (3.7 months and 2.0 months, respectively) (ABS 2011).

Table 2.11.4: Number of Indigenous sentenced prisoners, by average sentence length and most serious offence, 30 June 2011

	Periodic detention	Under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 12 months	1 & under 2 years	2 & under 5 years	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 years & over	Life	Other	Total	Total (%)	Mean (months)[(a)]	Median (months)
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	4	24	91	50	42	38	132	10	391	6.7	144.1	120.1
Acts intended to cause injury	8	43	127	291	498	492	168	31	7	3	0	8	1,676	28.7	29.4	18.0
Sexual assault and related offences	0	3	6	8	27	127	254	128	29	16	6	35	639	10.9	92.7	84.0
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	0	4	3	44	59	48	14	3	0	0	0	0	175	3.0	25.5	17.0
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	3	0	0	5	10	11	9	6	0	0	0	0	44	0.8	52.6	34.0
Robbery, extortion and related offences	3	3	3	8	42	203	214	46	16	6	0	4	548	9.3	70.2	60.0
Unlawful entry with intent	5	7	23	67	227	378	148	18	8	3	0	3	887	15.1	39.6	30.1
Theft and related offences	0	10	20	36	70	44	16	3	0	0	0	0	199	3.4	26.8	15.0
Fraud, deception and related offences	0	0	5	3	10	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	27	0.5	24.6	18.0
Illicit drug offences	0	3	6	7	11	23	18	0	0	3	0	0	71	1.2	43.7	36.0
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	0	3	0	0	6	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	16	0.3	32.6	19.4
Property damage and environmental pollution	0	3	6	17	16	20	7	0	0	0	0	3	72	1.2	26.0	16.0
Public order offences	0	7	13	14	13	10	0	3	3	0	0	0	63	1.1	24.9	9.0
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	3	29	58	106	99	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	5.4	10.9	9.0
Offences against justice procedures, gov't security and operations	0	72	102	191	226	109	11	0	0	0	4	4	719	12.3	15.7	11.8
Miscellaneous offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0.1	162.1	162.1
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**22**	**187**	**372**	**797**	**1,318**	**1,520**	**958**	**288**	**105**	**72**	**142**	**67**	**5,848**	**100.0**	**44.1**	**24.0**

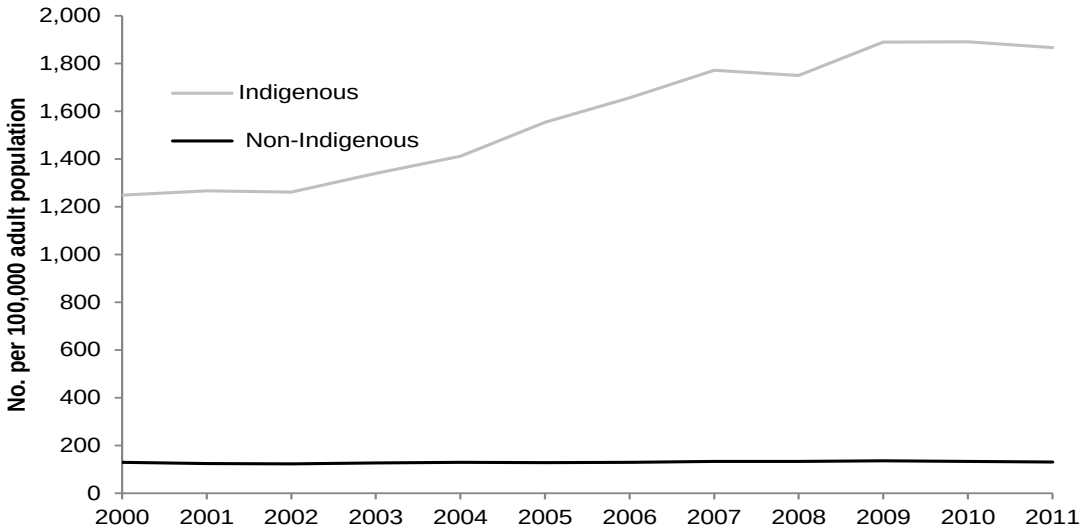
(a) Mean is average number of months; median is the number at which half the sample lies above and half the sample lies below.

Source: ABS 2011.

Time series analyses

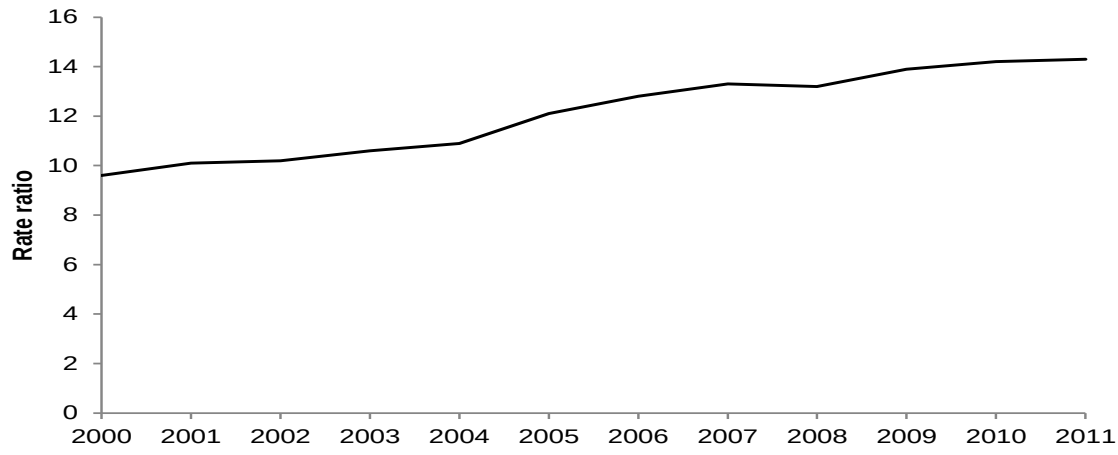
Data on the imprisonment rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 18 years and over are presented below for the period 2000–2011.

- During the period of 2000–2011 age-standardised Indigenous imprisonment rates increased steadily from 1,248 to 1,868 per 100,000. In comparison, the age-standardised imprisonment rates for non-Indigenous Australians remained relatively stable over this period (ranged from 123 per 100,000 in 2002 to 130 per 100,000 in 2011) (Figure 2.11.3; Table 2.11.5).
- The rate ratio of age-standardised imprisonment rates ranged from 9.6 in 2000 to 14.3 in 2009 (Figure 2.11.4; Table 2.11.5).



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2011 data.

Figure 2.11.3: Age-standardised imprisonment rates, by Indigenous status, 2000–2011



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2011 data.

Figure 2.11.4: Age-standardised imprisonment rate ratio, Indigenous to non-Indigenous Australians, 2000–2011

Table 2.11.5: Age-standardised imprisonment rates[a], by Indigenous status, 2000–2011

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio
2000	1,248.4	129.5	9.6
2001	1,266.5	124.8	10.1
2002	1,261.9	123.2	10.2
2003	1,339.5	126.5	10.6
2004	1,411.3	128.9	10.9
2005	1,554.0	128.4	12.1
2006	1,656.9	129.1	12.8
2007	1,771.9	133.1	13.3
2008	1,750.0	132.7	13.2
2009	1,890.7	135.6	13.9
2010	1,891.5	133.5	14.2
2011	1,867.6	130.2	14.3
Annual Change[b]	70.2*	0.8*	0.5*
% change over period[c]	61.8*	6.4*	54.2*

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the $p < 0.05$ level over the period 2000 to 2011.

(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population.

(b) Average quarterly change determined using linear regression analysis.

(c) Per cent change between 2000 and 2011 based on the average annual change over the period.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2011 data.

Deaths in custody

Data on deaths in custody in Australia come from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) National Deaths in Custody Program and are presented below.

Deaths by selected characteristics

- In 2010–11, there were 21 Indigenous deaths in custody and 64 non-Indigenous deaths. In 2009–10 there was a similar number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths (Tables 2.11.6a and 2.11.6b).
- In 2010–11, 57% of all Indigenous deaths in custody were within prison and 38% within police custody. This compares with 72% of non-Indigenous deaths in custody that were within prison and 28% within police custody (Table 2.11.6). In 2009–10, the proportion of Indigenous deaths within prison was 70% and police custody deaths was 30%; and the proportions of non-Indigenous deaths was 67% in prison and 33% in police custody (Table 2.11.7).
- In 2009–10, 95% of Indigenous deaths in custody were males, compared with 91%in 2010–11. Proportions for non-Indigenous male deaths were 98% in 2009–10 and 100% in 2010–11 (Tables 2.11.6 and 2.11.7).
- In 2009–10, New South Wales and Western Australia had the highest number of Indigenous deaths in custody (6 deaths in each state), while in 2010–11 Western Australia had the most deaths (7).
- In 2009–10 and 2010–11, natural causes were the most common causes of death for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in custody.

- In both years, Indigenous deaths in custody were less likely than non-Indigenous deaths to be self-inflicted or to be caused by homicide. However, a higher proportion of Indigenous deaths were caused by accident.

Table 2.11.6: Deaths in custody (police and prison), by Indigenous status and selected characteristics, 2010–11

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Custodial authority						
Police	8	38.1	18	28.1	26	30.6
Prison	12	57.1	46	71.9	58	68.2
Juvenile justice/welfare	1	4.8	0	0.0	1	1.2
Other/Commonwealth[(a)]	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total custodial authority	**21**	**100.0**	**64**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**
Legal status						
Sentenced	9	42.9	32	50.0	41	48.2
Unsentenced	5	23.8	14	21.9	19	22.4
Other[(b)]	7	33.3	18	28.1	25	29.4
Total legal status	**21**	**100.0**	**64**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**
Sex						
Males	19	90.5	63	98.4	82	96.5
Females	2	9.5	1	1.6	3	3.5
Total sex	**21**	**100.0**	**64**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**
Age						
Less than 25	6	28.6	7	10.9	13	15.3
25–39	10	47.6	19	29.7	29	34.1
40–54	5	23.8	16	25.0	21	24.7
55+	0	0.0	22	34.4	22	25.9
Total age	**21**	**100.0**	**64**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**
State/territory						
NSW	2	9.5	23	35.9	25	29.4
Vic	1	4.8	11	17.2	12	14.1
Qld	2	9.5	16	25.0	18	21.2
WA	7	33.3	4	6.3	11	12.9
SA	1	4.8	5	7.8	6	7.1
Tas	2	9.5	3	4.7	5	5.9
ACT	0	0.0	1	1.6	1	1.2
NT	6	28.6	1	1.6	7	8.2
Total state/territory	**21**	**100.0**	**64**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**

(continued)

Table 2.11.6 (continued): Deaths in custody (police and prison), by Indigenous status and selected characteristics, 2010–11

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Manner of death						
Self-inflicted	4	19.1	16	25.0	20	23.5
Not Intentionally self-inflicted	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Natural causes	9	42.9	33	51.6	42	49.4
Justifiable homicide	1	4.8	5	7.8	6	7.1
Unlawful homicide	0	0.0	2	3.1	2	2.4
Accident	6	28.6	6	9.4	12	14.1
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Missing	1	4.8	2	3.1	3	3.5
Total manner of death	**21**	**100.0**	**64**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**
Most serious offence						
Violent	8	38.1	29	45.3	37	43.5
Theft-related	5	23.8	10	15.6	15	17.7
Good order	1	4.8	4	6.3	5	5.9
Drug-related	0	0.0	5	7.8	5	5.9
Traffic	1	4.8	6	9.4	7	8.2
Other	5	23.8	7	10.9	12	14.1
Missing	1	4.8	3	4.7	4	4.7
No offence	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total most serious offence	**21**	**100.0**	**64**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**
Grand Total	**21**	**24.7**	**64**	**75.3**	**85**	**100.0**

(a) Deaths occurring in Australian Federal Police custody.

(b) Includes situations where the deceased had not been physically apprehended (for example, sieges, motor vehicle pursuits).

Notes

1. Numbers in the various breakdowns may not reflect overall column total due to missing information and data that was not available.

2. Percentages may not reflect column totals due to missing information and rounding.

3. The data presented here is based on the information available at the time of analysis. Coronial findings may be handed down between the time of analysis and time of reporting which may change some of the information contained herein.

Source: AIC National Deaths in Custody Program 2010–11 dataset.

Table 2.11.7: Deaths in custody (police and prison), by Indigenous status and selected characteristics, 2009–10

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Custodial authority						
Police	6	30.0	22	33.3	28	32.6
Prison	14	70.0	44	66.7	58	67.4
Juvenile justice/welfare	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other/Commonwealth[(a)]	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total custodial authority	**20**	**100.0**	**66**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
Legal status						
Sentenced	11	55.0	31	47.0	42	48.8
Unsentenced	4	20.0	15	22.7	19	22.1
Other[(b)]	5	25.0	20	30.3	25	29.1
Total legal status	**20**	**100.0**	**66**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
Sex						
Males	19	95.0	66	100.0	85	98.8
Females	1	5.0	0	0.0	1	1.2
Total sex	**20**	**100.0**	**66**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
Age						
Less than 25	5	25.0	10	15.2	15	17.4
25–39	6	30.0	15	22.7	21	24.4
40–54	6	30.0	18	27.3	24	27.9
55+	3	15.0	23	34.9	26	30.2
Total age	**20**	**100.0**	**66**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
State/territory						
NSW	6	30.0	20	30.3	26	30.2
Vic	1	5.0	13	19.7	14	16.3
Qld	4	20.0	12	18.2	16	18.6
WA	6	30.0	6	9.1	12	14.0
SA	0	0.0	6	9.1	6	7.0
Tas	0	0.0	4	6.1	4	4.7
ACT	0	0.0	2	3.0	2	2.3
NT	3	15.0	3	4.5	6	7.0
Total state/territory	**20**	**100.0**	**66**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
Manner of death						
Self-inflicted	4	20.0	19	28.8	23	26.7
Not Intentionally self-inflicted	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Natural causes	12	60.0	29	43.9	41	47.7
Justifiable homicide	0	0.0	3	4.5	3	3.5
Unlawful homicide	0	0.0	4	6.1	4	4.7

(continued)

Table 2.11.7 (continued): Deaths in custody (police and prison), by Indigenous status and selected characteristics, 2009–10

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Accident	4	20.0	10	15.2	14	16.3
Other	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	1.2
Missing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total manner of death	**20**	**100.0**	**66**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
Most serious offence						
Violent	9	45.0	37	56.1	46	53.5
Theft-related	4	20.0	3	4.5	7	8.1
Good order	1	5.0	2	3.0	3	3.5
Drug-related	1	5.0	3	4.5	4	4.7
Traffic	2	10.0	10	15.2	12	14.0
Other	2	10.0	10	15.2	12	14.0
Missing	1	5.0	0	0.0	1	1.2
No offence	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	1.2
Total most serious offence	**20**	**100.0**	**66**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
Grand Total	**20**	**23.3**	**66**	**76.7**	**86**	**100.0**

(a) Deaths occurring in Australian Federal Police custody.

(b) Includes situations where the deceased had not been physically apprehended (for example, sieges, motor vehicle pursuits).

Notes

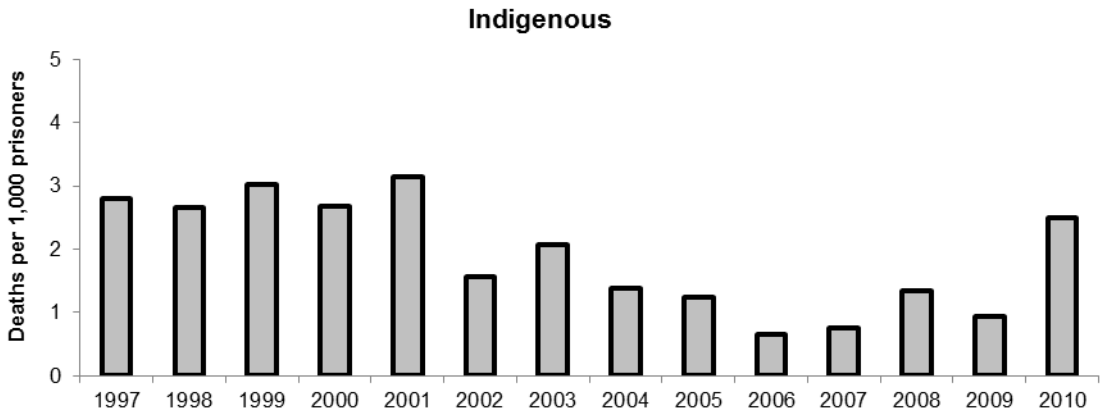
1. Numbers in the various breakdowns may not reflect overall column total due to missing information and data that was not available.
2. Percentages may not reflect column totals due to missing information and rounding.
3. The data presented here is based on the information available at the time of analysis. Coronial findings may be handed down between the time of analysis and time of reporting which may change some of the information contained herein.

Source: AIC National Deaths in Custody Program 2010–11 dataset.

Time series analyses

Figures 2.11.5 and 2.11.6 and Table 2.11.8 present the crude death rates for Indigenous and other Australians in prison custody over the period 1997 to 2010.

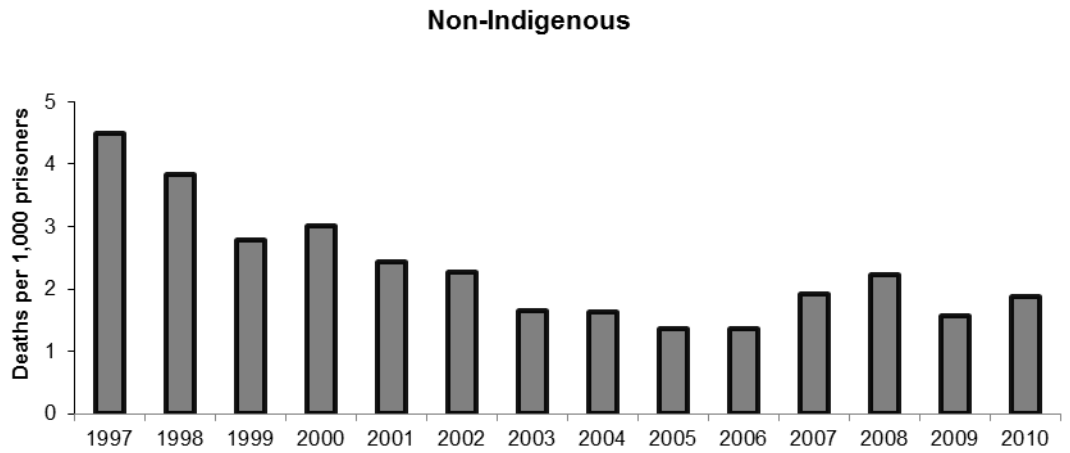
- Over the period 1997 to 2010 there were between 3.1 and 0.7 Indigenous deaths in custody per 1,000 Indigenous prisoners (Figure 2.11.5).
- Over the same period, there were between 4.5 and 1.4 non-Indigenous deaths per 1,000 non-Indigenous prisoners (Figure 2.11.6).
- There has been a decline in the rates of deaths in prison custody for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners. Between 1997 and 2010 the average annual change in rates of Indigenous deaths decreased by 0.1 per 1,000 prisoners, while there was a 66% decrease in the per cent change over the whole period. This compares with non-Indigenous prisoners were the average annual change in rates decreased by 0.2, and the per cent change over the whole period decreased by 51% (Table 2.11.8).



Note: Rates are per 1,000 prison population and have not been age-standardised.

Source: AIHW analysis of AIC National Deaths in Custody Program data.

Figure 2.11.5: Crude rates of deaths in prison custody, Indigenous Australians, 1997 to 2010



Note: Rates are per 1,000 prison population and have not been age-standardised.

Source: AIHW analysis of AIC National Deaths in Custody Program data.

Figure 2.11.6: Crude rates of deaths in prison custody, Other Australians, 1998 to 2008

Table 2.11.8: Crude rates of deaths per 1,000 prisoners in prison custody on 30 June each year, 1997 to 2010

Calendar Year[a]		
	Indigenous	**Non-Indigenous**
1997	2.8	4.5
1998	2.7	3.8
1999	3.0	2.8
2000	2.7	3.0
2001	3.1	2.4
2002	1.6	2.3
2003	2.1	1.7
2004	1.4	1.6
2005	1.2	1.4
2006	0.7	1.4
2007	0.8	1.9
2008	1.3	2.2
2009	0.9	1.6
2010	2.5	1.9
Annual Change[b]	**–0.1***	**–0.2***
Per cent change[c]	**–66.0***	**–51.0***

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the p < 0.05 level .

(a) Denominator used to calculate rates is the 30 June census count, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Prisoners in Australia cat. no. 4517.0.

(b) Average period change determined using regression analysis.

(c) Per cent change between 1998 and 2010 based on the average annual change over the period.

Note: The data presented here is based on the information available at the time of analysis. Coronial findings may be handed down between the time of analysis and time of reporting which may change some of the information contained herein.

Source: AIC National Deaths in Custody Program 1997 to 2010 datasets.

Detainees and drug use

The AIC Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey reports on drug use among police detainees at selected police stations in Australia. The survey is by a voluntary questionnaire and drug use is confirmed by a urine sample provided by the detainee. Data from the 2010 and 2011 surveys are presented in Tables 2.11.9 and 2.11.10.

Data from 2010 DUMA survey

- In 2010, in all of the selected police stations shown in Table 2.11.9, there was a higher proportion of Indigenous detainees who tested positive to at least one drug than non-Indigenous detainees.
- Between 57% and 100% of Indigenous detainees at selected police stations in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria tested positive to drugs in 2010 compared with between 54% and 70% of non-Indigenous detainees.
- Cannabis was the most common drug for which both Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Methamphetamines and benzodiazepines were also common drugs to which Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Between 2.5%

and 55% of Indigenous detainees and between 2.3% and 29% of non-Indigenous detainees tested positive for multiple drugs.

Data from 2011 DUMA survey

Data from the 2011 DUMA survey is presented in table 2.11.10. Please note that this data only became available after the 2012 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework was published by the Department of Health and Ageing.

- In 2011, in all of the selected police stations shown in Table 2.11.9, there was a higher proportion of Indigenous detainees who tested positive to at least one drug than non-Indigenous detainees.
- Between 70% and 100% of Indigenous detainees at selected police stations in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria tested positive to drugs compared with between 52% and 71% of non-Indigenous detainees.
- Cannabis was the most common drug for which both Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Methamphetamines and benzodiazepines were also common drugs to which Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Between 4.4% and 40% of Indigenous detainees and between 2.1% and 24% of non-Indigenous detainees tested positive for multiple drugs.

Table 2.11.9: Detainees at selected police stations, by drug use and Indigenous status, 2010

	Adelaide (SA)		Bankstown + Parramatta (NSW)		Brisbane + Southport (Qld)		East Perth (WA)		Darwin (NT)		Footscray/Sunshine (Vic)	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Tested positive to a drug						**Per cent**						
Benzodiazepines	25.4	21.1	29.4	18.9	25.2	23.5	17.1	22.6	4.6	12.5	57.1	40.2
Cannabis	63.5	34.9	54.9	36.4	66.4	43.3	74.3	45.6	53.7	45.8	100.0	40.9
Cocaine	0.0	0.7	11.8	5.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.4
Heroin	6.4	9.4	27.5	11.8	15.4	10.8	2.7	7.0	0.0	8.3	85.7	44.5
Methamphetamine	3.2	14.8	11.8	11.0	18.2	17.2	19.3	19.3	3.7	12.5	0.0	25.8
Multiple drugs	12.6	7.4	28.1	9.7	32.4	21.9	18.3	9.1	2.5	2.3	54.6	28.7
Total tested positive to a drug[(a)]	*73.0*	*54.0*	*70.6*	*54.3*	*78.3*	*61.7*	*81.3*	*62.5*	*56.5*	*54.2*	*100.0*	*69.5*
Did not test positive to a drug	27.0	46.0	29.4	45.7	21.7	38.3	18.7	37.5	43.5	45.8	0.0	30.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**63**	**298**	**51**	**508**	**143**	**985**	**187**	**371**	**108**	**24**	**7**	**164**

(a) Proportion who tested positive to a least one drug. Sum of components will add to more than the subtotal because detainees can test positive to more than one type of drug.

Source: AIC Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey 2010.

Table 2.11.10: Detainees at selected police stations, by drug use and Indigenous status, 2011

	Adelaide (SA)		Bankstown, Kings Cross + Parramatta (NSW)		Brisbane + Southport (Qld)		East Perth (WA)		Darwin (NT)		Footscray (Vic)	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Tested positive to a drug						Per cent						
Benzodiazepines	35.6	22.9	32.7	18.2	22.8	24.0	16.7	21.2	9.9	19.1	50.0	36.1
Cannabis	64.4	39.9	67.3	34.1	60.9	43.5	69.1	47.1	66.9	33.3	100.0	41.4
Cocaine	2.2	1.2	1.8	3.9	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8
Heroin	4.4	10.7	16.4	12.6	11.6	9.9	3.1	5.5	0.7	4.8	66.7	55.1
Methylamphetamine	15.6	23.3	27.3	16.5	19.1	23.8	26.0	25.9	0.7	14.3	16.7	18.8
Multiple drugs	26.1	7.8	29.6	10.7	29.8	23.9	25.5	9.5	4.4	2.1	40.0	20.0
Total tested positive to a drug[(a)]	*71.1*	*61.3*	*87.3*	*53.7*	*74.1*	*65.0*	*75.8*	*68.3*	*69.7*	*52.4*	*100.0*	*71.4*
Did not test positive to a drug	28.9	38.7	12.7	46.3	25.9	35.0	24.2	31.7	30.3	47.6	0.0	28.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**45**	**253**	**55**	**484**	**189**	**1,011**	**223**	**382**	**142**	**42**	**6**	**133**

(a) Proportion who tested positive to a least one drug. Sum of components will add to more than the subtotal because detainees can test positive to more than one type of drug.

Source: AIC Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey 2011.

Contact with police

Information on police contact with Indigenous persons is available from the 2008 NATSISS. This information is presented in tables 2.11.11 and 2.11.12. Table 2.11.11 compares the population characteristics of Indigenous people who were formally charged, or arrested or incarcerated in the last 5 years, with percentages being calculated within columns. Table 2.11.12 compares the police contact status of different elements of the Indigenous population, with percentages being calculated across the rows.

- In 2008, approximately 34% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over had been formally charged by the police, 15% had been arrested by the police in the previous 5 years and 36% had been incarcerated in the previous 5 years (Table 2.11.12).

Contact with police by selected characteristics

- Indigenous persons aged 35–44 years were most likely to have been formally charged, Indigenous persons aged 25–34 years were most likely to have been arrested by the police in the previous 5 years, and Indigenous persons aged 15–24 years were most likely to have been incarcerated by the police in the previous 5 years (Table 2.11.12).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males than females had been formally charged (48% compared with 21%), arrested by police in the previous 5 years (22% compared with 9%) and incarcerated in the previous 5 years (37% compared with 30%) (Table 2.11.12).
- In 2008, Western Australian had the highest proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who had been formally charged (44%) (Table 2.11.12).
- Indigenous Australians with a disability or long-term health condition were more likely than those without a disability or long term health condition to have been formally charged, however they were almost as likely to be arrested in the last 5 years, and less likely to be incarcerated.
- Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who were current daily smokers, had consumed alcohol at moderate or high risk levels in the previous 12 months and had used substances in the previous 12 months were more likely to have been formally charged than Indigenous Australians who had not engaged in these activities (Table 2.11.12).
- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in the lowest (1st) quintile of household income had been formally charged and arrested by the police in the previous 5 years than Indigenous Australians in the highest (5th) quintile of household income.
- The majority of Indigenous Australians who had been formally charged by police reported that the age at which they were first formally charged was between 12 and 24 years (78%) (Table 2.11.11).
- According to the 2008 NATSISS, 15% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over had been arrested in the previous 5 years, compared to 16% in 2002 and 23% in 2008. During 2008, 8% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reported being arrested once and 7% reported being arrested more than once (ABS 2008).

Table 2.11.11: Contact with the police, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Formally charged	Arrested by police in last 5 years	Incarcerated in last 5 years[(a)]
		Per cent	
Sex			
Males	67.7	70.1	86.6
Females	32.3	29.9	13.4
Persons	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age			
15–24	23.4	36.6	28.5
25–34	25.9	30.6	37.3
35–44	24.9	21.2	24.9
45–54	17.4	8.7	6.6
55 and over	8.4	3.0	2.6
State/territory			
NSW	30.1	25.5	16.5
Vic	6.5	6.7	2.9
Qld	24.9	23.0	33.8
WA	17.9	21.1	17.6
SA	5.9	6.5	5.6
Tas/ACT	4.2	3.8	3.1
NT	10.4	13.4	20.5
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent/good	38.5	40.9	48.3
Good	34.9	34.0	29.6
Fair/poor	26.6	25.1	22.1
Has disability or long-term health condition			
Yes	56.9	54.0	50.5
No	43.1	46.0	49.5
Smoker status			
Current daily smoker	63.4	72.0	82.6
Not current daily smoker	36.6	28.0	17.4
Risky/high-risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months			
Yes	37.6	34.0	37.7
No	62.4	66.0	62.3
Whether used substances in last 12 months			
Yes	37.6	48.6	49.3
No	62.4	51.4	50.7

(continued)

Table 2.11.11 (continued): Contact with the police, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Formally charged	Arrested by police in last 5 years	Incarcerated in last 5 years[(a)]
		Per cent	
Household income			
1st quintile	52.2	60.5	64.7
5th quintile	8.2	6.1	5.7
Index of disparity			
1st quintile	58.4	63.6	66.6
5th quintile	3.5	2.4	4.9
Employment			
Employed	50.9	44.8	41.3
Unemployed	13.9	20.9	23.2
Not in the labour force	35.2	34.4	35.6
Location			
Remote	26.3	32.1	40.1
Non-remote	73.7	67.9	59.9
Has non-school qualification			
Yes	32.2	26.8	24.5
No	67.8	73.2	75.5
Completed Year 12			
Yes	14.6	13.4	8.2
No	85.4	86.6	91.8
Housing			
Owner	21.0	14.5	3.1
Renter	77.7	84.2	94.2
Dwelling has major structural problems	32.8	36.4	33.1
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms[(a)]	26.0	30.9	35.6
Family and culture			
Participated in sporting, social or community activities in last 12 months	91.6	90.0	90.3
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	87.8	85.7	82.1
Person removed from natural family	12.8	13.6	20.5
Relative removed from natural family	51.4	50.6	57.2
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	38.2	37.4	35.4
Participated in cultural activities in last 12 months	64.1	65.8	69.2

(continued)

Table 2.11.11 (continued): Contact with the police, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Formally charged	Arrested by police in last 5 years	Incarcerated in last 5 years[(a)]
		Per cent	
Victim of physical violence in last 12 months			
Yes	24.0	34.5	30.0
No	76.0	65.5	70.0
Victim of threatened physical violence in last 12 months			
Yes	26.7	36.5	33.7
No	73.3	63.5	66.3
Stressors experienced in last 12 months			
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	66.6	72.0	69.3
No stressors experienced in last 12 months	33.4	28.0	30.7
Age first formally charged by the police[(b)]			
11 years or younger	3.4	4.6	7.7
12–24	77.9	79.6	80.6
25–34	12.3	10.3	8.3
35 and over	6.4	5.5	3.5
Total number	**109,685**	**49,070**	**10,628**

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

(b) Proportions are of those formally charged not of total persons.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.11.12: Contact with the police, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Formally charged	Not formally charged	Arrested by police in last 5 years	Not arrested by police in last 5 years	Incarcerated in last 5 years	Not incarcerated in last 5 years	Total
				Per cent			
Sex							
Males	47.6	52.4	22.1	77.9	37.1	62.9	100.0
Females	20.7	79.3	8.6	91.4	29.5	70.5	100.0
Persons	33.6	66.4	15.0	85.0	35.9	64.1	100.0
Age							
15–24	24.7	75.3	17.3	82.7	82.6	17.4	100.0
25–34	40.7	59.3	21.5	78.5	59.9	40.1	100.0
35–44	42.9	57.1	16.3	83.7	29.7	70.3	100.0
45–54	40.7	59.3	9.1	90.9	10.9	89.1	100.0
55 and over	21.5	78.5	3.4	96.6	6.9	93.1	100.0
State/territory							
NSW	34.4	65.6	13.0	87.0	21.6	78.4	100.0
Vic	32.6	67.4	15.1	84.9	17.9	82.1	100.0
Qld	30.3	69.7	12.5	87.5	50.6	49.4	100.0
WA	44.4	55.6	23.4	76.6	32.8	67.2	100.0
SA	36.4	63.6	17.7	82.3	28.3	71.7	100.0
Tas/ACT	30.4	69.6	12.3	87.7	43.0	57.0	100.0
NT	27.7	72.3	15.9	84.1	52.9	47.1	100.0
Self-assessed health status							
Excellent/good	29.5	70.5	14.0	86.0	52.8	47.2	100.0
Good	34.4	65.6	15.0	85.0	30.6	69.4	100.0
Fair/poor	40.1	59.9	17.0	83.0	24.4	75.6	100.0
Has disability or long term health condition							
Yes	37.0	63.0	14.5	85.5	25.9	74.1	100.0
No	28.8	71.2	12.7	87.3	40.3	59.7	100.0
Smoker status							
Current daily smoker	47.8	52.2	24.3	75.7	40.7	59.3	100.0
Not current daily smoker	22.2	77.8	7.6	92.4	23.0	77.0	100.0
Risky/high-risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months							
Yes	55.6	44.4	29.2	70.8	39.0	61.0	100.0
No	28.8	71.2	11.9	88.1	35.6	64.4	100.0
Whether used substances in last 12 months							
Yes	56.6	43.4	32.5	67.5	44.2	55.8	100.0
No	27.4	72.6	10.0	90.0	28.9	71.1	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.11.12 (continued): Contact with the police, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Formally charged	Not formally charged	Arrested by police in last 5 years	Not arrested by police in last 5 years	Incarcerated in last 5 years	Not incarcerated in last 5 years	Total
Household income							
1st quintile	37.3	62.7	18.8	81.2	37.5	62.5	100.0
5th quintile	27.8	72.2	9.0	91.0	57.7	42.3	100.0
Index of disparity							
1st quintile	37.0	63.0	18.0	82.0	37.4	62.6	100.0
5th quintile	29.6	70.4	9.3	90.7	71.2	28.8	100.0
Employment							
Employed	33.1	66.9	13.0	87.0	34.6	65.4	100.0
Unemployed	45.7	54.3	30.7	69.3	55.3	44.7	100.0
Not in the labour force					30.2	69.8	100.0
Location							
Remote	35.4	64.6	19.4	80.6	45.4	54.6	100.0
Non-remote	33.0	67.0	13.6	86.4	31.4	68.6	100.0
Has non-school qualification							
Yes	33.5	66.5	12.5	87.5	33.8	66.2	100.0
No	33.6	66.4	16.2	83.8	36.6	63.4	100.0
Completed Year 12							
Yes	24.0	76.0	9.8	90.2	46.0	54.0	100.0
No	36.0	64.0	16.3	83.7	35.2	64.8	100.0
Housing							
Owner	23.9	76.1	7.4	92.6	11.3	88.7	100.0
Renter	37.9	62.1	18.3	81.7	38.3	61.7	100.0
Dwelling has major structural problems	38.9	61.1	19.3	80.7	35.4	64.6	100.0
Dwelling requires additional bedrooms[(a)]	34.9	65.1	18.5	81.5	43.2	56.8	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.11.12 (continued): Contact with the police, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Formally charged	Not formally charged	Arrested by police in last 5 years	Not arrested by police in last 5 years	Incarcerated in last 5 years	Not incarcerated in last 5 years	Total
Family and culture							
Participated in sporting, social or community activities in last 12 months	33.3	66.7	14.6	85.4	36.3	63.7	100.0
Able to get support in time of crisis from someone outside the household	33.2	66.8	14.5	85.5	34.9	65.1	100.0
Person removed from natural family	51.1	48.9	24.3	75.7	33.3	66.7	100.0
Relative removed from natural family	38.8	61.2	13.5	86.5	38.1	61.9	100.0
Currently lives in homelands/traditional country	39.3	60.7	17.2	82.8	33.6	66.4	100.0
Participated in cultural activities in last 12 months	34.2	65.8	15.7	84.3	38.6	61.4	100.0
Victim of physical violence in last 12 months							
Yes	54.9	45.1	35.4	64.6	45.5	54.5	100.0
No	29.8	70.2	11.5	88.5	32.9	67.1	100.0
Victim of threatened physical violence in last 12 months							
Yes	49.4	50.6	30.1	69.9	45.7	54.3	100.0
No	30.0	70.0	11.6	88.4	32.3	67.7	100.0
Stressors experienced in last 12 months							
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	38.9	61.1	18.8	81.2	36.9	63.1	100.0
No stressors experienced in last 12 months	26.3	73.7	9.9	90.1	33.7	66.3	100.0
Age first formally charged by the police[(b)]							
11 years or younger	n.a.	n.a.	52.3	47.7	35.5	64.5	100.0
12–24	n.a.	n.a.	39.8	60.2	35.7	64.3	100.0
25–34	n.a.	n.a.	32.8	67.2	39.5	60.5	100.0
35 and over	n.a.	n.a.	33.4	66.6	45.1	54.9	100.0
Total number	**109,685**	**217,087**	**49,070**	**277,702**	**10,628**	**19,003**	**326,773**

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

(b) Proportions are of those formally charged not of total persons.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Young people in unsentenced detention

Data on young people in unsentenced detention come from the AIHW Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set. Data on juvenile justice were first collected in 2000–01 and the data presented here are for 2009–10. These data exclude Western Australia and the Northern Territory, as data were not provided by these jurisdictions.

The term 'unsentenced detention' is used to indicate young people on remand (who have been remanded in custody by a court) and those under police referred detention (before an initial court appearance) (AIHW 2011a).

Young people in unsentenced detention by selected characteristics

- On an average day in 2009–10, 201 Indigenous and 232 non-Indigenous young people were in unsentenced detention (Table 2.11.13).
- For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, the majority of young people in unsentenced detention were in 14–17 year age group (Table 2.11.13).
- The rate of Indigenous Australians aged 10–17 years in unsentenced detention on an average day was 22 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians (245 and 11 per 100,000, respectively) (Table 2.11.14).
- New South Wales (317 per 100,000) and South Australia (249 per 100,000) had the highest rates of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years in unsentenced detention (Table 2.11.14).

Table 2.11.13: Number of young people in unsentenced detention on an average day, by age, Indigenous status and state/territory, 2009–10[(a)]

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust. excl. WA & NT
				Indigenous					
10–13	8	—	7	n.a.	2	—	—	n.a.	18
14–17	91	8	52	n.a.	12	7	4	n.a.	174
18+	5	1	0	n.a.	1	—	1	n.a.	9
Total	**105**	**10**	**59**	**n.a.**	**15**	**7**	**5**	**n.a.**	**201**
				Non-Indigenous					
10–13	3	2	3	n.a.	2	2	1	n.a.	14
14–17	96	36	34	n.a.	15	12	7	n.a.	200
18+	14	1	—	n.a.	3	—	—	n.a.	18
Total	**113**	**40**	**38**	**n.a.**	**20**	**14**	**8**	**n.a.**	**232**

(a) Number of young people on an average day may not sum to total due to rounding.

Notes

1. Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply JJ NMDS data for 2009–10.
2. Total includes young people with unknown age.
3. Age calculated as at start of financial year if first period of unsentenced detention in the relevant year began before the start of the financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of first period of unsentenced detention in the relevant year.
4. Number of unsentenced and sentenced young people may not sum to total number of young people as some young people may have changed legal status during the same day.
5. People in the JJ NMDS who are aged 18 years or older include (a) young people who committed or allegedly committed an offence while aged 17 years or younger, who are supervised in relation to that offence when they are aged 18 years or older; and (b) people who were aged 18 years or older at the time of the offence who are supervised by the juvenile justice system rather than the adult correctional system because of their vulnerability or immaturity.

Source: AIHW 2011a. Juvenile justice in Australia 2009–10, table D23a.

Table 2.11.14: Rates of young people in unsentenced detention on an average day, by age, Indigenous status and state/territory, 2009–10[(a)(b)]

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT[(c)]	NT	Aust. excl. WA & NT
Indigenous no. per 100,000									
10–13	51.7	—	46.2	n.a.	70.5	—	n.a.	n.a.	46.2
14–17	578.3	234.7	347.2	n.a.	430.1	358.1	n.a.	n.a.	442.6
Total 10–17	**317.3**	**119.1**	**195.8**	**n.a.**	**248.7**	**186.7**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**245.2**
Non-Indigenous no. per 100,000									
10–13	0.9	0.8	1.4	n.a.	2.6	8.1	n.a.	n.a.	1.5
14–17	26.9	13.0	14.7	n.a.	18.5	46.3	n.a.	n.a.	20.2
Total 10–17	**14.1**	**7.0**	**8.2**	**n.a.**	**10.7**	**27.7**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**11.0**
Rate ratio[(d)]									
10–13	59.3	. .	34.1	n.a.	27.1	. .	n.a.	n.a.	31.2
14–17	21.5	18.1	23.6	n.a.	23.3	7.7	n.a.	n.a.	21.9
Total 10–17	**22.5**	**17.0**	**24.0**	**n.a.**	**23.1**	**6.7**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**22.2**
Rate difference[(e)]									
10–13	50.9	. .	44.8	n.a.	67.9	. .	n.a.	n.a.	44.7
14–17	551.5	221.7	332.5	n.a.	411.6	311.7	n.a.	n.a.	422.4
Total 10–17	**303.2**	**112.0**	**187.6**	**n.a.**	**238.0**	**159.0**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**234.2**

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

(b) Age calculated at start of financial year if period of detention began before start of financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of period of detention.

(c) Australian Capital Territory single year of age population data not available for rate calculations.

(d) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(e) Rate difference: Indigenous minus non-Indigenous.

Notes

1. Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply JJ NMDS data for 2009–10.
2. Age calculated as at start of financial year if first period of unsentenced detention in the relevant year began before the start of the financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of first period of unsentenced detention in the relevant year.

Source: AIHW analysis of Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set.

Completed periods of unsentenced detention

- In 2009–10, Indigenous young people completed periods of unsentenced detention that lasted a median length of 7 days, compared to 3 days for non-Indigenous young people (Table 2.11.15).
- Indigenous young people completed around 3,300 and non-Indigenous young people completed around 4,900 periods of unsentenced detention during 2009–10 (Table 2.11.15).
- The rate of Indigenous Australians aged 10–17 years who completed a period of unsentenced detention was 15 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians (1,907 and 127 per 100,000, respectively) (Table 2.11.16).
- Of those aged 10–17 years who completed periods of unsentenced detention, around half of Indigenous people (51%) completed multiple periods, compared with 42% of non-Indigenous people (Table 2.11.16).

Table 2.11.15: Completed periods of unsentenced detention by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2009–10

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust. excl. WA & NT
Median length (days)									
Indigenous	5	18	15	n.a.	3	15	6	n.a.	7
Non-Indigenous	2	12	6	n.a.	3	15	2	n.a.	3
Total[(a)]	**3**	**13**	**11**	**n.a.**	**3**	**15**	**3**	**n.a.**	**4**
Number of completed periods of unsentenced									
Indigenous	1,780	108	812	n.a.	456	67	86	n.a.	3,309
Non-Indigenous	2,494	601	674	n.a.	688	175	285	n.a.	4,917
Total[(a)]	**4,389**	**712**	**1,495**	**n.a.**	**1,149**	**242**	**372**	**n.a.**	**8,359**
Number of young people									
Indigenous	855	69	369	n.a.	190	40	35	n.a.	1,558
Non-Indigenous	1,346	388	364	n.a.	321	95	133	n.a.	2,647
Total[(a)]	**2,277**	**459**	**742**	**n.a.**	**515**	**135**	**169**	**n.a.**	**4,297**

(a) Total includes those with unknown Indigenous status.

Notes

1. Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply JJ NMDS data for 2009–10.
2. The duration of periods of unsentenced detention separated by a transfer to another detention centre were summed.
3. Median lengths were not calculated where there were fewer than five periods.

Source: AIHW 2011a. Juvenile justice in Australia 2009–10, table D26.

Table 2.11.16: Number and rates of young people aged 10–17 years[(a)] who completed a period of unsentenced detention during the year by number of periods completed and Indigenous status, Australia (excluding WA and NT), 2009–10

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous			
	Number	No. per 100,000[(b)]	Number	No. per 100,000	Ratio[(c)]	Difference[(d)]
Number of unsentenced detention periods						
1	732	934.8	1,430	73.8	12.7	861.0
2	353	450.8	542	28.0	16.1	422.8
3	177	226.0	226	11.7	19.4	214.4
4	104	132.8	119	6.1	21.6	126.7
5	47	60.0	62	3.2	18.8	56.8
6+	80	102.2	88	4.5	22.5	97.6
Total	**1,493**	**1,906.7**	**2,467**	**127.3**	**15.0**	**1,779.4**

(a) Age calculated at start of financial year if period of detention began before start of financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of period of detention.

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

(c) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(d) Rate difference: Indigenous minus non-Indigenous.

Notes

1. Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply JJ NMDS data for 2009–10.
2. Number of unsentenced and sentenced young people may not sum to total number of young people as some young people may have changed legal status during the same day.

Source: AIHW analysis of Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set.

Additional information

Prisoner health census

Selected data from the 2010 National Prisoner Health Census are presented in tables 2.11.17 to 2.11.25.

Further information is available from the AIHW's *The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010* (AIHW 2011b).

Health status of prisoners

- A similar proportion of Indigenous (78%) and non-Indigenous (74%) prison entrants consulted a medical professional for their own health in prison during the previous 12 months. The proportion of prison entrants who had consulted a medical professional for their own health in the community was 68% of Indigenous and 81% of non-Indigenous entrants (Table 2.11.17).
- During the previous 12 months, a similar percentage of Indigenous (10%) and non-Indigenous (13%) prison entrants needed to but did not consult with a medical professional while in prison. This compares with much higher proportions in the community (35% and 47% respectively) (Table 2.11.17).

Table 2.11.17: Access to medical advice[(a)] by Indigenous status and type of health service (community or prison), proportion of prison entrants[(b)] aged 18 years and over, 2010

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	Per cent	
Consulted a medical professional for their own health in the community	68	81
Consulted a medical professional for their own health in prison	78	74
Needed to consult with a medical professional in the community but did not	35	47
Needed to consult with a medical professional while in prison but did not	10	13
Total number of prison entrants access to medical advice	**262**	**327**

(a) Consultations within the previous 12 months.

(b) Per cents are calculated from the total number of prison entrants (610) for the community visits, and from the number of Indigenous (135) and non-Indigenous (119) entrants reporting having been in prison during the previous 12 months for the prison visits.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

- In 2010, 21% of prisons received visits at least every 2 weeks from an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation or an Aboriginal Medical Service (AIHW 2011b).
- A lower proportion of Indigenous (23%) than non-Indigenous (38%) prison entrants reported that they were told by a doctor, psychiatrist or psychologist that they have a mental health disorder (including alcohol and drug abuse). However, a higher proportion of Indigenous (73%) than non-Indigenous prison entrants (48%) reported a risk of alcohol-related harm, and a similar proportion reported they engaged in illicit drug use during the previous 12 months (68% and 65% respectively) (Table 2.11.18).

- The rates of diagnosed health conditions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous prison entrants were lower for asthma (13% and 27% respectively), and similar for cardiovascular disease (9% and 7% respectively) and diabetes (6% and 4% respectively) (Table 2.11.18).
- In 2010, similar proportions of Indigenous (39%) and non-Indigenous (40%) prisoners in custody used the prison clinic during the census period (AIHW 2011b).
- Similar proportions of Indigenous (4%) and non-Indigenous (3%) prisoners in custody who attended a clinic during the census period did so for a communicable disease. Note however, that this was the proportion of all prisoners who attended the clinic for a communicable disease, not the proportion of clinic visits for a communicable disease. It was from a two week snapshot of clinic attendance (and therefore is not related to prevalence data) and may be an underestimate because some prisoners may have attended the clinic for other conditions or symptoms arising from a communicable disease.

Table 2.11.18: Diagnosed health conditions, by Indigenous status and age, prison entrants aged 18 years and over, 2010

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	Per cent	
Told by a doctor, psychiatrist or psychologist that they have a mental health disorder (including alcohol and drug abuse)	23	38
Told by a doctor or nurse that they have ever had asthma	13	27
Told by a doctor or nurse that they have ever had cardiovascular disease	9	7
Told by a doctor or nurse that they have ever had arthritis	5	13
Told by a doctor or nurse that they have ever had diabetes	6	4
Risk of alcohol related harm (self-report)	73	48
Report they have engaged in illicit drug use in the last 12 months	68	65
Total number of prison entrants	**262**	**327**
Attended clinic during census period due to communicable disease[(a)(b)(c)(d)]	4	3
Total number of prisoners in custody	**1,912**	**3,590**

(a) Attending clinic data is for prisoners in custody, not all prison entrants.

(b) Proportion of all prisoners who attended the clinic for a communicable disease. Not the proportion of clinic visits for a communicable disease.

(c) From a two week snapshot of clinic attendance (therefore not related to prevalence data).

(d) May be an underestimation because some prisoners may have attended the clinic for other conditions or symptoms arising from a communicable disease.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Education level

- Educational attainment among Indigenous prison entrants was lower than for the general Indigenous population; 9% of Indigenous prisoners aged 18–24 years had completed Year 12 or equivalent, compared with 33% of all Indigenous Australians in the same age group (Table 2.11.19).
- Across all age groups Indigenous prisoners were twice as likely as the general Indigenous population to have Year 9 or below as their highest level of school completed (Table 2.11.19).

Table 2.11.19: Indigenous prison entrants (2010) and the general Indigenous population (2008), by education status and age group (per cent)

	Indigenous prisoners (years)			General Indigenous population (years)		
	18–24	25–34	35–44	18–24	25–34	35–44
Highest year of school completed						
Year 12 or equivalent	9	8	18	33	30	27
Year 10 or 11	48	47	44	47	49	51
Year 9 or below	44	46	39	20	21	22
Non-school qualification						
Has a non-school qualification	19	18	14	25	36	42

Notes

1. Excludes New South Wales and Victoria, as they did not participate in the 2010 Prison Census.
2. Indigenous data were sourced from entrant forms, National Prisoner Health Census 2010.
3. General Indigenous population data was from AIHW analysis of 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Employment status

- In the 30 days prior to imprisonment, two-thirds (67%) of Indigenous prison entrants aged 18–24 years were unemployed, compared with 13% of those in the general Indigenous population of the same age. Just one-quarter (25%) of prison entrants aged 18–24 years were employed, making them the age group least likely to be employed prior to imprisonment (Table 2.11.20).
- The unemployment rate decreased with increasing age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in both population groups, reducing from 67% of prison entrants aged 18–24 years to 40% of prison entrants aged 35–44 years, and 13% of those in the general Indigenous population aged 18–24 years to 8% of those aged 35–44 years.

Table 2.11.20: Indigenous prison entrants (2010) and the general Indigenous population (2008), labour force status, by age group (per cent)

	Indigenous prison entrants (years)			General Indigenous population (years)		
Employment status	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**
Employed	25	39	34	55	60	66
Unemployed	67	51	40	13	11	8
Not in the labour force	9	11	25	32	29	26

Notes

1. Excludes New South Wales and Victoria, as they did not participate in the 2010 Prison Census.
2. 'Not in the labour force' includes those who are studying, and those who are unable to work.
3. Indigenous data were sourced from entrant forms, National Prisoner Health Census 2010.
4. General Indigenous population data was from AIHW analysis of 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Mental health

- Indigenous prison entrants reported levels of psychological distress that were similar to or lower than those in the general Indigenous population. Indigenous prison entrants aged 18–34 years were more likely to feel low/moderate psychological distress

compared with the general Indigenous population (79–81% and 62–69%, respectively) (Table 2.11.21).

- Similar levels of psychological distress were felt by Indigenous prison entrants and the general Indigenous population aged 35–44 years, in both the low/moderate (67%) and high/very high categories (30–31%).

Table 2.11.21: Indigenous prison entrants (2010) and the general Indigenous population (2008), level of psychological distress as indicated by K5[(a)], by age group (per cent)

	Indigenous prisoners (years)			General Indigenous population (years)		
Level of distress	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**
Low/moderate	79	81	67	62	69	67
High/very high	20	15	30	34	29	31

(a) K5 is the Kessler 5, a psychological distress scale.

Notes

1. Excludes New South Wales and Victoria, as they did not participate in the 2010 Prison Census.
2. Indigenous data were sourced from entrant forms, National Prisoner Health Census 2010.
3. General Indigenous population data was from AIHW analysis of 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Tobacco smoking

- While it is recognised that relatively high rates of smoking exist in Indigenous communities, rates are still substantially higher among the prison population. Just under half (47%) of the general Indigenous population in Australia smoked tobacco daily, compared with almost three-quarters (74%) of Indigenous prison entrants. And only 10% of Indigenous prison entrants had never smoked a cigarette, compared with 31% of the general Indigenous population (Table 2.11.22).
- Prison entrants aged 18–24 years were the least likely to have never smoked (just 4%), but the most likely among the general population (36%). A similar contrast can be made with those aged 35–44 years: among Indigenous prison entrants, they were the group most likely to have never smoked a cigarette (11%), but within the general Indigenous population, they were the least likely (Table 2.11.23).

Table 2.11.22: Indigenous prison entrants (2010) and the general Indigenous population (2008), tobacco smoking status (per cent)

Smoking status	Indigenous prison entrants	General Indigenous population
Current daily smoker	74	47
Never smoked	10	31

Notes

1. Excludes New South Wales and Victoria, as they did not participate in the 2010 Prison Census.
2. Indigenous data were sourced from entrant forms, National Prisoner Health Census 2010.
3. General Indigenous population data was from AIHW analysis of 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Table 2.11.23: Prison entrants (2010), the general Indigenous population (2008) and non-Indigenous population (2010) by tobacco smoking status and age group, 2010 (per cent)

	Prisoners (years)			General population (years)		
	18–24	25–34	35–44	18–24	25–34	35–44
			Indigenous			
Never smoked	4	5	11	36	28	27
Ex-smoker	5	2	2	11	16	18
Current smoker	91	92	87	53	56	54
			Non-Indigenous			
Never smoked	14	13	9	72	58	47
Ex-smoker	6	2	8	8	19	29
Current smoker	80	84	82	20	23	24

Notes

1. Excludes New South Wales and Victoria, as they did not participate in the 2010 Prison Census.
2. 'Not in the labour force' includes those who are studying, and those who are unable to work.
3. Indigenous data were sourced from entrant forms, National Prisoner Health Census 2010.
4. General Indigenous population data was from AIHW analysis of 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Risky alcohol consumption

- Alcohol consumption was higher among Indigenous prison entrants than the general Indigenous population, for both the proportion who drank alcohol and the frequency of consumption. A higher proportion of Indigenous prison entrants reported having consumed alcohol in the previous 12 months compared with the general Indigenous population. (Table 2.11.24).
- Consumption of alcohol four or more times per week was more common among Indigenous prison entrants when compared with those in the general population, although the difference varied. The gap between the age groups in the two populations narrowed from the youngest to the oldest age group. In the general Indigenous population, consuming alcohol 4 or more times per week became more common with age, increasing from 7% for those aged 18–24 years to 13% for those aged 35–44 years; but this trend was not reflected in the prison population.

Table 2.11.24: Indigenous prison entrants (2010) and the general Indigenous population (2008), alcohol drinking status, by age group (per cent)

	Indigenous prison entrants (years)			General Indigenous population (years)		
Alcohol drinking status	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**
4 or more times per week	24	27	25	7	10	13
2–3 times per week	31	23	21	20	14	18
Less than 2–3 times per week	35	42	40	53	55	48

Notes

1. Excludes New South Wales and Victoria, as they did not participate in the 2010 Prison Census.
2. Indigenous data were sourced from entrant forms, National Prisoner Health Census 2010.
3. General Indigenous population data was from AIHW analysis of 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Source*:* The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Illicit drug use

- Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prison entrants, cannabis/marijuana was the most commonly used drug in 2010. Although rates were substantially lower, this was also true of the general Indigenous population aged 18 years and over. Cannabis/marijuana use was most prevalent in Indigenous Australians aged 18–24 years in both the Indigenous prison entrant population (63%) and the general Indigenous population (23%) (Table 2.11.25).
- While cannabis/marijuana use lessened with age to 13% of Indigenous aged 35–44 years in the general Indigenous population, it remained high at just under half (46%) of Indigenous prison entrants of the same age. Amphetamine and pain killer use for non-medical purposes were also much higher among Indigenous prison entrants when compared with the general Indigenous population (Table 2.11.25).
- Among non-Indigenous prison entrants cannabis/marijuana was also the most commonly used drug. In the youngest age group, non-Indigenous prison entrants were at least twice as likely to report using each type of drug as those in the general community, while non-Indigenous prison entrants aged 35–44 years were at least 3 times as likely to report using each type of drug as those in the general community. Tranquilisers and/or sleeping pills were used illicitly by only 2% of people aged 18–24 years in the general non-Indigenous community, but by almost one-fifth (19%) of non-Indigenous prison entrants in this age group (Table 2.11.25).
- Only 3% of non-Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 years in the general community reported using meth/amphetamines, compared with almost half (47%) of prison entrants (Table 2.11.25).

Table 2.11.25: Prison entrants (2010), the general Indigenous population (2008) and non-Indigenous population (2010) by illicit drug use in previous 12 months, by drug type and age group (per cent)

	Prison entrants (years)			General population (years)		
Illicit drug	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**	**18–24**	**25–34**	**35–44**
			Indigenous			
Cannabis/marijuana	63	55	46	23	20	13
Meth/amphetamine/speed	25	19	18	5	5	1
Analgesics/pain killers	15	23	14	6	5	5
Any illicit drug	**76**	**69**	**68**	**40**	**35**	**29**
			Non-Indigenous			
Cannabis/marijuana	58	61	43	25	20	12
Meth/amphetamine	39	45	47	6	6	3
Analgesics/pain killers	19	17	9	4	3	3
Tranquilisers/sleeping pills	19	18	14	2	2	2
Ecstasy	24	9	13	11	7	2
Any illicit drug	**66**	**79**	**63**	**30**	**26**	**16**

Notes

1. Excludes New South Wales and Victoria, as they did not participate in the 2010 Prison Census.
2. Questions about illicit substance use in the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey were optional, so the per cents in the general population could be an underestimate.
3. Indigenous data were sourced from entrant forms, National Prisoner Health Census 2010;
4. General Indigenous population data was from AIHW analysis of 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

Source: The health of Australia's prisoners, 2010 (AIHW 2011b).

Prisoner health survey data

There have been two recent prisoner health surveys where Indigenous status was recorded, the 2009 New South Wales Inmate Health Survey and the 2002 Queensland Women Prisoners' Health Survey.

- Fewer than half of all male and female prisoners surveyed reported a history of regular injecting drug use. Regular drug use at the time of incarceration, which may include injecting, was reported by 42% of male prisoners in New South Wales, as well as 54% and 63% of female prisoners in New South Wales and Queensland respectively.
- In both surveys, high proportions of prisoners tested positive for communicable diseases, particularly hepatitis C, which is strongly associated with injecting drug use. In New South Wales, the rate of hepatitis C among Indigenous male prisoners rose from 30% in 1996 to 58% in 2004. In comparison, the rate of hepatitis C among non-Indigenous male prisoners has increased only slightly over the same period, from 35% in 1996 to 39% in 2004. The rate of hepatitis C among female Indigenous prisoners also increased slightly, from 72% in 1996 to 75% in 2004. There has been a reduction in the rate of hepatitis C among non-Indigenous female prisoners, from 64% in 1996 to 58% in 2004.
- Approximately 82% of Indigenous prisoners were current smokers compared with 77% of non-Indigenous prisoners, which was over four times the rate of the general population.
- Mental health concerns were common among inmates. In New South Wales, 41% of males and 54% of female inmates reported having received some form of psychiatric

treatment during their lifetime; in Queensland 61% of female inmates had received treatment. Incarceration may be both a risk factor for, and a result of, emotional distress and mental illness. The 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody found that Aboriginal people who were imprisoned 'often experience depressive symptoms and unresolved anger which sometimes leads them to attempt or commit suicide whilst in custody' (HREOC 1993:698).

- The 1991 Royal Commission also found that the incarceration of young Indigenous men and juveniles during their formative years left them 'permanently alienated from their communities', so that on release from prison, they were likely to turn to substance abuse and violence (HREOC 1993:698).
- Released Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners in Western Australia have risk of death almost 10 times that of the general Western Australian population and almost 3 times that of their peers in the community. The main causes of death include suicide, drug and alcohol events, and motor vehicle accidents (Krieg 2006).

Data quality issues

National Prisoner Census

Most jurisdictions collect Indigenous status from individual prisoners. It is uncommon for corrective services agencies to collect Indigenous status from anyone other than the prisoners themselves. However, the accuracy of these data has not been assessed.

The Prisoner Census provides a picture of persons in prison at a point in time (30 June) and does not represent the flow of prisoners during the year. The majority of prisoners in the annual Prisoner Census were serving long-term sentences for serious offences. In comparison, the flow of offenders in and out of prisons consists mainly of persons serving shorter sentences for lesser offences.

The data is extracted from each state and territory's prisoner management and information systems.

Deaths in Custody Australia

As a requirement of the Deaths in Custody Royal Commission, the AIC collects data on deaths in custody each year for all jurisdictions. Indigenous status is by previous self-identification to prison authorities.

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) Survey

The Indigenous status of the detainee is established in the questionnaire by the following questions:

'What is your ethnic background?'(if the respondent mentions 'Australian' but not 'Aboriginal', prompt: 'Do you consider yourself an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?').

It is likely that this question will under-estimates the number of Indigenous persons being detained through a reluctance on the part of detainees to identify as Indigenous.

This survey is conducted at police stations in selected metropolitan areas and does not provide regional coverage. In addition, the actual number of detainees questioned is quite low, which does not permit great analysis of the Indigenous data. Finally, the figures do not permit national coverage, but instead analysis by state is recommended.

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 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set

Responsibility for juvenile justice rests at state and territory level, and there is marked diversity in the legislation, policy and practices among jurisdictions. Areas of variation throughout Australia include; the age when young people are considered juveniles or adults by the justice system, key policy directions, diversionary options, possible court outcomes, and specific programs and services available to young people (AIHW 2007). Therefore caution is required in comparing data across the jurisdictions.

Overall, the coverage of data in the JJ NMDS is good. Around 7% of all young people since 2000–01 have an unknown Indigenous status (in 2009–10 this was around 4%), and around 5% of records in each of the order and detention files have unknown or missing information for the postcode and suburb of the young person's usual residence. For all other variables, the proportion of missing data is less than 0.1% (AIHW 2011).

There are a number of additional issues specific to particular states and territories. First, not all states and territories provided JJ NMDS data for 2009–10. Second, not all states and territories were able to provide JJ NMDS data in the new format for all years of the JJ NMDS (2000–01 to 2009–10). For example, complete data for Tasmania are only available from 2006–07, and Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply JJ NMDS data for 2008–09 to 2009–10. See Juvenile justice in Australia 2009–10 (AIHW 2011) for more information about JJ NMDS data quality.

Information on Indigenous status has been collected since the implementation of the national data collection, although some differences still exist in how jurisdictions collect the information. Not all jurisdictions use the recommended national standard question and standard codes for recording Indigenous status. However, a number of jurisdictions have recently taken steps to improve their data collection forms and information systems to be more in line with the national standard (AIHW 2012).The calculation of rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people excludes young people with unknown Indigenous status. Rates are not calculated where there are fewer than five young people due to a lack of reliability.

National Prisoner Health Census

Some data are collected with reference to the time period 'within the previous 12 months'. Not all prison entrants had been in prison during the previous 12 months. The proportion of prison entrants who had ever been in prison before was higher among Indigenous than non-Indigenous entrants. Therefore it may be expected that a higher proportion of Indigenous prison entrants may have been in prison during the previous 12 months and had access to prison health services.

Data on prison entrants who attended a clinic due to a communicable disease must be considered with three caveats. First, this is the proportion of all prisoners who attended the clinic for a communicable disease, not the proportion of clinic visits for a communicable disease. Second, this data is a two week sample of clinic attendance and is not related to prevalence data. Finally, the reported data may be an underestimation because prisoners may have attended the clinic for other conditions or symptoms arising from a communicable disease.

List of symbols used in tables

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

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2.12 Child protection

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in substantiations, on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care

Data sources

National Child Protection Australia

The National Child Protection (NCP) Data Collection is comprised of data from state and territory child protection administrative data sets, and consists of six sub-collections comprising notifications, investigations and substantiations; care and protection orders; out-of-home care; foster carers; relative/kinship carers; and intensive family support services.

These data are collected each year by the AIHW from the relevant departments in each state and territory. Each state and territory has its own legislation, policies and practices in relation to child protection, which accounts for some of the differences between jurisdictions in the data provided. Australian totals have not been provided for those data that are not comparable across the states and territories.

The reporting process for child protection involves a number of stages. At the notification stage, children in need of protection come into contact with departments responsible for child protection. Notifications may be followed through with an investigation and/or referral to support services. The aim of an investigation is to determine whether notifications are 'substantiated' or 'not substantiated'. A substantiation indicates there is sufficient reason (after an investigation) to believe the child has been, is being, or is likely to be, abused, neglected, or otherwise harmed. In situations where further intervention is required, the child may be placed on a care and protection order and/or in out-of-home care (including foster care and relative/kinship care).

In this collection, children are counted as Indigenous if they are identified as such in the state and territory collections. Children whose Indigenous status is recorded as 'unknown' are excluded, where possible, from calculations of rates and proportions. The counts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are therefore likely to be an under-estimate of the actual number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

Note that Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have very small numbers, and statistics from these jurisdictions are susceptible to random fluctuations.

Data analyses

Children in substantiated notifications

The data presented for this indicator are from notifications, investigations and substantiations (NIS); care and protection orders (CPO) and out-of-home care (OOHC) collections that the state and territory departments responsible for child protection have provided to the AIHW. Only child protection matters that were notified to state and territory child protection and support services are included in these national collections. Notifications

made to other organisations, such as the police or non-government welfare agencies, are included only if these notifications were also referred to state and territory child protection and support services.

Substantiations are defined as situations where, after investigation, the relevant authorities concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that the child has been, was being or was likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. Substantiation does not necessarily require sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and does not imply that treatment or case management was provided (AIHW 2010).

Note that because a child can be the subject of more than one notification, investigation or substantiation in a year, there are fewer children than there are total notifications, investigations and substantiations.

Children in substantiated notifications by age

- In 2010–11, in the majority of jurisdictions, the highest numbers of Indigenous children who were the subject of a substantiated notification were aged between 1 and 4 years. The highest numbers of other children who were the subject of a substantiated notification were aged between 10 and 14 years (Table 2.12.1).

Table 2.12.1: Children in substantiated notifications, by age, Indigenous status and state/territory, 2010–11

Age group (years)	NSW[(a)]	Vic	Qld	WA[(b)]	SA	Tas[(c)]	ACT	NT	Aust.
				Number					
Indigenous children									
< 1	503	154	370	42	87	19	17	165	1357
1–4	911	209	468	152	117	44	30	381	2312
5–9	899	198	440	166	151	44	22	336	2256
10–14	773	157	369	153	83	32	28	243	1838
15–17	217	49	84	26	13	7	9	61	466
Unknown	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total	**3,303**	**768**	**1,731**	**539**	**452**	**146**	**106**	**1,186**	**8,231**
Other children									
< 1	983	884	611	169	261	135	49	13	3,105
1–4	1,983	1,594	983	354	399	281	92	56	5,742
5–9	2,109	1,678	1,133	376	368	266	89	63	6,082
10–14	2,347	1,814	1,103	337	291	228	94	78	6,292
15–17	808	589	380	95	59	75	35	29	2070
Unknown	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
Total	**8,233**	**6,559**	**4,210**	**1,331**	**1,379**	**986**	**359**	**239**	**23,296**

(a) Following the New South Wales Keep Them Safe reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.

(b) Western Australia is currently unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result, a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics such as age or abuse type.

(c) In Tasmania, the proportion of substantiations for children with an unknown Indigenous status affects the reliability of these data.

Notes

1. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2011.
2. 'Other children' includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.
3. Totals include children of unknown age.
4. The 'less than 1' category includes unborn children for New South Wales (428: 154 Indigenous unborn, 274 'other' unborn), Queensland (384: 157 Indigenous unborn, 227 'other' unborn), Western Australia (42: 9 Indigenous unborn, 33 'other' unborn), Tasmania (42: 4 Indigenous unborn, 38 'other' unborn) and the Australian Capital Territory (4: 1 Indigenous unborn, 3 'other' unborn). These children are included in the totals.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2011.

Substantiated notifications by state/territory

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are more likely to be the subjects of substantiated notifications than other children. In 2010–11, in all jurisdictions the substantiation rate for Indigenous children was higher than the rate for other children. Across Australia, Indigenous children were more than eight times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be the subject of a substantiated notification (Table 2.12.2).

The reasons for the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child protection substantiations are complex. The 1997 report *Bringing them home* (HREOC 1997) noted that some of the underlying causes of the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child welfare system include:

- the legacy of past policies of the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families
- intergenerational effects of previous separations from family and culture
- poor socioeconomic status
- perceptions arising from cultural differences in child-rearing practices.

Table 2.12.2: Children aged 0–16 years who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications: number and rates per 1,000 children, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2010–11

	Number of children					Number per 1,000 children				
State / territory	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown no.	Unknown %	All children	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All children	Rate ratio Indigenous/ non-Indigenous	Rate Difference[(a)]
NSW[(b)]	3,126	7,860	17	0.2	11,003	46.6	5.3	7.1	8.8	41.3
Vic	767	6,555	2	0.0	7,324	53.3	5.7	6.3	9.3	47.6
Qld	1,566	3,791	159	2.9	5,516	23.5	3.9	5.4	6.0	19.5
WA[(c)]	527	680	602	33.3	1,809	17.9	1.4	3.5	12.7	16.5
SA	450	1,322	45	2.5	1,817	37.6	4.1	5.4	9.2	33.6
Tas[(d)]	141	746	195	18.0	1,082	18.0	7.2	9.7	2.5	10.8
ACT	101	322	29	6.4	452	55.4	4.4	6.0	12.7	51.0
NT	1,181	227	7	0.5	1,415	45.5	6.8	23.9	6.7	38.7
Aust.	**7,859**	**21,503**	**1,056**	**3.5**	**30,418**	**34.9**	**4.7**	**6.3**	**7.5**	**30.2**

(a) Rate difference equals Indigenous rate minus non-Indigenous rate.

(b) Following the New South Wales Keep Them Safe reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.

(c) Western Australia is currently unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics such as age or abuse type.

(d) In Tasmania, the proportion of substantiations for children with an unknown Indigenous status affects the reliability of these data.

Notes

1. Population estimates are based on the 2006 census, refer to Appendix table A1.35 in the 2010–11 Child Protection Australia report for the specific populations used in the calculation of rates.
2. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Indigenous children who were the subject of substantiations by the un-rounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were the subject of substantiations. The resulting number shows a comparative representation per 1,000 children.
3. Percentage of unknown is the percentage of 'All children' in state/territory.
4. The above table excludes unborn children and those in the 'not stated' age category.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.

Substantiated notifications by types of abuse and neglect

Substantiated notifications are classified into four categories depending on the main type of abuse or neglect that has occurred: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. If a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, the abuse or neglect reported is the one that the child protection workers consider to cause the most harm to the child. Where a child was the subject of more than one substantiation during the year, the type of abuse reported was the one associated with the first substantiation decision during the year. Therefore, it is difficult to measure the overall patterns of types of abuse or neglect that each child may experience.

- For Indigenous children across Australia, the most common type of abuse was neglect. However, in Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the most common type of abuse for Indigenous children was emotional abuse.
- For non-Indigenous children across most jurisdictions, the most common type of abuse was emotional abuse. However, in Western Australia, South Australia and Australian Capital territory, the most common type of abuse for non-Indigenous children was neglect and in the Northern Territory it was physical abuse (Table 2.12.3).

Table 2.12.3: Children aged 0–17 years who were the subject of a substantiation of a notification: type of abuse or neglect, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2010–11 (per cent)

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW[(a)]	Vic	Qld	WA[(b)]	SA	Tas[(c)]	ACT	NT	Aust.
Indigenous children									
Physical abuse	19.7	30.3	21.4	20.4	11.1	6.8	25.5	15.9	**19.9**
Sexual abuse	14.4	5.2	5.0	20.6	5.5	4.1	6.6	4.3	**9.7**
Emotional abuse	28.2	56.1	37.1	18.7	29.6	44.5	40.6	26.1	**32.3**
Neglect	37.6	8.3	36.5	40.3	53.8	33.6	27.4	53.6	**37.8**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Other children[(d)]									
Physical abuse	20.2	31.8	21.8	23.0	17.1	15.5	24.5	38.9	**23.8**
Sexual abuse	25.7	10.3	6.7	23.0	7.8	8.0	8.6	9.2	**15.6**
Emotional abuse	27.8	50.7	41.3	19.3	33.6	40.5	29.0	22.6	**37.0**
Neglect	26.3	7.1	30.2	34.7	41.5	32.2	37.9	29.3	**23.4**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Following the New South Wales Keep Them Safe reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.

(b) Western Australia is currently unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result, a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics such as age or abuse type.

(c) In Tasmania, the abuse type for some substantiations was recorded as 'other' or 'not stated' and could not be mapped to physical, sexual, emotional or neglect. These substantiations are included in the totals: as such, totals may not equal the sum of categories. The proportion of substantiations for children with an unknown Indigenous status affects the reliability of these data. As such, comparisons to previous year's data should be made with caution.

(d) 'Other children' includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

Notes

1. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2011.
2. If a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, then the abuse and/or neglect is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child. Where a child is the subject of more than one substantiation during the year, then the type of abuse reported in this table is the type of abuse and/or neglect associated with the substantiation decision relating to the earliest notification during the year.
3. In Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were the subject of a substantiation should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.
4. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2011.

Time series analyses

Rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–16 years who were the subject of a substantiation of a notification received during the relevant year, are presented below for all states and territories over the period 2006–07 to 2010–11.

- The highest rates of substantiated notifications received during 2010–11 were within Australian Capital Territory (55 per 1,000 children), while the lowest rates were in Western Australia and Tasmania (18 per 1,000 children) (Table 2.12.4).
- Over the period 2006–07 to 2010–11 there was no significant change to the rate of substantiated notifications received in Australia.

Table 2.12.4: Rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–16 years who were the subject of a substantiation of a notification received during the relevant year, by state/territory, 2006–07 to 2010–11 (per 1,000 children)

Year	NSW	Vic [a]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas[b][c][d]	ACT[d]	NT	Aust
2006–07	53.5	56.6	29.2[e]	15.0	39.0	3.9	41.3[f]	16.8	34.3
2007–08	53.0	54.9	27.1	17.4	48.1	5.0	46.2	23.7	35.2
2008–09	54.6	48.3	27.0	18.1	50.6	12.6	53.6	24.1	36.1
2009–10	52.7	49.6	26.9	21.1	31.6	16.3	64.6	33.5	36.2
2010–11	46.6	53.3	23.5	17.9	37.6	18.0	55.4	45.5	34.9
Annual change[g]	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	0.2
% Change[h]	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	2.6

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the p < 0.05 level over the period 2006–07 to 2010–11

(a) Due to new service and data reporting arrangements, the Victorian child protection data for 2006–07 onwards may not be fully comparable with previous years' data.

(b) Due to the high number of children with Indigenous status unknown in Tasmania, Indigenous children may be considerably under-reported and comparison of rates from previous years should be conducted with caution.

(c) Data relating to substantiations in Tasmania for 2005–06 and 2006–07 should be interpreted carefully due to the high proportion of investigations in process by 31 August.

(d) Rates from Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with care due to small numbers. Any fluctuation in the numbers of children has a large impact on the rates.

(e) 2006–07 data for Queensland was updated in 2008 and may not reflect that interim data originally published in CPA 2006–07.

(f) The decrease in the number of substantiated investigations reflects a requirement of staff to substantiate emotional abuse or neglect only if there was, or is likely to be, significant harm and there was no-one with parental responsibility willing and able to protect the child/young person. Recording an outcome of an appraisal as not substantiated does not exclude ongoing work with the child or young person.

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

(h) Per cent change between 2006–07 to 2010–11 based on the average annual change over the period.

Notes

1. From 2007–08 onwards, legislative and policy changes allowed for the capture of data on 'unborn children' as a distinct age grouping. Prior to this year it is not possible to determine whether unborns were included in the less than 1 year age counts and following 2007–08 the 'unborn children' category has been excluded.
2. Some of the rates calculated differ to rate trend data previously reported in AIHW Child Protection collections due to the inclusion of children with a 'not stated' age category and unborn children. The above table excludes unborn children and those in the 'not stated' age category.
3. Population estimates have been updated in 2009 and this may affect rate comparison over time.
4. Due to small numbers and volatility in jurisdiction level data, significance testing of trends was only calculated for Australia level data.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.

Care and protection orders

If a child has been the subject of a child protection substantiation, there is often a need for state and territory child protection and support services to have continued involvement with the family. The relevant department generally attempts to protect the child through the provision of appropriate support services to the child and family. In situations where further intervention is required, the department may apply to the relevant court to place the child on a care and protection order.

Recourse to the court is usually a last resort—for example, where the family resists supervision and counselling, where other avenues for resolution of the situation have been exhausted, or where removal of the child to out-of-home care needs legal authorisation. However, not all applications for an order will be granted. The term 'care and protection order' refers not only to legal orders but also to other legal processes relating to the care and protection of children, including administrative arrangements or care applications (AIHW 2010).

Care and protection orders by age

- At 30 June 2011, the highest numbers of Indigenous children who were on care and protection orders were aged 5–9 and 10–14 years. This trend also applied to other children (Table 2.12.5).

Table 2.12.5: Children on care and protection orders, by age, Indigenous status and state/territory, at 30 June 2011

Age group (years)	NSW[(a)]	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas[(b)]	ACT	NT
				Number				
Indigenous children								
<1	156	35	102	43	17	7	3	19
1–4	1,136	277	739	388	146	47	49	153
5–9	1,617	328	1,071	487	224	81	45	174
10–14	1,401	267	868	424	173	71	50	171
15–17	589	153	401	154	98	28	29	58
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**4,900**	**1,060**	**3,181**	**1,496**	**658**	**234**	**176**	**575**
Other children[(c)]								
<1	302	131	148	63	53	32	18	2
1–4	2,183	1,113	1,044	359	404	196	117	16
5–9	3,213	1,548	1,542	548	577	275	154	43
10–14	3,153	1,686	1,548	516	550	305	160	59
15–17	1,587	1,197	993	295	378	144	98	27
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**10,439**	**5,675**	**5,275**	**1,781**	**1,962**	**952**	**547**	**147**
				Per cent[(d)(e)]				
Indigenous children								
< 1	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.6	3.0	1.7	3.3
1–4	23.2	26.1	23.2	25.9	22.2	20.1	27.8	26.6
5–9	33.0	30.9	33.7	32.6	34.0	34.6	25.6	30.3
10–14	28.6	25.2	27.3	28.3	26.3	30.3	28.4	29.7
15–17	12.0	14.4	12.6	10.3	14.9	12.0	16.5	10.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Other children[(c)]								
< 1	2.9	2.3	2.8	3.5	2.7	3.4	3.3	1.4
1–4	20.9	19.6	19.8	20.2	20.6	20.6	21.4	10.9
5–9	30.8	27.3	29.2	30.8	29.4	28.9	28.2	29.3
10–14	30.2	29.7	29.3	29.0	28.0	32.0	29.3	40.1
15–17	15.2	21.1	18.8	16.6	19.3	15.1	17.9	18.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Numbers for Tasmania are over reported due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

(c) 'Other children' includes those children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

(d) Percentages exclude children of unknown age.

(e) Percentages in tables may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.

Care and protection orders by state/territory

- As at June 2011, the rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on care and protection orders varied considerably across jurisdictions, ranging from 21 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory to 91 per 1,000 in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.12.6).
- In all jurisdictions, the rate of Indigenous children on care and protection orders was higher than the rate for non-Indigenous children, ranging from 3 to 15 times as high across jurisdictions. Nationally, the rate of Indigenous children on orders was 10 times that of non-Indigenous children.

Table 2.12.6: Children on care and protection orders: number and rate (number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 years), by Indigenous status and state/territory, at 30 June 2011

State / territory	Number of children					Number per 1,000 children				
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown no.	Unknown %	All children[a]	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All children[a]	Rate ratio Indigenous/ non-Indigenous	Rate difference[b]
NSW[c]	4,900	10,435	4	0.0	15,339	68.8	6.7	9.4	10.3	62.1
Vic	1,060	5,665	10	0.1	6,735	69.2	4.6	5.4	14.9	64.6
Qld	3,181	5,247	28	0.3	8,456	44.8	5.1	7.7	8.7	39.7
WA	1,496	1,663	118	3.6	3,277	48.0	3.2	6.0	14.8	44.8
SA	658	1,904	58	2.2	2,620	51.8	5.5	7.3	9.4	46.3
Tas[d]	234	936	16	1.3	1,186	28.0	8.5	10.0	3.3	19.5
ACT	176	535	12	1.7	723	90.9	6.8	9.0	13.3	84.1
NT	575	146	1	0.1	722	20.9	4.2	11.6	5.0	16.7
Aust.	**12,280**	**26,531**	**247**	**0.6**	**39,058**	**51.4**	**5.4**	**7.6**	**9.5**	**46.0**

(a) Includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

(b) Rate difference equals Indigenous rate minus non-Indigenous rate.

(c) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(d) Numbers and rates for Tasmania are over reported due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

Notes

1. Percentage of unknown is the percentage of 'All children' in state/territory.
2. Population estimates are based on the 2006 census, refer to Appendix table A1.35 in the 2010–11 Child Protection Australia report for the specific populations used in the calculation of rates.
3. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Indigenous children who were on a care and protection order by the un-rounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were on a care and protection order. The resulting number shows a comparative representation per 1,000 children.
4. The above table excludes children in the 'not stated' age category.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.

Types of care and protection orders

There were more orders issued during 2010–11 than children admitted to orders because more than one order can be issued for any one child. For example, a child will often be admitted to a temporary or interim order followed by a guardianship or custody order. The orders issued in 2010–11 for Indigenous and other children are presented in Table 2.12.7.

- As at 30 June 2011, most Indigenous children on care and protection orders were on guardianship and custody orders or arrangements (73%). The types of orders that Indigenous children were on compared with other children were very similar; however, Indigenous children were generally less likely to be on third-party parental responsibility or supervisory orders than other Australian children.

Table 2.12.7: Children on care and protection orders, by type of order, by state/territory and Indigenous status, 30 June 2011

Type of order	NSW[(a)]	Vic	Qld	WA[(b)]	SA	Tas[(c)]	ACT	NT	Total
Indigenous children					**Number**				
Guardianship or custody orders/arrangements	3,231	732	2,368	1,263	594	205	121	470	8,984
Third-party parental responsibility	1,120	0	234	75	12	6	10	0	1,457
Finalised supervisory orders	0	290	142	34	0	n.p.	n.p.	0	483
Interim and temporary orders	535	38	437	124	35	20	24	76	1,289
Administrative arrangements	14	0	0	0	17	n.p.	n.p.	29	67
Total	**4,900**	**1,060**	**3,181**	**1,496**	**658**	**234**	**176**	**575**	**12,280**
					Per cent				
Guardianship or custody orders/arrangements	65.9	69.1	74.4	84.4	90.3	87.6	68.8	81.7	73.2
Third-party parental responsibility	22.9	0.0	7.4	5.0	1.8	2.6	5.7	0.0	11.9
Supervisory orders	0.0	27.4	4.5	2.3	0.0	n.p.	n.p.	0.0	3.9
Interim and temporary orders	10.9	3.6	13.7	8.3	5.3	8.5	13.6	13.2	10.5
Administrative arrangements	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	n.p.	n.p.	5.0	0.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Other children[(d)]					**Number**				
Guardianship or custody orders/arrangements	6,922	4,148	3,898	1,450	1,817	793	394	137	19,559
Third-party parental responsibility	2,256	0	607	112	44	21	33	0	3,073
Finalised supervisory orders	0	1,364	266	44	0	20	62	0	1,756
Interim and temporary orders	1,175	163	504	175	82	112	51	4	2,266
Administrative arrangements	86	0	0	0	19	6	7	6	124
Total	**10,439**	**5,675**	**5,275**	**1,781**	**1,962**	**952**	**547**	**147**	**26,778**
					Per cent				
Guardianship or custody orders/arrangements	66.3	73.1	73.9	81.4	92.6	83.3	72.0	93.2	73.0
Third-party parental responsibility	21.6	0.0	11.5	6.3	2.2	2.2	6.0	0.0	11.5
Supervisory orders	0.0	24.0	5.0	2.5	0.0	2.1	11.3	0.0	6.6
Interim and temporary orders	11.3	2.9	9.6	9.8	4.2	11.8	9.3	2.7	8.5
Administrative arrangements	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.6	1.3	4.1	0.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) In Western Australia, the application for a care and protection order to be issued for a child is counted as an interim order for national reporting purposes. However, there is, in fact, no order issued during this stage. It is thus not valid to compare the number of orders by a percentage basis.

(c) Numbers for Tasmania are over reported due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

(d) Includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2011.

Length of time on care and protection orders

- In 2010–11, in New South Wales and the Northern Territory, Indigenous children were most likely to be on care and protection orders for less than 1 month. In Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia, Indigenous children were most likely to be on care and protection orders for a period of 2 years to less than 4 years. In Tasmania, Indigenous children were most likely to be on care and protection orders for 1 year to less than 2 years. In the Australian Capital Territory Indigenous children were most likely to be on care and protection orders for 8 years or more (Table 2.12.8).
- A similar pattern was evident for other children on care and protection orders in 2010–11 for most states and territories, with the exception of South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 2.12.8: Children discharged from care and protection orders, by length of time on an order, by state/territory, 2010–11

	Length of time continually on an order at time of discharge								
	Months				Years				
	<1	1 to <3	3 to <6	6 to <12	1 to <2	2 to <4	4 to <8	8 or more	Total
					Number				
Indigenous children									
New South Wales[(a)]	129	35	21	39	90	94	59	95	**562**
Victoria	0	5	34	45	73	82	43	14	**296**
Queensland	134	45	26	81	159	185	86	55	**771**
Western Australia	0	0	1	1	26	85	25	20	**158**
South Australia	7	24	10	3	23	25	6	15	**113**
Tasmania[(b)]	4	4	1	3	14	3	3	3	**35**
Australian Capital Territory	4	4	4	1	0	5	4	8	**30**
Northern Territory	90	45	25	13	16	12	10	6	**217**
Other children[(c)]									
New South Wales[(a)]	394	105	88	92	156	258	163	268	**1,524**
Victoria	1	20	149	164	312	403	244	73	**1,366**
Queensland	188	77	41	177	273	374	163	121	**1,414**
Western Australia	1	0	2	6	55	105	40	30	**239**
South Australia	24	87	37	32	93	38	27	61	**399**
Tasmania[(b)]	34	33	7	7	40	44	11	10	**186**
Australian Capital Territory	16	18	8	5	12	14	14	11	**98**
Northern Territory	22	14	5	2	9	11	6	3	**72**
					Per cent				
Indigenous children									
New South Wales[(a)]	23.0	6.2	3.7	6.9	16.0	16.7	10.5	16.9	**100.0**
Victoria	0.0	1.7	11.5	15.2	24.7	27.7	14.5	4.7	**100.0**
Queensland	17.4	5.8	3.4	10.5	20.6	24.0	11.2	7.1	**100.0**
Western Australia	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	16.5	53.8	15.8	12.7	**100.0**
South Australia	6.2	21.2	8.8	2.7	20.4	22.1	5.3	13.3	**100.0**
Tasmania[(b)]	11.4	11.4	2.9	8.6	40.0	8.6	8.6	8.6	**100.0**
Australian Capital Territory	13.3	13.3	13.3	3.3	0.0	16.7	13.3	26.7	**100.0**
Northern Territory	41.5	20.7	11.5	6.0	7.4	5.5	4.6	2.8	**100.0**

(continued)

Table 2.12.8 (continued): Children discharged from care and protection orders, by length of time on an order, by state/territory, 2010–11

	Length of time continually on an order at time of discharge								
	Months				Years				
	<1	1 to <3	3 to <6	6 to <12	1 to <2	2 to <4	4 to <8	8 or more	Total
	Per cent								
Other children[(c)]									
New South Wales[(a)]	25.9	6.9	5.8	6.0	10.2	16.9	10.7	17.6	**100.0**
Victoria	0.1	1.5	10.9	12.0	22.8	29.5	17.9	5.3	**100.0**
Queensland	13.3	5.4	2.9	12.5	19.3	26.4	11.5	8.6	**100.0**
Western Australia	0.4	0.0	0.8	2.5	23.0	43.9	16.7	12.6	**100.0**
South Australia	6.0	21.8	9.3	8.0	23.3	9.5	6.8	15.3	**100.0**
Tasmania[(b)]	18.3	17.7	3.8	3.8	21.5	23.7	5.9	5.4	**100.0**
Australian Capital Territory	16.3	18.4	8.2	5.1	12.2	14.3	14.3	11.2	**100.0**
Northern Territory	30.6	19.4	6.9	2.8	12.5	15.3	8.3	4.2	**100.0**

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Numbers for Tasmania are under reported due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

(c) Other children' includes those children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

Notes

1. If a child is discharged from an order and a new care and protection order/arrangement is applied within 5 days of the discharge, the orders are deemed to be consecutive (i.e. the length of time continuously on an order will include both orders).
2. If a child is on multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, all orders/arrangements must be discharged before a discharge for the purposes of this table is counted.
3. Length of time continuously on an order is counted only for the first order/arrangement that the child is discharged from during the year.
4. Totals exclude discharges of unknown length.
5. Percentages in tables may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.

Time series analyses

The number of children aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders by Indigenous status and state and territory is reported for the period of 2007–2011 in Table 2.12.9 and Figure 2.12.1.

- As at 30 June 2011 there were 12,280 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on care and protection orders, an increase of 65% since June 2007. There was a 21% increase for other children over the same period.

Table 2.12.9: Number of children on care and protection orders: children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, at 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2011

State/territory	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Annual change[a]	% Change[b]
Indigenous							
NSW[c]	2,880	3,380	3,979	4,555	4,900	. .	. .
Vic[d]	623	775	825	948	1,060	. .	. .
Qld[e]	1,915	2,216	2,720	2,969	3,181	. .	. .
WA[f]	1,091	1,279	1,465	1,525	1,496	. .	. .
SA	440	540	573	631	658	. .	. .
Tas[g]	164	139	151	157	234	. .	. .
ACT[h]	113	117	130	159	176	. .	. .
NT	300	363	428	507	575	. .	. .
Australia	**7,526**	**8,809**	**10,271**	**11,451**	**12,280**	**1,215.0***	**64.6***
Other[i]							
NSW[c]	7,759	8,706	9,512	10,134	10,439	. .	. .
Vic[d]	5,556	5,464	5,275	5,567	5,675	. .	. .
Qld[e]	4,476	4,824	5,222	5,121	5,275	. .	. .
WA[f]	1,538	1,815	1,872	1,907	1,781	. .	. .
SA	1,441	1,657	1,788	1,912	1,962	. .	. .
Tas[g]	733	775	840	955	952	. .	. .
ACT[h]	461	435	480	494	547	. .	. .
NT	151	157	149	189	147	. .	. .
Australia	**22,115**	**23,833**	**25,138**	**26,279**	**26,778**	**1,177.2***	**21.3***

(continued)

Table 2.12.9 (continued): Number of children on care and protection orders: children aged 0–17 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, at 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2011

* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the p < 0.05 level over the period 2007 to 2011.

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

(b) Per cent change between 2007 and 2011 based on the average annual change over the period.

(c) New South Wales data do not include finalised supervisory orders.

(d) Because of new service and data reporting arrangements, the Victorian child protection data from 2006–07 may not be fully comparable with previous years data. See AIHW (2008) for more information.

(e) 2007 data for Queensland published in *Child protection Australia* were interim and were revised in 2008.

(f) 2007 data include 24 children who were placed on Enduring Parental Responsibility orders.

(g) Numbers for Tasmania for 2010 and 2011 are over reported due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

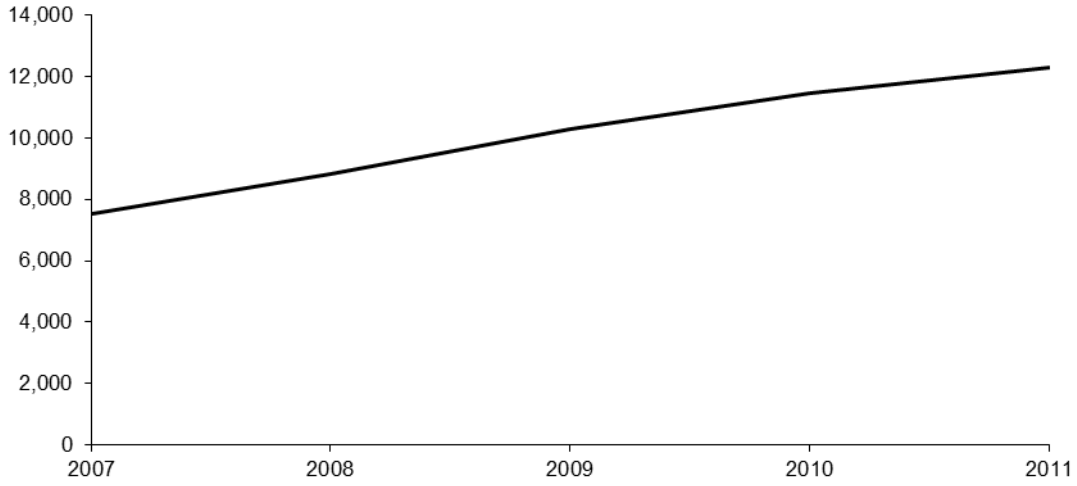
(h) Additional systems have been put in place to tackle the Indigenous status recording issues, including quarterly monitoring.

(i) Other children includes those children whose Indigenous status was unknown. Children of unknown Indigenous status were not collected at a national level until 2006–07; hence interpretation of these trend data should therefore be treated with caution.

Notes

1. The counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are likely to be an underestimate of the actual number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.
2. Due to small numbers and volatility in jurisdiction level data, significance testing of trends was only calculated for Australia level data.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.



Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.

Figure 2.12.1: Indigenous children aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders as at 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2011

Out-of-home care

Out-of-home care is one of a range of services provided to children and young people under 18 years of age who are in need of care and protection. This service provides alternative accommodation to children and young people who are unable to live with their parents. These arrangements include foster care, placements with relatives or kin, and residential care. In most cases, children in out-of-home care are also on a care and protection order of some kind.

Some children are placed in out-of-home care because they are the subject of a child protection substantiation and require a more protective environment. Other situations in which a child may be placed in out-of-home care include those whose parents are incapable of providing adequate care for the child, or where alternative accommodation is needed during times of family conflict. There are no national data available, however, on the reasons children are placed in out-of-home care. This is expected to change with the introduction of the unit record collection which is currently being developed (AIHW 2010).

Out-of-home care by state/territory

- At 30 June 2011, there were 12,358 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care. The rate was 52 per 1,000, ranging from 18 in the Northern Territory to 81 in New South Wales (Table 2.12.10).
- In all jurisdictions there were higher rates of Indigenous children in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children. The national rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was 10 times that for non-Indigenous children.

Table 2.12.10: Children in out-of-home care: number and rate (number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 years), by Indigenous status and state/territory, at 30 June 2011

	Number of children					Number per 1,000 children				
State/ territory	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown no.	Unknown %	All children[(a)]	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All children[(a)]	Rate ratio Indigenous/ non-Indigenous	Rate difference[(b)]
NSW	5,737	10,994	9	0.1	16,740	80.6	7.0	10.2	11.5	73.6
Vic	877	4,701	100	1.8	5,678	57.3	3.8	4.6	14.9	53.5
Qld	2,850	4,722	30	0.4	7,602	40.2	4.6	7.0	8.7	35.6
WA	1,448	1,527	145	4.6	3,120	46.4	3.0	5.7	15.6	43.4
SA	630	1,690	48	2.0	2,368	49.6	4.9	6.6	10.1	44.7
Tas	196	754	16	1.7	966	23.5	6.8	8.1	3.4	16.7
ACT	119	409	12	2.2	540	61.4	5.2	6.7	11.8	56.2
NT	501	132	1	0.2	634	18.2	3.8	10.2	4.8	14.4
Australia	**12,358**	**24,929**	**361**	**1.0**	**37,648**	**51.7**	**5.1**	**7.3**	**10.1**	**46.6**

(a) Includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

(b) Rate difference equals Indigenous rate minus non-Indigenous rate.

Notes

1. Percentage of unknown is the percentage of 'All children' in state/territory.
2. Population estimates are based on the 2006 Census; refer to Appendix table A1.35 in the 2010–11 Child Protection Australia report for the specific populations used in the calculation of rates.
3. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Indigenous children who were in out-of-home care by the un-rounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were in out-of-home care. The resulting number shows a comparative representation per 1,000 children.
4. The above table excludes children in the 'not stated' age category.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Child Protection Data Collection 2011.

Out-of-home care by Indigenous status of caregivers

The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle outlines a preference for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they are placed outside their family (Lock 1997:50). The principle has the following order of preference for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children:

- with the child's extended family
- within the child's Indigenous community
- with other Indigenous people.

All jurisdictions have adopted the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle either in legislation or policy. The impact of the Principle is reflected in many jurisdictions in the relatively high proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were placed either with Indigenous caregivers or with relatives.

It is important to note that the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle is just one of the many considerations taken into account when making decisions on placements for Indigenous children. Where placement options outlined in the principle are not optimal for a child's safety and wellbeing, the child may be placed in an alternative care arrangement; this is usually only done after extensive consultation with Indigenous individuals and organisations.

- As at 30 June 2011, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were placed with either an Indigenous carer or a relative was above 50% except for Tasmania (43%) and the Northern Territory (34%). In New South Wales, 82% of Indigenous children were placed with relative/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care (Table 2.12.11).

Table 2.12.11: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care: Indigenous status and relationship of carer, by state/territory, at 30 June 2011

Relationship	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust.
					Number				
Indigenous relative/kin	2,887	216	605	654	247	26	54	114	4,803
Other Indigenous caregiver	1,024	57	570	204	118	17	13	52	2,055
Other relative/kin	796	231	320	171	89	41	9	0	1,657
Total placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care	*4,707*	*504*	*1,495*	*1,029*	*454*	*84*	*76*	*166*	*8,515*
Other caregiver	1,005	373	1,355	417	153	112	43	330	3,788
Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care	*1,005*	*373*	*1,355*	*417*	*153*	*112*	*43*	*330*	*3,788*
Total	**5,712**	**877**	**2,850**	**1,446**	**607**	**196**	**119**	**496**	**12,303**
					Per cent				
Indigenous relative/kin	50.5	24.6	21.2	45.2	40.7	13.3	45.4	23.0	39.0
Other Indigenous caregiver	17.9	6.5	20.0	14.1	19.4	8.7	10.9	10.5	16.7
Other relative/kin	13.9	26.3	11.2	11.8	14.7	20.9	7.6	0.0	13.5
Total placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care	*82.4*	*57.5*	*52.5*	*71.2*	*74.8*	*42.9*	*63.9*	*33.5*	*69.2*
Other caregiver	17.6	42.5	47.5	28.8	25.2	57.1	36.1	66.5	30.8
Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care	*17.6*	*42.5*	*47.5*	*28.8*	*25.2*	*57.1*	*36.1*	*66.5*	*30.8*
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Notes

1. This table does not include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were living independently or whose living arrangements were unknown.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.
3. Family group homes and residential care are reported under other caregiver.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2011.

Data quality issues

Child protection data

Reported rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system for 2008–09, 2009–10 and 2010–11 cannot be compared directly with previous years data published in AIHW Child protection in Australia reports. In previous years, rates were calculated using ABS Indigenous population denominators from the 1996 and 2001 Census, while the 2008–09, 2009–10 and 2010–11 rates are based on the 2006 census population data. For time series analyses presented in this measure, rates were taken from the published reports and they have not been re-calculated using recent Indigenous population estimates based on 2006 Census.

State/territory comparisons

As each state or territory has a different legal regime and different human services policies around child protection, states and territory comparisons should be made with caution. Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have very small numbers, and statistics from these jurisdictions are susceptible to random fluctuations.

Child protection is an area in which legislation and human services practice changes. Often notification rates vary owing to public awareness of child abuse, and practices in relation to the intensity of follow-up of notifications which are affected by a number of factors. For these reasons time series comparisons may not be statistically valid.

In addition, one-off global changes may occur in the legal and procedural regime of a particular jurisdiction, which may make comparisons between time series data from before and after such change invalid.

Child abuse

Child protection policies and practices are continually under development. As such, they impact on the number of children in the child protection system in different ways. Therefore, trends in child protection numbers should be interpreted carefully.

The definition of what constitutes child abuse and neglect has changed and broadened over time (AIFS: Bromfield & Holzer 2008). Naturally, any broadening of the definition of child abuse and neglect is likely to increase notifications and substantiations. The focus of child protection in many jurisdictions has shifted away from the identification and investigation of narrowly defined incidents of child abuse and neglect. Instead, the focus has moved towards a broader assessment of whether a child or young person has suffered harm.

Care and protection orders

For the 2010–11 financial year Indigenous children are counted only once, even if they were admitted to or discharged from more than one order or were on more than one order at 30 June 2011. If a child is on more than one order at 30 June, 2011, then they are counted as being on the order that implies the highest level of intervention by the department (with guardianship or custody orders being the most interventionist, and interim and temporary orders the least) (AIHW 2012).

Substantiations

Since 1997 the number of substantiated notifications of child abuse across Australia has increased significantly. Therefore, interpretation of the figures for Indigenous children should be in the light of the increasing number of all children subject to these substantiated notifications.

Indigenous status

Information on Indigenous status may be collected at each stage of a child protection case; this varies by jurisdiction, with some collecting only at the investigation stage, others at the notification and investigation stages, and others at all stages. However, data are not reported at the notification stage as the quality of these data is questionable, as many notifications are from third parties who do not know the child or family well.

The practices used to identify and record the Indigenous status of children in the child protection system also vary across states and territories, with some jurisdictions recording large numbers of children with unknown Indigenous status. No state or territory can validate the data on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children by other means and the quality of the data is therefore unknown. Over the last few years, several jurisdictions have introduced measures to improve the identification of Indigenous children in the child protection system. However, in some jurisdictions the quality of data on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children is still affected by the high proportion of children whose Indigenous status is unknown. The counts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are therefore likely to be an under-estimate of the actual number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

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

AIFS (Australian Institute of Family Studies): Bromfield and Holzer 2008. NCPASS comparability of child protection data: Project report. Melbourne: AIFS.

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HREOC (Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission) 1997. Bringing them home: report of the national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. Sydney: HREOC.

Lock JA 1997. The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle: research project no. 7. Sydney: New South Wales Law Reform Commission.

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2.13 Transport

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

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).

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 social issues 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.

Data analyses

Motor vehicle access

- Results from the 2008 NATSISS indicate that approximately 51% of Indigenous households had access to a working motor vehicle in 2008.
- In 2008, around 78% of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over had access to a working motor vehicle to drive compared with 86% of non-Indigenous people.

Motor vehicle access by remoteness

- In 2008, approximately 50% of Indigenous households in non-remote areas reported having access to at least one motor vehicle compared with 57% of Indigenous households in remote areas. In Other Australian households, access to motor vehicles in non-remote areas was 85% (Table 2.13.1).
- Other households in *Outer Regional* areas were most likely to have access to a vehicle (90%) while Indigenous households were most likely to have access to a vehicle when located in *Inner Regional* areas (54%) (Table 2.13.1).

Table 2.13.1: Proportion of households with and 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	100.0	100.0
Inner regional	46.5	10.7	53.5	89.3	100.0	100.0
Outer regional	51.7	9.8	48.3	90.2	100.0	100.0
Total non-remote	*50.2*	*15.3*	*49.8*	*84.7*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Remote	46.5	..	53.5	..	100.0	..
Very Remote	39.4	..	60.6	..	100.0	..
Total remote	*42.8*	..	*57.2*	..	*100.0*	..
Total	**48.9**	..	**51.1**	..	**100.0**	..

Note: Other households includes non-Indigenous households and households for which Indigenous status is not stated.

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Motor vehicle access by age

- Of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over, Indigenous people aged 18–24 years were least likely to have access to a motor vehicle (70%), followed by Indigenous people 55 years and over (73%) (Table 2.13.2).

Table 2.13.2: Access to motor vehicles for persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and age, 2008

Age group		Proportion	Number
18–24	Indigenous	70.1*	47,349
	Non-Indigenous	78.1*	1,506,641
	Ratio	0.9	. .
25–34	Indigenous	79.7*	55,575
	Non-Indigenous	89.0*	2,480,039
	Ratio	0.9	. .
35–44	Indigenous	84.7*	53,958
	Non-Indigenous	92.7*	2,740,810
	Ratio	1.0	. .
45–54	Indigenous	82.6*	38,404
	Non-Indigenous	91.6*	2,542,392
	Ratio	0.9	. .
55 years and over	Indigenous	73.3*	30,839
	Non-Indigenous	81.1*	3,848,043
	Ratio	0.9	. .
Total	**Indigenous**	**78.1***	**226,125**
	Non-Indigenous	**86.3***	**13,117,925**
	Ratio	**0.9**	**. .**

*Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level for these categories.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Transport access, difficulty and use

The 2008 NATSISS collected data on access to transport, 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.

- Around 6.5% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over reported they could only access a motor vehicle in an emergency and 8% could not access a motor vehicle but could drive (Table 2.13.3).
- 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 2.13.4).
- 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 2.13.6).
- 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 2.13.7).

- 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 2.13.5).

Transport access, difficulty and use by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 18–24 years were more likely to report they could only access a motor vehicle in an emergency (Table 2.13.3), and to have used public transport in the previous 2 weeks (31%) than those in older age groups (Table 2.13.6).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males than Indigenous females reported having access to a motor vehicle (81% compared with 75%) (Table 2.13.8).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous females reported using public transport in the previous 2 weeks than Indigenous males (28% compared with 23%) (Table 2.13.8).

Table 2.13.3: Access to 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	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
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	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.13.3 (continued): Access to 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)]
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 at the p<0.05 level 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 2.13.4: 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			
		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	Total[(a)]
18–24 years	Indig.	67.9*	19.6	12.5*	100.0
	Non-Indig.	77.3*	18.6	4.0*	100.0
	Ratio	0.9	1.1	3.1	. .
25–34 years	Indig.	73.3*	14.7	11.7*	100.0
	Non-Indig.	84.3*	12.3	3.4*	100.0
	Ratio	0.9	1.2	3.5	. .
35–44 years	Indig.	76.8*	12.5*	10.4*	100.0
	Non-Indig.	88.9*	8.7*	2.4*	100.0
	Ratio	0.9	1.4	4.3	. .
45–54 years	Indig.	79.3*	11.2	8.7*	100.0
	Non-Indig.	86.4*	9.1	4.5*	100.0
	Ratio	0.9	1.2	1.9	. .
55 years +	Indig.	77.7*	11.1	9.9*	100.0
	Non-Indig.	82.8*	11.2	5.7*	100.0
	Ratio	0.9	1	1.8	. .
Total	**Indig.**	**74.4***	**14.3***	**10.8***	**100.0**
	Non-Indig.	**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 at the p<0.05 level for these categories.

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

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.13.5: Use of public transport in the last two weeks, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over by age group, 2008 (per cent)

	Where public transport is available in local area main reason did not use public transport							
	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]	Total with access to public transport	No public transport available in local area	Not known	Total[b]
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 2.13.6: Use of transport in the last 2 weeks, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over by age group, 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 2.13.7: Mode of transport, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over by age group, 2008 (per cent)

	Modes of transport									
	Bus	Tram/light rail	Taxi	Car / 4WD / Truck - as driver	Motorcycle / Motorised scooter	Car / 4WD / Truck - as passenger	Bicycle	Walk	Other[a]	Total[b]
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 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 2.13.8: Transport, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and older, 2008 (per cent)

	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	. .	. .
Total with access to motor vehicle	*80.8***	*90.4***	*0.9**	*75.0***	*82.4***	*0.9**	*77.7*	*86.3*	*0.9**
Cannot access but can drive	8.2	. .	. .	7.1	. .	. .	7.6	. .	. .
Total can access and/or drive	*89.0*	. .	. .	*82.0*	. .	. .	*85.3*	. .	. .
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 2.13.8 (continued): Transport, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and older, 2008 (per cent)

	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	. .	. .
Did not use public transport[(c)]	*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	. .	. .
Total with access to public transport	*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	. .	. .
Total[(b)]	*76.3*	. .	. .	*72.0*	. .	. .	*74.0*	. .	. .
Used public transport in last 2 weeks	23.3	. .	. .	27.5	. .	. .	25.5	. .	. .
Total not housebound in last 2 weeks[(f)]	*99.6*	. .	. .	*99.5*	. .	. .	*99.5*	. .	. .
Total[(b)]	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**	**100.0**	**. .**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.13.8 (continued): Transport, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and older, 2008 (per cent)

	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**	**. .**	**. .**

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level 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 n.f.d.

(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 n.f.d.

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 2.13.10).
- In all states and territories, except for Tasmania, Indigenous Australians were less likely to have access to motor vehicles (Table 2.13.9).
- 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 2.13.12).
- 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 2.13.11).

Table 2.13.9: Access to 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	100.0
	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	100.0
	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	100.0
	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	100.0
	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	100.0
	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	100.0
	Non-Indig.	. .	. .	86.4	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
	Ratio	. .	. .	1.0	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

(continued)

Table 2.13.9 (continued): Access to 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.	83.0	3.0[(c)]	86.0	2.9[(c)]	88.8	78.8	5.5[(c)]	4.6[(c)]	11.2	100.0
	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	100.0
	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	100.0
	Non-Indig.	. .	. .	86.3	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
	Ratio	. .	. .	0.9*	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level 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 2.13.10: Transport, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

		Perceived level of difficulty with transport			
		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	Total[(a)]
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 at the p<0.05 level 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 2.13.11: Use of public transport in the last two weeks, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over by state/territory, 2008 (per cent)

	Where public transport is available in local area main reason did not use public transport							
	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)]	Total with access to public transport	No public transport available in local area	Not known	Total[(b)]
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 at the p<0.05 level for these categories.

(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 generally unreliable for use.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.13.12: Use of transport in the last 2 weeks, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over by state/territory, 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)]
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 2.13.13: Mode of transport, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over by state/territory, 2008 (per cent)

	Modes of transport									
	Bus	Tram/light rail	Taxi	Car/4WD/Truck - as driver	Motorcycle/ Motorised scooter	Car/4WD/ Truck - as passenger	Bicycle	Walk	Other[a]	Total[b]
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 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.

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 2.13.14).
- 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 2.13.14).
- 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 2.13.14).

Table 2.13.14: 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**	**100.0**	**. .**	**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 2.13.14 (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	. .	. .
Total with access to public transport in local area	*74.2*	. .	. .	*17.1*	. .	. .	*56.9*	. .	. .
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.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Table 2.13.15: 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.

Sources: 2008 NATSISS and 2006 GSS.

Transport difficulty by selected health and population characteristics

Tables 2.13.16 and 2.13.17 present information on Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by perceived level of difficulty with transport and selected health and population characteristics. Proportions in Table 2.13.16 are calculated within a column using the total across the rows as a denominator; while proportions in Table 2.13.17 are calculated within a row using the column totals as a denominator.

- 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 2.13.16).
- 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 2.13.16).

Table 2.13.16: Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	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
Self-assessed health status[b]										
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 2.13.16 (continued): Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level 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 2.13.17: Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected health and population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	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[b]	Non-Indigenous
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 2.13.17 (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 at the p<0.05 level 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 2.13.18: Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected transport characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	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.
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	. .
Total with access to public transport	*46.8*	. .	*30.1*	. .	*33.4*	. .	*19.4*	. .	*41.7*	. .
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 2.13.18 (continued): Perceived level of difficulty with transport, by selected transport characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	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.
Used public transport in last 2 weeks	22.6	. .	37.1	. .	36.7	. .	27.9	. .	25.5	. .
Total not housebound in last 2 weeks[(g)]	*100.0*	. .	*100.0*	. .	*100.0*	. .	*100.0*	. .	*100.0*	. .
Total[(b)]	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**. .**

* Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are statistically significant at the p<0.05 level 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 n.f.d.

(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.

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 and can be found in Indicator 3.12.

- 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).

The data on vehicles per household and per person presented in this indicator 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 (Table 2.13.18).

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 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).

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 (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2010. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: users' guide 2008. ABS Cat. no. 4720.0. Canberra: ABS.

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2.14 Indigenous people with access to their traditional lands

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on or visiting traditional areas of land with which they have ancestral and/or cultural links

Data sources

Data for this indicator come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

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 social issues 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.

Data analyses

Access to traditional lands

- In 2008, approximately 71% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported they recognised their homeland or traditional country. Approximately 26% reported they lived on their homeland, 45% were allowed to visit their homeland and 1% were not allowed to visit their homeland/traditional country (Table 2.14.1).

Access to traditional lands by age group

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who reported they recognised their homelands was highest among those aged 35–44 years (81%) and lowest among those aged 15–34 years (65%) (Table 2.14.1).
- In 2008, only 39% of 15–34 year olds were allowed to visit homelands/traditional country compared with 51–53% of all other age groups (Table 2.14.1).

Table 2.14.1: Access to homelands/traditional country, by age group, Indigenous Australians, 2008

	Does not recognise homelands/ traditional country	Recognises homelands/traditional country				Total
		Lives on homelands/ traditional country	Allowed to visit homelands/ traditional country	Not allowed to visit	*Total Recognises homelands/ traditional country*	
			Per cent			
15–34 years	34.9	25.1	39.4	0.5	*65.1*	100.0
35–44 years	19.4	29.1	51.0	0.5	*80.6*	100.0
45–54 years	22.9	23.0	52.8	1.2	*77.1*	100.0
55 years and over	23.6	24.6	51.3	0.5	*76.4*	100.0
Australia	**28.7**	**25.5**	**45.2**	**0.6**	***71.3***	**100.0**
Number	**92,718**	**82,607**	**146,017**	**2,051**	***230,674.7***	**323,393**

Note: Proportions and numbers exclude not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by state/territory

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who reported they recognised their homelands varied by jurisdiction, being highest in the Northern Territory *Remote* and *Very remote* areas (91%) and lowest in New South Wales *Major Cities* (57%) (Table 2.14.2).
- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who lived on their homeland was highest in the Northern Territory *Remote* and *Very remote* areas (48%) and lowest in Queensland *Major Cities* (3%).
- The proportion of Indigenous people who were allowed to visit their homelands/traditional country was highest in Queensland *Major cities* (71%) and lowest in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas of New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania combined (23%).

Table 2.14.2: Access to homelands/traditional country, by state/territory and remoteness, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008 [(a)]

State/ territory	Does not recognise homelands/ traditional country	Recognises homelands/traditional country				Total
		Lives on homelands/ traditional country	Allowed to visit homelands/ traditional country	Not allowed to visit	*Total Recognises homelands/ traditional country*	
			Per cent			
NSW Major cities	43.3	13.7	42.6	0.3	*56.7*	100.0
NSW Inner regional	32.9	39.4	26.8	0.9	*67.1*	100.0
NSW Outer regional	25.1	44.4	30.1	0.3	*74.9*	100.0
Vic Total	33.0	16.9	49.5	0.6	*67.0*	100.0
Qld Major cities	25.1	2.9	71.4	0.6	*74.9*	100.0
Qld Inner regional	39.7	9.5	50.8	0.0	*60.3*	100.0
Qld Outer regional	33.4	16.4	49.4	0.8	*66.6*	100.0
Qld Remote/Very remote	14.0	40.7	44.3	1.1	*86.0*	100.0
WA Non-remote	31.1	21.8	45.8	1.3	*68.9*	100.0
WA Remote/Very remote	15.2	42.2	42.2	0.5	*84.8*	100.0
NT Remote/Very remote	8.8	47.5	43.2	0.5	*91.2*	100.0
Balance of Australia - Non-remote[(b)]	33.0	13.1	53.1	0.8	*67.0*	100.0
Balance of Australia - Remote/Very remote[(c)]	30.2	46.9	22.9	0.0	*69.8*	100.0
Australia	**28.7**	**25.5**	**45.2**	**0.6**	***71.3***	**100.0**
Number	**92,718**	**82,607**	**146,017**	**2,051**	***230,674.7***	**323,393**

(a) Proportions and numbers exclude not stated responses.

(b) Includes Non-Remote areas of SA, NT, and Tas/ACT.

(c) Includes Remote/Very Remote areas of NSW, SA, and Tas/ACT

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by remoteness

- In general, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who reported they recognised their homelands in 2008 increased with remoteness. The highest proportion was in *Very remote* areas (90%) and lowest was in Inner Regional areas (63%) (Table 2.14.3).
- Around 44% of Indigenous Australians reported they lived on their homeland in remote areas, and 19% in non-remote areas (Table 2.14.3).
- The proportion of Indigenous people who were allowed to visit their homelands/traditional country but did not live there was highest in *Major cities* (55%) (Table 2.14.3).

Table 2.14.3: Access to homelands/traditional country, by remoteness, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Total non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Total remote	Australia
				Per cent				
Recognises homelands								
Lives on homelands[(a)]	9.5	26.3	25.6	18.9	32.9	51.0	44.4	25.3
Does not live on homelands								
Allowed to visit homelands	55.4	35.4	41.9	45.9	45.8	38.0	40.9	44.6
Not allowed to visit homelands	0.6[(b)]	0.7[(c)]	0.7[(b)]	0.6[(b)]	1.0[(b)]	0.3[(b)]	0.6[(b)]	0.6
Not known	1.7[(b)]	1.0[(b)]	1.4[(b)]	1.4	0.3[(c)]	0.2[(c)]	0.2[(c)]	1.1
Total	*57.6*	*37.1*	*44.1*	*48.0*	*47.1*	*38.5*	*41.7*	*46.4*
Total recognises homelands	67.1	63.4	69.7	66.9	80.0	89.6	86.1	71.7
Does not recognise homelands	32.9	36.6	30.3	33.1	20.0	10.4	13.9	28.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Asked of persons who recognised their homelands (234,383).

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

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

Source: AIHW Analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by remoteness and selected population and socioeconomic characteristics

- In 2008, Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands and lived in remote areas were more likely to be living under financial stress (68%) then those in non-remote areas (47%) (Table 2.14.4).
- Total employment rates for those who recognised their homelands and lived in remote areas were lower (50%) than those who lived in non-remote areas (53%). Similar rates by remoteness were observed for those who have access to homelands (Table 2.14.4).

Table 2.14.4: Access to homelands/traditional country by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008

	Recognises homelands/traditional country			Has access to homelands/traditional country		
	Remote	Non-remote	Total	Remote	Non-remote	Total
			Per cent			
Main language spoken at home						
English	50.9	97.8	83.1	49.4	97.7	83.0
Language other than English	49.1	2.2	16.9	50.6	2.3	17.0
Household income						
1st quintile	19.2	21.3	20.7	19.6	22.6	21.8
5th quintile	7.5	8.8	6.3	7.0	10.1	9.2
Index of socioeconomic disadvantage						
1st quintile (lowest)	83.1	44.1	56.3	83.2	43.7	55.7
5th quintile (highest)	0.9	5.0	3.7	1.0	5.6	4.2
Financial stress						
Unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	68.1	46.6	53.4	67.6	45.1	52.0
Employment						
Employed CDEP	38.1	2.0	12.3	38.4	2.0	12.7
Employed non-CDEP	61.8	98.0	87.7	61.7	98.0	87.3
Total employed	50.2	53.4	52.4	50.4	53.2	52.4
Unemployed	8.7	10.9	10.3	8.8	11.2	10.4
Subtotal in labour force	*58.9*	*64.3*	*62.7*	*59.2*	*64.4*	*62.8*
Not in labour force	41.1	35.7	37.3	40.8	35.6	37.2
Housing						
Dwelling has major structural problems	40.6	25.9	30.5	40.4	25.8	30.2
Repairs and maintenance carried out in last 12 months	63.5	62.6	62.9	63.5	61.8	62.3
Dwelling requires additional bedroom(s)	54.1	18.4	29.6	50.4	16.7	26.9
Mobility						
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	20.0	22.1	21.4	20.6	22.7	22.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by selected health characteristics

- In 2008, among Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who recognised and lived on their homelands/traditional country, 79% were in excellent/very good health status and 21% were in fair/poor health status. Among Indigenous Australians who recognised and was allowed to visit their homelands/traditional country, 76% were in excellent/very good health status and 24% were in fair/poor health status. Among Indigenous Australians who recognised but did not live on and was not allowed to visit their homelands/traditional country, 42% were in excellent/very good health status and 58% were in fair/poor health status (Table 2.14.5).
- The proportions of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who recognised and lived on their homelands/traditional country were similar between different levels of health status, levels of selected risk factors and levels of psychological distress. The proportions ranged from 24% (fair/poor health status, low risk alcohol consumption) to 28% (medium/ high risk alcohol consumption). Similar patterns were observed for proportions of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who did not recognise their homelands/traditional country, and proportions of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who recognised but did not live on and was not allowed to visit their homelands/traditional country (Table 2.14.6).

Table 2.14.5: Access to homelands/traditional country, by health status and risk factors and psychological distress, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Self-assessed health status			Alcohol consumption				Smoking			Psychological distress (Kessler 5)		
	Excellent/ very good/ good	Fair/ poor	Total[(a)]	Medium/ high risk alcohol consump-tion	Low risk alcohol consump-tion	Did not consume alcohol	Total[(a)]	Current smoker	Ex-smoker or never smoked	Total[(a)]	Low/ moderate	High/ very high	Total[(a)]
							Per cent						
Does not recognise homelands/ traditional country	80.6	19.4	100.0	16.9	49.3	33.8	100.0	43.0	57.0	100.0	71.4	28.6	100.0
Recognises and lives on homelands/ traditional country	79.3	20.7	100.0	18.6	43.7	37.7	100.0	49.6	50.4	100.0	66.7	33.3	100.0
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	75.8	24.2	100.0	17.0	47.4	35.6	100.0	47.6	52.4	100.0	68.9	31.1	100.0
Recognises homelands/traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	42.4	57.6	100.0	9.5	44.0	46.5	100.0	56.1	43.9	100.0	45.0	55.0	100.0
Total	**77.8**	**22.2**	**100.0**	**17.3**	**47.0**	**35.7**	**100.0**	**46.8**	**53.2**	**100.0**	**68.9**	**31.1**	**100.0**

(a) Excludes not stated and unknown responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.14.6: Access to homelands/traditional country, by health status and risk factors and psychological distress, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Self-assessed health status		Alcohol consumption			Smoking		Psychological distress (Kessler 5)	
	Excellent/ very good/ good	Fair/ poor	Medium/ high risk alcohol consumption	Low risk alcohol consumption	Did not consume alcohol	Current smoker	Ex-smoker or never smoked	Low/moderate	High/very high
	Per cent								
Does not recognise homelands/ traditional country	29.7	25.2	28.1	30.3	27.3	26.3	30.7	29.8	26.5
Recognises and lives on homelands/ traditional country	26.0	23.8	27.6	23.9	27.1	27.0	24.2	24.5	27.2
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	43.9	49.4	43.9	45.2	44.7	45.9	44.5	45.3	45.3
Recognises homelands/traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	0.3	1.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	1.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**251,726**	**71,666**	**55,2392**	**150,001**	**113,813**	**151,469**	**171,924**	**219,612**	**98,960**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by community cohesion

- In 2008, 90% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who recognised and lived on their homelands had support in a time of crisis, 88% of those who did not recognised their homelands had support in a time of crisis (Table 2.14.7).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians who recognised their homelands and lives there reported neighbourhood problems (75%), compared with 67% of those who recognise their homelands but are not allowed to visit or live there (Table 2.14.7).

Table 2.14.7: Access to homelands/traditional country, by community cohesion, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Support in time of crisis			Presence of neighbourhood/community problems		
	Does not have support in time of crisis	Has support in time of crisis	Total	Neighbourhood/ community problems reported	No neighbourhood/ community problems reported	Total[(a)]
				Per cent		
Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	12.1	87.9	100.0	69.7	30.3	100.0
Recognises and lives on homelands/traditional country	9.6	90.4	100.0	75.2	24.8	100.0
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	11.7	88.3	100.0	74.5	25.5	100.0
Recognises homelands/ traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	4.6	95.4	100.0	67.0	33.0	100.0
Total	**11.2**	**88.8**	**100.0**	**73.3**	**26.7**	**100.0**

(a) Excludes not stated.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.14.8: Access to homelands/traditional country, by community cohesion, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Support in time of crisis		Presence of neighbourhood/community problems	
	Does not have support in time of crisis	Has support in time of crisis	Neighbourhood/ community problems reported	No neighbourhood/ community problems reported
			Per cent	
Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	30.9	28.4	27.2	32.4
Recognises and lives on homelands/traditional country	21.8	26.0	26.3	23.8
Recognises and allowed to visit homelands/traditional country but does not live there	47.1	44.9	45.9	43.1
Recognises homelands/ traditional country but does not live there and not allowed to visit	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Access to traditional lands by personal stressors

- In 2008, 28% of Indigenous Australians who lived on their homelands reported a death of a family member or close friend, 11% reported difficulty in getting a job and 10% reported overcrowding (Table 2.14.9).
- Around 30% of Indigenous people who recognised their homelands but were not allowed to visit reported a death of a family member or close friend and 21% reported divorce or separation (Table 2.14.9).

Table 2.14.9: Access to traditional lands, by type of personal stressors in last 12 months, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

		Recognises homelands/traditional country		
Type of stressor	Does not recognise homelands/traditional country	Lives on homelands/ traditional country	Allowed to visit homelands/ traditional country	Not allowed to visit
Really bad illness	10.9	10.1	14.7	17.0
Really bad accident	2.4	4.4	3.7	4.8
Death of family member or close friend	20.0	27.8	27.7	30.8
You, a family member or friend spent time in gaol	2.8	6.2	3.9	3.6
Overcrowding at home	4.8	10.1	7.1	2.4
Divorce or separation	4.8	3.9	4.4	20.8
Not able to get a job	11.7	11.4	11.3	6.5
Lost job / made redundant / sacked / retired	3.7	3.2	4.3	1.2
Alcohol/drug problems	5.7	7.9	9.1	13.1
Witness to violence	1.9	3.4	4.6	18.9
Abuse or violent crime	2.6	2.6	3.1	19.5
Trouble with police	3.4	6.7	5.9	19.4
Gambling problem	1.5	2.4	3.0	0.0
Other	20.2	24.2	29.0	43.7
Total[(a)]	**96.3**	**124.2**	**131.8**	**201.6**

(a) Sum of components will not add to 100% because multiple stressors can be reported.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Frequency and length of time spent visiting homelands

- In 2008, of Indigenous Australians 15 years and over who recognised and were allowed to visit their homelands, 49% visited their homelands less than once a year. This was compared with only 2% that visited their homelands at least weekly and 2% who visited their homelands fortnightly (Table 2.14.10).
- In 2008, of Indigenous Australians 15 years and over who visited their homelands at least once a year, 43% reported the longest time that they spent at their homelands was one week to less than a month. This was compared with 2.2% that reported three to less than six months (Table 2.14.11)

Table 2.14.10: How often visits homelands/traditional country, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over[(a)], 2008

	How often visits homelands/ traditional country
	Per cent
At least once a week	2.0
At least once a fortnight	2.1
At least once a month	4.3
Several times per year	24.4
Once per year	18.4
Less frequently than once per year	48.9
Total who recognises an area as their homelands and are allowed to visit	**100.0**
Total number	**146,017**

(a) Selected persons 15+ who recognise an area as their homelands and are allowed to visit.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.14.11: Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country in last 12 months, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country[(a)]
	Per cent
<1 week	42.4
1 week to less than 1 month	43.2
1 to less than 3 months	9.6
3 to less than 6 months	2.2
6+ months	2.6
Total	**100.0**
Total number	**74,687**

(a) Selected persons 15+ who visit their homelands/ traditional country at least once per year.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Length of time spent visiting homelands by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors

- For those Indigenous Australians who reported spending 3 to less than 6 months visiting their homelands, 83% reported excellent/very good/good health compared with 17% who reported fair/poor health (Table 2.14.12).
- Of those who spent less than a week visiting their homelands, 78% reported excellent/very good/good and 22% reported fair/poor health (Table 2.14.12).
- Indigenous Australians who spent 6 months or more visiting their homelands were more likely to be a daily smoker, use risky amounts of alcohol and to have ever used substances (63%, 30% and 46%, respectively) than those who spent less than a week visiting their homelands (44%, 17% and 43%, respectively) (Table 2.14.13; Table 2.14.15).
- Of Indigenous Australians who reported that they did not have support during a time of crisis 11% has spent less than a week visiting their homelands in the past year while 2.1% had spent 3 to less than 6 months visiting their homelands (Table 2.14.12).

Table 2.14.12: Health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors by longest time spent in homelands/traditional country, 2008

		Longest time spent in homelands					
		<1 week	1 week to less than 1 month	1 to less than 3 months	3 to less than 6 months	6+ months	Total
Self-assessed health status	Excellent/ very good/ good	78.2	78.9	84.6	83.4	67.5	78.9
	Fair/ poor	21.8	21.1	15.4	16.6	32.5	21.1
	Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)	Low/moderate	68.5	73.4	70.1	57.7	77.1	70.8
	High/very high	31.5	26.6	29.9	42.3	22.9	29.2
	Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Experienced personal stressors in last 12 months	Experienced stressors	58.2	65.8	69.4	67.5	68.8	63.0
	Did not experience stressors	41.8	34.2	30.6	32.5	31.2	37.0
	Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Support in time of crisis	Does not have support in time of crisis	11.2	9.9	13.1	2.1	19.5	10.9
	Has support in time of crisis	88.8	90.1	86.9	97.9	80.5	89.1
	Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Presence of neighbourhood/community problems	Neighbourhood/ community problems reported	70.5	76.3	77.2	81.7	63.8	73.8
	No neighbourhood/community problems	29.5	23.7	22.8	18.3	36.2	26.2
	Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Not stated responses excluded.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.14.13: Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors, 2008

	Smoking status			Alcohol use			Substance use		
Longest time spent in homelands	Current daily smoker	Not current daily smoker	Total[(a)]	Risky/ high risk	Not risky/ high risk	Total[(a)]	Ever used substances	Never used substances	Total[(a)]
<1 week	44.3	55.7	100.0	16.6	83.4	100.0	42.6	57.4	100.0
1 week to less than 1 month	42.5	57.5	100.0	15.5	84.5	100.0	42.9	57.1	100.0
1 to less than 3 months	50.7	49.3	100.0	17.3	82.7	100.0	40.6	59.4	100.0
3 to less than 6 months	56.5	43.5	100.0	27.8	72.2	100.0	58.8	41.2	100.0
6+ months	62.7	37.3	100.0	30.3	69.7	100.0	45.7	54.3	100.0
Total	**45.0**	**55.0**	**100.0**	**16.8**	**83.2**	**100.0**	**42.9**	**57.1**	**100.0**

(a) Not stated responses excluded.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.14.14: Health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors by longest time spent in homelands/traditional country, 2008

		Longest time spent in homelands					
		<1 week	1 week to less than 1 month	1 to less than 3 months	3 to less than 6 months	6+ months	Total
Self-assessed health status	Excellent/ very good/ good	42.0	43.2	10.3	2.3	2.2	**100.0**
	Fair/ poor	44.0	43.3	7.0	1.7	4.0	**100.0**
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)	Low/moderate	41.6	44.3	9.3	1.8	2.9	**100.0**
	High/very high	46.3	38.8	9.7	3.2	2.1	**100.0**
Experienced personal stressors in last 12 months	Experienced stressors	39.2	45.1	10.5	2.4	2.8	**100.0**
	Did not experience stressors	48.0	39.9	7.9	1.9	2.2	**100.0**
Support in time of crisis	Does not have support in time of crisis	44.0	39.4	11.5	0.4	4.7	**100.0**
	Has support in time of crisis	42.2	43.6	9.3	2.4	2.4	**100.0**
Presence of neighbourhood/ community problems	Neighbourhood/ community problems reported	40.8	44.7	10.1	2.4	2.0	**100.0**
	No neighbourhood/community problems	47.9	39.0	8.4	1.5	3.2	**100.0**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.14.15: Longest time spent in homelands/traditional country by health status and risk factors, psychological distress, community cohesion and personal stressors, 2008

	Smoking status		Alcohol use		Substance use	
Longest time spent in homelands	**Current daily smoker**	**Not current daily smoker**	**Risky/ high risk**	**Not risky/ high risk**	**Ever used substances**	**Never used substances**
<1 week	41.8	43.0	41.9	42.6	42.9	43.5
1 week to less than 1 month	38.9	43.1	37.9	41.8	40.8	40.8
1 to less than months	13.0	10.4	12.1	11.6	11.0	12.0
3 to less than 6 months	2.9	1.8	3.8	2.0	2.9	1.5
6+ months	3.5	1.7	4.3	2.0	2.4	2.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Identification with clan, tribal or language group

- The level of identification with a clan, tribal or language group was highest within the 35–44 year age group where 72% of Indigenous Australians reported identifying with their clan, tribal or language group. Identification was lowest for the 15–24 year age group where only 51% identified with the clan, tribal or language group (Table 2.14.16).

Table 2.14.16: Whether identifies with clan, tribal or language group, by age, 2008

	15–24 years	25–34 years	35–44 years	45–54 years	55 years and over
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	50.6	63.9	71.8	68.2	66.0
Does not identify with clan, tribal or language group	49.4	36.2	28.3	31.8	34.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

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 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. However, some factor 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. 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.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS user's guide (ABS 2010).

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 (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2010. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Users' Guide. ABS Cat. no. 4720.0. Canberra: ABS.

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2.15 Tobacco use

The proportion of Indigenous Australians who are current regular smokers

Data sources

Data for this indicator come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

National 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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

Data analyses

NATSISS data

Smoking prevalence data presented below are from the 2008 NATSISS, with non-Indigenous comparisons from the 2007–08 National Health Survey.

- In 2008, approximately 48% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported they were current daily smokers, 2% were current smokers weekly or less than weekly; 21% were ex-smokers and 29% reported that they had never smoked (Table 2.15.1).
- Indigenous Australians were more than twice as likely to be current daily smokers as non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.15.1).

Smoking status by age group and sex

- A higher proportion of Indigenous males aged 18 years and over were current daily smokers compared to females of the same age (50% compared with 46%) (Table 2.15.1).
- The highest proportion of current daily smokers were among Indigenous persons aged 25–34 years (53%) (Table 2.15.1).
- Around one in five (20%) of Indigenous persons aged 15 to 17 years were current daily smokers. The rate ratio of Indigenous smokers to non-Indigenous smokers was also greatest at this age group (Table 2.15.1 and Table 2.15.2).
- The rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous smokers ranged from 3.2 in persons aged 15 to 17 years, to 2.2 for age groups 25–34, 35–44 and 45–54 years (Table 2.15.2).
- A rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous daily smokers were higher among females (5.0) aged 15–17 years than for males (2.2) in the same age group (Table 2.15.2).

Table 2.15.1: Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008

		Current smoker						
		Daily	Other[a]	*Total smokers*	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
				Males				
15–17 years	Indigenous	17.7*	2.8[b]	*20.5**	5.5[b]	74*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	8.0[b]	0.9[c]	*8.9*	3.0[b]	88.0	100.0	. .
18–24 years	Indigenous	50.1*	4.0[b]	*54.2**	9.9	36.0*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	18.8	4.5[b]	*23.3*	11.7	65.0	100.0	. .
25–34 years	Indigenous	56.0*	2.5[b]	*58.5**	16.8*	24.7*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	29.2	3.2	*32.4*	25.7	41.9	100.0	. .
35–44 years	Indigenous	55.5*	3.4	*58.9**	18.3*	22.8*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	25.9	2.0	*27.9*	26.9	45.2	100.0	. .
45–54 years	Indigenous	47.9*	1.5[b]	*49.4**	32.8	17.8*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	22.4	1.7[b]	*24.1*	37.4	38.5	100.0	. .
55+ years	Indigenous	32.8*	1.0[c]	*33.8**	43.6	22.6*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	11.7	0.5[b]	*12.2*	52.6	35.3	100.0	. .
Total (15 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**46.1***	**2.7**	***48.8****	**19.8***	**31.4***	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**19.9**	**2.0**	***21.9***	**33.0**	**45.2**	**100.0**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.15.1 (continued): Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008

		Current smoker						
		Daily	Other[a]	*Total smokers*	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
Total age-standardised (15 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**45.1**	**2.3**	***47.4***	**25.8**	**26.8**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**20.2**	**2.0**	***22.2***	**32.5**	**45.3**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[d]	**2.2**	**1.1**	***2.1***	**0.8**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**. .**
Total (18 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**49.9***	**2.7**	***52.6****	**21.8***	**25.6***	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**20.5**	**2.0**	***22.6***	**34.5**	**42.9**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total age-standardised (18 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**46.9**	**2.3**	***49.2***	**27.0**	**23.9**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**20.9**	**2.1**	***22.9***	**34.1**	**43.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[d]	**2.2**	**1.1**	***2.1***	**0.8**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**. .**
				Females				
15–17 years	Indigenous	21.5*	2.3[b]	*23.8**	7.1[b]	69.1*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	4.3[b]	0.2	*4.5*	3.9[b]	91.6	100.0	. .
18–24 years	Indigenous	49.2*	2.5	*51.8**	14.1	34.2*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	18.1	3.8	*21.9*	13.0	65.1	100.0	. .
25–34 years	Indigenous	50.1*	3.4[b]	*53.5**	19.1	27.4*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	18.9	3.1	*22.0*	23.9	54.1	100.0	. .
35–44 years	Indigenous	47.3*	0.8[b]	*48.1**	22.5	29.4*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	19.8	1.9	*21.7*	26.7	51.6	100.0	. .
45–54 years	Indigenous	46.1*	0.6[c]	*46.7**	25.4	27.9*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	20.3	1.1[b]	*21.4*	25.9	52.7	100.0	. .

(continued)

Table 2.15.1 (continued): Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008

		Current smoker						
		Daily	Other[(a)]	*Total smokers*	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
55+ years	Indigenous	30.6*	0.4[(c)]	*30.9**	27.6	41.5*	100.0	. .
	Non-Indigenous	11.1	0.4[(c)]	*11.5*	30.0	58.5	100.0	. .
Total (15 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**43.1***	**1.8**	***44.9****	**19.6***	**35.5***	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**16.1**	**1.6**	***17.7***	**24.4**	**57.9**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total age-standardised (15 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**41.7**	**1.4**	***43.1***	**21.9**	**35.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**16.3**	**1.7**	***18.0***	**24.1**	**57.9**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[(d)]	**2.6**	**0.8**	***2.4***	**0.9**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**. .**
Total (18 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**45.7***	**1.7**	***47.4****	**21.1***	**31.6***	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**16.7**	**1.7**	***18.4***	**25.4**	**56.1**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total age-standardised (18 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**43.0**	**1.4**	***44.4***	**22.8**	**32.9**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**17.0**	**1.8**	***18.8***	**25.2**	**56.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[(d)]	**2.5**	**0.8**	***2.4***	**0.9**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**. .**
				Persons				
15–17 years	Indigenous	19.5*	2.6[(b)]	*22.1**	6.3	71.6*	100.0	36,164
	Non-Indigenous	6.1	0.6[(c)]	*6.7*	3.5[(b)]	89.9	100.0	820,373
18–24 years	Indigenous	49.7*	3.3	*53.0**	12.0	35.1*	100.0	67,616
	Non-Indigenous	18.5	4.1	*22.6*	12.3	65.0	100.0	1,963,576
25–34 years	Indigenous	52.9*	2.9	*55.8**	18.0*	26.1*	100.0	69,931
	Non-Indigenous	24.1	3.2	*27.2*	24.8	48.0	100.0	2,819,126

(continued)

Table 2.15.1 (continued): Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008

		Current smoker						
		Daily	Other[(a)]	*Total smokers*	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
35–44 years	Indigenous	51.1*	2.0	*53.1**	20.6*	26.3*	100.0	63,851
	Non-Indigenous	22.8	2.0	*24.8*	26.8	48.5	100.0	2,987,518
45–54 years	Indigenous	46.9*	1.0[(b)]	*48.0**	28.9	23.2*	100.0	46,912
	Non-Indigenous	21.3	1.4	*22.7*	31.6	45.7	100.0	2,864,016
55+ years	Indigenous	31.6*	0.7[(b)]	*32.2**	34.8	32.9*	100.0	42,627
	Non-Indigenous	11.4	0.5[(b)]	*11.8*	40.8	47.3	100.0	4,919,592
Total (15 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**44.6***	**2.2**	***46.8****	**19.7**	**33.5***	**100.0**	**327,101**
	Non-Indigenous	**18.0**	**1.8**	***19.8***	**28.6**	**51.6**	**100.0**	**16,374,202**
Total age-standardised (15 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**43.3**	**1.8**	***45.1***	**23.7**	**31.3**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**18.3**	**1.9**	***20.1***	**28.2**	**51.7**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[(d)]	**2.4**	**1.0**	***2.2***	**0.8**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**. .**
Total (18 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**47.7***	**2.2**	***49.8****	**21.4**	**28.8***	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**18.6**	**1.9**	***20.5***	**29.9**	**49.6**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total age-standardised (18 years and over)	**Indigenous**	**44.8**	**1.8**	***46.6***	**24.7**	**28.7**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Non-Indigenous	**18.9**	**1.9**	***20.8***	**29.5**	**49.6**	**100.0**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[(d)]	**2.4**	**0.9**	***2.2***	**0.8**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**. .**

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

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

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

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

(d) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

Source: ABS & AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS & 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.15.2: Rate ratios (Indigenous: non-Indigenous), by age group, 2008

	15–17	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55+	Total (15+)	Total (18+)
				Males				
Current smoker								
Daily	2.2	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.8	2.3	2.4
Other	3.1	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	2.0	1.4	1.4
Total smokers	*2.3*	*2.3*	*1.8*	*2.1*	*2.0*	*2.8*	*2.2*	*2.3*
Ex-smoker	1.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6
Never smoked	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
				Females				
Current smoker								
Daily	5.0	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.7
Other	11.5	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.1	1.0
Total smokers	*5.3*	*2.4*	*2.4*	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.7*	*2.5*	*2.6*
Ex-smoker	1.8	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8
Never smoked	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
				Persons				
Current smoker								
Daily	3.2	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.8	2.5	2.6
Other	4.3	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.2	1.2
Total smokers	*3.3*	*2.3*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.7*	*2.4*	*2.4*
Ex-smoker	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7
Never smoked	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6

Source: AIHW & ABS analyses of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Smoker status by state/territory

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 38% in the Australian Capital Territory to 55% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.15.3). The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 36% in the Australian Capital Territory to 53% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.15.4).
- The proportion of Indigenous ex-smokers aged 18 years and over in 2008 ranged from 14% in the Northern Territory to 29% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.15.3) The proportion of Indigenous ex-smokers aged 15 years and over in 2008 ranged from 13% in the Northern Territory to 26% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.15.4).
- The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who reported that they had never smoked was lowest in New South Wales (25%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (34%) (Table 2.15.3). The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who reported that they had never smoked was lowest in New South Wales (30%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (38%) (Table 2.15.4).
- Indigenous Australians were between 2.5 and 2.6 times as likely to be current daily smokers when compared to non-Indigenous Australians in all states and territories (Table 2.15.5; Table 2.15.6).

Table 2.15.3: Smoker status, by state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Current smoker									
Daily	49.8	48.3	45.6	44.1	48.9	47.2	36.4	50.9	47.7
Other[a]	1.7[b]	1.5[b]	1.8[b]	2.8	2.2[b]	1.8[b]	1.4[c]	3.7	2.2
Total smokers	*51.6*	*49.8*	*47.4*	*46.9*	*51.1*	*49.0*	*37.8*	*54.6*	*49.8*
Ex-smoker	23.9	24.1	22.0	20.4	19.5	24.4	28.7	13.6	21.4
Never smoked	24.5	26.1	30.6	32.7	29.4	26.6	33.5	31.8	28.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**85,257**	**19,312**	**80,218**	**38,925**	**16,111**	**10,777**	**2,564**	**37,774**	**290,937**

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.15.4: Smoker status, by state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Current smoker									
Daily	46.5	46.2	42.2	41.3	45.5	42.7	34.9	48.6	44.6
Other[a]	1.7[b]	1.5[b]	1.8[b]	2.9	2.5[b]	1.8[b]	1.3[c]	4.1	2.2
Total smokers	*48.2*	*47.6*	*44.0*	*44.2*	*48.0*	*44.5*	*36.2*	*52.7*	*46.8*
Ex-smoker	21.9	21.8	20.2	18.6	18.3	23.0	26.2	12.9	19.7
Never smoked	29.9	30.6	35.8	37.2	33.7	32.5	37.7	34.3	33.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**96,367**	**21,938**	**90,587**	**43,826**	**17,948**	**12,351**	**2,810**	**41,274**	**327,101**

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.15.5: Current daily smokers, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust.
						Per cent				
Indigenous	Current daily smoker	49.8	48.3	45.6	44.1	48.9	47.2	36.4	50.9	47.7
	Current smoker other[(a)]	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.8	2.2	1.8	1.4	3.7	2.2
	Ex-smoker	23.9	24.1	22	20.4	19.5	24.4	28.7	13.6	21.4
	Never smoked	24.5	26.1	30.6	32.7	29.4	26.6	33.5	31.8	28.8
	All persons	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	Total number of persons	**85,257**	**19,312**	**80,218**	**38,925**	**16,111**	**10,777**	**2,564**	**37,774**	**290,937**
Non-Indigenous	Current daily smoker	18.6	17.0	21.1	16.8	19.2	22.3	16.2	22.8[(b)]	18.6
	Current smoker other[(a)]	1.8	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.9	n.p.	1.9
	Ex-smoker	28.5	29.5	30.9	33.7	30.0	30.4	29.5	n.p.	29.9
	Never smoked	51.1	51.4	46.4	47.8	49.1	45.7	51.4	42.0	49.6
	All persons	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	Total number of persons	**5,106,453**	**3,966,725**	**3,040,931**	**1,529,520**	**1,194,166**	**352,052**	**255,733**	**108,248**	**15,553,828**

(a) Includes current smoker weekly and current smoker less than weekly.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.15.6: Current daily smokers, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust.
						Per cent				
Indigenous	Current daily smoker	46.5	46.2	42.2	41.3	45.5	42.7	35.9	48.6	44.6
	Current smoker other[(a)]	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.9	2.5	1.8	1.3	4.1	2.2
	Ex-smoker	21.89	21.8	20.2	18.6	18.3	23	26.2	12.9	19.7
	Never smoked	29.9	30.6	35.8	37.2	33.7	32.5	37.7	34.3	33.5
	All persons	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	Total number of persons	**96,367**	**21,938**	**90,587**	**43,826**	**17,948**	**12,351**	**2,810**	**41,274**	**327,101**
Non-Indigenous	Current daily smoker	17.8	16.6	20.5	16.1	18.7	21.4	15.7	22.2[(b)]	18.0
	Current smoker other[(a)]	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.8	NP	1.8
	Ex-smoker	27.2	28.2	29.7	32.2	28.7	28.8	28.3	NP	28.6
	Never smoked	53.3	53.2	48.3	50.1	51.0	48.2	53.2	43.5	51.6
	All persons	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	Total number of persons	**5,400,320**	**4,157,596**	**3,192,880**	**1,614,710**	**1,254,826**	**373,776**	**268,844**	**111,250**	**16,374,202**

(a) Includes current smoker weekly and current smoker less than weekly.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Smoker status by remoteness

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 45% in *Major cities* to 56% in the *Very remote* areas (Table 2.15.7). The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 42% in *Major cities* to 55% in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.15.8).
- For Indigenous persons 18 years and over, *Major cities* had the greatest proportion of ex-smokers (25%) and persons who had never smoked (31%). *Very remote* areas had the lowest proportion of ex-smokers (15%) and *Outer regional* areas had the lowest proportion of persons who had never smoked (26%) (Table 2.15.7). For Indigenous persons 15 years and over, *Major cities* had the greatest proportion of persons who had never smoked (36%) and *Outer regional* areas had the lowest proportion of persons who had never smoked (30%) (Table 2.15.8).

Table 2.15.7: Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

		Current smoker						
		Daily	Other[(a)]	*Total smokers*	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
Major cities	Indigenous	42.9*	1.8[(b)]	*44.7**	24.5*	30.8*	**100.0**	**92,691**
	Non-Indigenous	17.2	2.0	*19.2*	28.7	52.2	**100.0**	**10,411,032**
	Rate ratio[(c)]	2.5	0.9	*2.3*	0.9	0.6	**1.0**	**. .**
Inner regional	Indigenous	48.6*	1.2[(b)]	*49.9**	21.9*	28.2*	**100.0**	**58,208**
	Non-Indigenous	19.6	1.8	*21.3*	32.8	45.9	**100.0**	**3,424,218**
	Rate ratio[(c)]	2.5	0.7	*2.3*	0.7	0.6	**1.0**	**. .**
Outer regional	Indigenous	49.1*	2.4	*51.6**	22*	26.4*	**100.0**	**64,889**
	Non-Indigenous	24.8	1.3[(b)]	*26.1*	32.0	41.9	**100.0**	**1,526,888**
	Rate ratio[(c)]	2.0	1.9	*2.0*	0.7	0.6	**1.0**	**. .**
Total Non-remote	Indigenous	46.3*	1.8	*48.2**	23.1*	28.8*	**100.0**	**215,788**
	Non-Indigenous	18.5	1.9	*20.3*	29.9	49.8	**100.0**	**15,362,137**
	Rate ratio[(c)]	2.5	1.0	*2.4*	0.8	0.6	**1.0**	**. .**
Remote	Indigenous	49.5*	2.4[(b)]	*51.9**	19.0*	29.1*	**100.0**	**27,031**
	Non-Indigenous	27.4	3.7[(b)]	*31.1*	30.7	38.2	**100.0**	**191,691**
	Rate ratio[(c)]	1.8	0.6	*1.7*	0.6	0.8	**1.0**	**. .**
Very remote	Indigenous	52.7*	3.5	*56.2**	15.2*	28.6*	**100.0**	**48,118**
	Non-Indigenous	. .	. .		. .	. .	**. .**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[(c)]	. .	. .		. .	. .	**. .**	**. .**
Australia	Indigenous	47.7*	2.2	*49.8**	21.4*	28.8*	**100.0**	**290,937**
	Non-Indigenous	18.6	1.9	*20.5*	29.9	49.6	**100.0**	**15,553,828**
	Rate ratio[(c)]	2.6	1.2	*2.4*	0.7	0.6	**1.0**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.15.7 (continued): Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

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

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

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

(c) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

Source: 2008 NATSISS, 2007–08 National Health Survey.

Table 2.15.8: Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

		Current smoker						
		Daily	Other[a]	*Total smokers*	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
Major cities	Indigenous	39.9*	1.7[b]	*41.6**	22.2	36.3*	**100.0**	**105,217**
	Non-Indigenous	16.7	1.9	*18.6*	27.5	54.0	**100.0**	**10,941,587**
	Rate ratio[c]	2.4	0.9	*2.2*	0.8	0.7	**1.0**	**. .**
Inner regional	Indigenous	44.1*	1.3[b]	*45.4**	19.5	35.1*	**100.0**	**67,416**
	Non-Indigenous	18.8	1.7	*20.5*	31.0	48.5	**100.0**	**3,637,010**
	Rate ratio[c]	2.4	0.7	*2.2*	0.6	0.7	**1.0**	**. .**
Outer regional	Indigenous	46.5*	2.2	*48.7**	21.2	30.2*	**100.0**	**72,967**
	Non-Indigenous	23.8	1.3[b]	*25.1*	30.7	44.2	**100.0**	**1,600,168**
	Rate ratio[c]	2.0	1.7	*1.9*	0.7	0.7	**1.0**	**. .**
Total Non-remote	Indigenous	43.0*	1.7	*44.7**	21.1*	34.1*	**100.0**	**245,600**
	Non-Indigenous	17.9	1.8	*19.7*	28.6	51.8	**100.0**	**16,178,766**
	Rate ratio[c]	2.4	1.0	*2.3*	0.7	0.7	**1.0**	**. .**
Remote	Indigenous	47.0*	2.9[b]	*49.9**	17.4	32.8	**100.0**	**29,839**
	Non-Indigenous	26.8	3.7[b]	*30.5*	30.1	39.4	**100.0**	**195,436**
	Rate ratio[c]	1.8	0.8	*1.6*	0.6	0.8	**1.0**	**. .**
Very remote	Indigenous	50.5*	4.2	*54.7**	14.4	30.9	**100.0**	**51,662**
	Non-Indigenous	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	**. .**	**. .**
	Rate ratio[c]	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	**. .**	**. .**
Australia	Indigenous	44.6*	2.2	*46.8**	19.7*	33.5	**100.0**	**327,101**
	Non-Indigenous	18.0	1.8	*19.8*	28.6	51.6	**100.0**	**16,374,202**
	Rate ratio[c]	2.5	1.2	*2.4*	0.7	0.6	**1.0**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.15.8 (continued): Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

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

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

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

(c) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

Source: 2008 NATSISS, 2007–08 National Health Survey.

Smoking status over time

- From 2002 to 2008, the percentage of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were current smokers increased from 33% to 45% and the proportion that had never smoked decreased from 49% to 31%. Over the same period, the proportion of ex-smokers increased from 2.3% to 24% (Table 2.15.9).
- From 1994–1995 to 2001–2002, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas who were current smokers dropped from 55% to 52%. (Table 2.15.10).
- From 1994 to 2008, the proportion of Indigenous males aged 15 years and over who were smokers decreased from 55% to 49%. The percentage for females decreased from 49% to 45% (Table 2.15.11).
- Over the same period, the biggest decrease of any age-group was in the 15–17 year old group were the percentage of smokers dropped from 30% to 22% (Table 2.15.11).

Table 2.15.9: Smoker status, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 1994, 2002, 2008

	1994			2002			2008[a]		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[b]
					Per cent				
Current smoker	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33.2	n.a.	n.a.	45.1	20.1	2.2
Daily	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	43.3	18.3	2.4
Other[c]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.8	1.9	1.0
Occasional smoker	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	15.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ex-smoker	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.3	n.a.	n.a.	23.7	28.2	0.8
Never smoked	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48.6	n.a.	n.a.	31.3	51.7	0.6

(a) Data for 2008 are directly age-standardised.

(b) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

(c) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2002 NATSISS, 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.15.10: Smoker status, by Indigenous status[a], persons aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas, 1994, 1995, 2001, 2002, 2008 and 2007–08

	1994, 1995			2001, 2002			2008, 2007–08		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio[b]	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio[b]	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio[b]
	Per cent			Per cent			Per cent		
Current smoker									
Daily[c][d]	. .	. .	. .	50.3	22.0	2.3	46.3	18.5	2.5
Other[e]	. .	. .	. .	2.0	1.9	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.0
Total smokers[c][d][f]	*54.6*	*23.4*	*2.3*	*52.3*	*23.9*	*2.2*	*48.2*	*20.3*	*2.4*
Not a current smoker									
Ex-smoker[c][d]	. .	27.5	. .	18.1	26.4	0.7	23.1	29.9	0.8
Never smoked[c][d]	. .	49.2	. .	29.7	49.8	0.6	28.8	49.7	0.6
Total[c][d][f]	*45.4*	*76.6*	*0.6*	*47.7*	*76.1*	*0.6*	*51.8*	*79.7*	*0.7*
Total[g]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**

(a) Data for Indigenous persons are from the 1994, 2002 and 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Surveys. Data for non-Indigenous persons are from the 1995, 2001 and 2007–08 National Health Surveys.

(b) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

(c) Difference between 2002 Indigenous rate and 2001 non-Indigenous rate is statistically significant at the p<0.05 level.

(d) Difference between 2008 Indigenous rate and 2007–08 non-Indigenous rate is statistically significant at the p<0.05 level.

(e) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

(f) Difference between 1994 Indigenous rate and 1995 non-Indigenous rate is statistically significant at the p<0.05 level.

(g) Excludes persons for whom smoker status was not known.

Source: AIHW analysis of 1994 NATSIS and 2002, 2008 NATSISS, 1995, 2001 and 2007–08 NHS.

Table 2.15.11: Proportion of smokers[a], by sex, age, remoteness area and state/territory, 1994, 2002 and 2008, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over

	Indigenous		
	1994	**2002**	**2008**
Sex			
Males[b][c]	55.3	53.1	48.8
Females[c]	48.5	49.5	44.9
Persons[b][c]	51.8	51.2	46.8
Age			
15–17[b][c]	29.6	32.8	22.1
18–24	55.5	57.6	53.0
25–34[b]	62.8	57.7	55.8
35–44	56.5	57.6	53.1
45–54	49.1	49.2	48.0
55+	32.5	35.4	32.2
Remoteness Area			
Major cities[b]	51.9	47.7	41.6
Inner regional[b][c]	52.7	52.0	45.4
Outer regional	49.9	51.2	48.7
Total non-remote[b][c]	*51.4*	*50.0*	*44.7*
Remote	54.3	52.7	49.9
Very remote	51.9	55.6	54.7
Total remote	*52.6*	*54.7*	*52.9*
State/Territory			
NSW	52.6	52.9	48.2
Vic[b][c]	58.6	53.9	47.6
Qld[b][c]	50.4	50.5	44.0
WA[b]	50.7	47.9	44.2
SA[b]	57.7	48.1	48.0
Tas	48.9	44.0	44.5
ACT	43.1[d]	44.7	36.2
NT	49.9	55.5	52.7
Total	**51.8**	**51.2**	**46.8**
Total number	**110,990**	**143,593**	**153,003**

(a) Comprises current daily smokers and persons who smoked less than daily.
(b) Difference between 1994 and 2008 is statistically significant at the p<0.05 level.
(c) Difference between 2002 and 2008 is statistically significant at the p<0.05 level.
(d) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of the 2008, 2002 NATSISS, and 1994 NATSISS.

Smoker status by population characteristics

- In 2008, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they were in the lowest (1st) household income fifth than if they were in the highest (57% compared with 37%); were in the most disadvantaged (socio-economic index for areas) quintile (1st) than if they were in the least disadvantaged (56% compared with 32%); and if they were unemployed than if they were employed (68% compared with 45%) (Table 2.15.12).
- Indigenous Australians were more likely to report being a current smoker if they did not have a non-school qualification than if they did (53% compared with 44%) or if the highest year of schooling completed was Year 9 or below than if they completed Year 12 (57% compared with 36%) (Table 2.15.12).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they reported high/very high levels of psychological distress than if they had low levels of distress (59% compared with 46%); and if they drank at risky/high-risk levels than if they did not (66% compared with 46%) (Table 2.15.12).
- Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they reported high/very high levels of psychological distress than if they had low levels of distress (57% compared with 43%); and if they drank at risky/high-risk levels than if they did not (66% compared with 42%) (Table 2.15.13)
- Compared to Indigenous Australians who never smoked and were ex-smokers, a higher proportion Indigenous Australians both aged 15 years or 18 years and over who were current daily smokers were in the lowest quintile of household income and SEIFA disadvantage, did not have a non-school qualification, were currently renting; and had experienced stressors in the last 12 months (Table 2.15.14, Table 2.15.15).

Table 2.15.12: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total
		Per cent		
Household income				
1st quintile (lowest)	57.2	19.5	23.3	100.0
5th quintile (highest)	37.1	24.8	38.1	100.0
SEIFA				
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	56.2	17.7	26.1	100.0
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	31.8	31.4	36.9	100.0
Employment				
Employed	44.8	22.3	32.9	100.0
Unemployed	68.1	11.7	20.2	100.0
Not in the labour force	52.5	22.7	24.9	100.0
Has non-school qualification				
Yes	43.7	24.8	31.5	100.0
No	53.2	19.5	27.3	100.0
Highest year of school completed				
Year 12	36.0	18.8	45.3	100.0
Year 9 or below	56.5	22.6	20.8	100.0
Housing				
Owner	34.0	29.0	37.0	100.0
Renter	56.7	18.0	25.3	100.0
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/very good	45.3	21.0	33.7	100.0
Good	52.7	20.5	26.8	100.0
Fair/poor	53.5	23.3	23.1	100.0
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)				
Low/moderate	45.8	23.2	31.0	100.0
High/very high	59.0	18.3	22.7	100.0
Stressors experienced in last 12 months				
Really bad illness	49.9	24.5	25.6	100.0
Total experienced stressors	*53.5*	*20.1*	*26.4*	*100.0*
No stressors	44.5	23.3	32.2	100.0
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption				
Yes	66.4	18.5	15.2	100.0
No	45.6	22.2	32.2	100.0
Total	**49.8**	**21.4**	**28.8**	**100.0**
Total persons aged 18 years and over	**145,004**	**62,239**	**83,695**	**290,937**

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.15.13: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total
		Per cent		
Household income				
1st quintile (lowest)	53.4	17.6	29.0	100.0
5th quintile (highest)	35.8	23.5	40.7	100.0
SEIFA				
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	53.6	16.4	30.0	100.0
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	28.3	28.3	43.4	100.0
Employment				
Employed	43.1	21.1	35.7	100.0
Unemployed	62.5	10.8	26.7	100.0
Not in the labour force	47.5	20.2	32.3	100.0
Has non-school qualification				
Yes	43.3	24.5	32.2	100.0
No	48.4	17.5	34.1	100.0
Highest year of school completed				
Year 12	35.9	18.4	45.7	100.0
Year 9 or below	51.0	20.3	28.7	100.0
Housing				
Owner	31.3	26.1	42.6	100.0
Renter	53.7	16.7	29.6	100.0
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/very good	41.2	18.5	40.3	100.0
Good	49.7	19.2	31.0	100.0
Fair/poor	53.3	22.9	23.9	100.0
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)				
Low/moderate	42.5	21.0	36.5	100.0
High/very high	56.9	17.6	25.5	100.0
Stressors experienced in last 12 months				
Really bad illness	47.9	23.6	28.6	100.0
Total experienced stressors	*51.7*	*19.1*	*29.2*	*100.0*
No stressors	40.1	20.6	39.3	100.0
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption				
Yes	66.4	18.2	15.3	100.0
No	42.3	20.1	37.6	100.0
Total	**46.8**	**19.7**	**33.5**	**100.0**
Total persons aged 18 years and over	**153,003**	**64,505**	**109,594**	**327,101**

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.15.14: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
		Per cent	
Household income			
1st quintile (lowest)	53.2	41.5	37.2
5th quintile (highest)	7.9	12.2	14.0
SEIFA			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	60.3	44.3	48.5
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	2.5	5.8	5.1
Employment			
Employed	48.5	56.1	61.8
Unemployed	13.1	5.3	6.7
Not in the labour force	38.3	38.6	31.5
Has non-school qualification			
Yes	31.1	41.1	38.8
No	68.9	58.9	61.2
Highest year of school completed			
Year 12	16.3	19.8	35.4
Year 9 or below	38.3	35.7	24.4
Housing			
Owner	19.9	39.5	37.5
Renter	78.8	58.3	60.7
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent/very good	37.5	40.5	48.4
Good	36.3	33.0	32.0
Fair/poor	26.2	26.5	19.6
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)			
Low/moderate	62.0	72.8	74.2
High/very high	38.0	27.2	25.8
Stressors experienced in last 12 months			
Really bad illness	13.4	15.4	12.0
Total experienced stressors	*63.7*	*55.7*	*54.4*
No stressors	36.3	44.3	45.6
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption			
Yes	25.6	16.4	10.0
No	74.4	83.6	90.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total persons aged 18 years and over	**145,004**	**62,239**	**83,695**

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.15.15: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
		Per cent	
Household income			
1st quintile (lowest)	54.1	41.6	40.4
5th quintile (highest)	7.7	11.7	12.0
SEIFA			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	60.8	44.2	47.4
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	2.4	5.6	5.1
Employment			
Employed	47.7	55.3	55.2
Unemployed	13.6	5.6	8.1
Not in the labour force	38.7	39.1	36.7
Has non-school qualification			
Yes	29.9	40.0	31.0
No	70.1	60.0	69.0
Highest year of school completed			
Year 12	15.6	19.1	27.8
Year 9 or below	38.6	36.5	30.3
Housing			
Owner	19.7	39.0	37.5
Renter	79.1	58.5	60.8
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent/very good	38.5	41.0	52.6
Good	36.2	33.2	31.5
Fair/poor	25.3	25.8	15.8
Psychological distress (Kessler 5)			
Low/moderate	62.2	72.5	76.0
High/very high	37.8	27.5	24.0
Stressors experienced in last 12 months			
Really bad illness	12.9	15.1	10.8
Total experienced stressors	*63.6*	*55.6*	*50.2*
No stressors	36.4	44.4	49.8
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption			
Yes	24.9	16.1	7.9
No	75.1	83.9	92.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total persons aged 18 years and over	**153,003**	**64,505**	**109,594**

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

NATSIHS data

Smoking prevalence data presented below are from the 2004–05 NATSIHS, with non-Indigenous comparisons from the 2004–05 National Health Survey.

- In 2004–05, approximately 46% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported they were current daily smokers compared with 21% of non-Indigenous Australians. Around 24% of Indigenous adults were ex-smokers compared with 30% of non-Indigenous adults (Table 2.15.16).

Smoking status by age group and sex

- A higher proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous males were current daily smokers (48% and 24% respectively) compared with Indigenous and non-Indigenous females (45% and 18% respectively) (Table 2.15.16).
- Indigenous adults aged 25–34 and 35–44 years were most likely to report being current daily smokers (both 55%). The lowest proportion of Indigenous adults who were current daily smokers were aged 55 years and over (30%) (Table 2.15.16).

Table 2.15.16: Smoker status, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004–05

	18-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55+		Total		Total (age standardised)		
Smoker status	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
								Males							
Current smoker	53	33	57	32	59	31	52	27	36	15	53	26	50	26	1.9
Daily	50	29	56	29	57	29	50	25	35	14	51	24	48	24	2.0
Other	3[(c)]	4	1[(c)]	3	2[(c)]	2	2[(c)]	2	1[(d)]	1[(c)]	2	2	2	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	13	13	15	24	15	28	30	37	43	55	20	35	26	35	0.7
Never smoked	34	54	28	43	25	41	19	36	21	30	26	39	24	39	0.6
Total number[(b)]	**26,714**	**939,483**	**32,574**	**1,368,120**	**27,186**	**1,439,208**	**18,812**	**1,340,599**	**15,193**	**2,170,272**	**139,595**	**7,666,352**	**139,595**	**7,666,352**	**. .**
								Females							
Current smoker	52	25	55	26	59	25	52	21	27	10	51	20	47	20	2.3
Daily	51	23	54	23	54	23	51	20	26	9	49	18	45	18	2.4
Other	1[(c)]	2[(c)]	1[(c)]	3	5[(c)]	2	1[(d)]	1[(c)]	1[(c)]	1	2[(c)]	2	2[(c)]	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	12	14	18	24	19	25	19	29	33	29	19	25	22	25	0.9
Never smoked	36	62	27	50	22	50	29	50	40	62	30	55	31	55	0.6
Total number[(b)]	**30,009**	**917,595**	**37,198**	**1,393,234**	**31,871**	**1,460,358**	**20,766**	**1,364,981**	**17,974**	**2,359,406**	**154,046**	**7,866,025**	**154,046**	**7,866,025**	**. .**
								Persons							
Current smoker	52	29	56	29	59	28	51	23	31	13	51	23	48	23	2.1
Daily	50	26	55	26	55	26	50	22	30	12	49	21	46	21	2.2
Other	2[(c)]	3	1	3	4[(c)]	2	1[(c)]	2	1[(c)]	1	2[(c)]	2	2	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	12	13	16	24	17	27	24	33	37	41	19	30	24	30	0.8
Never smoked	35	58	28	47	24	45	24	43	32	46	30	47	28	47	0.6
Total number[(b)]	**56,723**	**1,857,078**	**69,772**	**2,761,354**	**59,057**	**2,899,566**	**39,578**	**2,705,580**	**33,167**	**4,529,678**	**293,641**	**15,532,377**	**293,641**	**15,532,377**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.15.16 (continued): Smoker status, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004–05

(a) Directly age-standardised proportions.
(b) Includes smoker status not known.
(c) Estimate has a relative standard error of 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.

Source: ABS 2006.

Smoking status by selected population and health characteristics

Table 2.15.17 presents the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics. The table should be interpreted noting that the proportions sum to 100% across the columns for smoking status (for Indigenous and non-Indigenous). The most useful interpretation of the data presented is to compare the proportions for the two categories presented for each population characteristic (rows) within each column for smoking status for firstly Indigenous Australians, and then compare this to the data for non-Indigenous Australians.

- In 2004–05, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they were in the lowest (1st) household income quintile than if they were in the highest (55% compared with 32%); were in the most disadvantaged SEIFA (socio-economic index for areas) quintile (1st) than if they were in the least disadvantaged (52% compared with 25%); and if they were unemployed than if they were employed (76% compared with 42%). Similar trends were reported for non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.15.17).
- Indigenous Australians were more likely to report being a current smoker if they did not have a non-school qualification than if they did (52% compared with 41%) or if the highest year of schooling completed was Year 9 or below than if they completed Year 12 (58% compared with 29%) (Table 2.15.17).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over with a self-assessed health status of fair/poor reported being a current smoker than those with a self-assessed health status of excellent/very good (57% compared with 40%). Indigenous Australians were slightly more likely to report being an ex-smoker if they had diabetes than if they did not (27% compared with 22%) and if they had cancer than if they did not (29% compared with 24%). A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians without cancer reported they had never smoked (28%) than those with cancer (21%) (Table 2.15.17).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they drank at short- or long-term risky/high-risk levels than if they did not (long-term 66% compared with 45%, short-term 67% compared with 49%) (Table 2.15.17).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they reported their exercise level as low/sedentary rather than high (49% compared with 32%); if they reported not eating fruit daily (65%) compared with those who did (46%); if they reported not eating vegetables daily (56%) compared with those who did (48%); and if they were normal or underweight rather than if they were overweight or obese (57% compared with 43%) (Table 2.15.17).

Table 2.15.17: Proportion[(a)] of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2004–05

	Indigenous Australians			Non-Indigenous Australians		
	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
Household income						
1st quintile (lowest)	55.3*	22.4*	22.3*	32.4*	26.0*	41.7*
5th quintile (highest)	31.7*	26.4	41.9*	18.3*	31.6	50.1*
SEIFA (Socio-economic Indexes for Areas)						
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	52.3*	21.2*	26.5*	31.4*	28.2*	40.4*
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	24.7*	34.8[(b)]	40.6*	15.7*	32.0	52.3*
Employment						
Employed	41.5*	25.9	32.6*	23.0*	30.1	46.8*
Unemployed	75.9*	14.1*	10.0*	41.5*	23.7*	34.8*
Not in the labour force	53.7*	21.9*	24.3*	26.0*	27.8*	46.2*
Has non-school qualification						
Yes	40.7*	26.5	32.7*	19.6*	31.8	48.7*
No	52.1*	22.2	25.7*	28.5*	28.0	43.5*
Highest year of school completed						
Year 12	28.6*	28.7	42.7*	17.0*	30.1	52.9*
Year 9 or below	57.9*	21.0*	21.1*	37.5*	26.2*	36.3*
Housing						
Owner	37.4	23.4	39.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Renter	57.4	18.4	24.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Self-assessed health status						
Excellent/very good	40.4*	25.0	34.6*	18.9*	30.1	51.0*
Good	49.7*	22.1*	28.2*	27.1*	28.9*	44.0*
Fair/poor	56.8*	22.5*	20.7*	35.3*	27.4*	37.2*
Number of long-term health conditions						
None	52.1*	18.8	29.1*	28.8*	18.3	52.8*
One	54.8*	14.9*	30.2*	24.2*	26.1*	49.7*
Two	44.4*	23.0	32.7*	20.8*	27.5	51.6*
Three or more	48.9*	25.6*	25.4*	25.6*	31.7*	42.7*
Circulatory problems						
Yes	50.8*	23.5*	25.7*	22.2*	31.1*	46.6*
No	47.4*	23.6*	29.0*	24.1*	28.7*	47.2*
Has diabetes						
Yes	45.4*	26.7	27.9*	21.1*	31.4	47.5*
No	49.9*	22.2*	28.0*	23.2*	29.6*	47.2*

(continued)

Table 2.15.17 (continued): Proportion[(a)] of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2004–05

	Indigenous Australians			Non-Indigenous Australians		
	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
Has cancer						
Yes	49.5*	29.1[(c)]	21.4*	29.1*	35.1	35.8*
No	48.1*	23.5*	28.4*	23.0*	29.7*	47.3*
Has respiratory problems						
Yes	47.5*	24.3*	28.1*	22.6*	31.0*	46.4*
No	48.7*	23.2*	28.2*	23.3*	29.3*	47.3*
Stressors in last 12 months						
Serious illness or disability	50.9	20.3	28.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total experienced stressors	53.7	19.7	26.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
No stressors	46.5	20.3	33.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Long-term risky/high-risk alcohol consumption						
Yes	65.8*	16.6[(b)]*	17.5*	36.9*	35.5*	27.6*
No	44.8*	25.0*	30.2*	20.9*	29.0*	50.1*
Short-term risky/high-risk alcohol consumption						
Yes	67.2*	16.4*	16.3	43.9*	34.8*	21.3
No	48.6*	24.6*	26.8*	22.2*	31.8*	46.1*
Physical activity[(c)]						
Low/sedentary	49.3*	24.0	26.7*	24.7*	28.6	46.7*
Moderate	42.9*	32.1	25.1*	20.0*	33.2	46.7*
High	31.7*	19.1[(b)]	49.1	14.6*	33.5	51.9
Eats fruit daily						
Yes	45.7*	24.7*	29.6*	21.4*	30.3*	48.3*
No	64.7*	16.0*	19.3*	48.0*	23.3*	28.7*
Eats vegetables daily						
Yes	47.7*	23.8*	28.5*	22.9*	29.9*	47.2*
No	55.7*	20.5	23.8*	43.0*	28.2	28.9*
Overweight/obesity						
Yes	43.0*	26.2*	30.8*	22.9*	32.2*	44.8*
No	57.0*	19.9*	23.0*	23.4*	27.4*	49.2*
Total (age-standardised)	**48.1***	**23.7***	**28.2***	**23.1***	**29.9***	**47.1***
Total (crude)	**52.1***	**19.7***	**28.3***	**22.8***	**30.1***	**47.1***
Total number persons aged 18 years and over	**134,537**	**50,748**	**72,964**	**3,365,115**	**4,444,458**	**6,943,683**

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

(a) Proportions are age-standardised except for data for housing tenure and stressors experienced in the previous 12 months for which crude proportions are presented, because data for non-Indigenous Australians are not available.

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

(c) Non-remote areas only.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

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 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).

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* areas, 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).

The survey included smoking status, starting age of tobacco use, Indigenous status, age and sex. The NATSIHS has a large Indigenous sample size resulting in reliable estimates.

The question on smoking is asked of persons aged 18 years and over. Since most Australians start smoking before the age of 18, this limits our understanding of teenage smoking patterns. Teenagers are one of the main groups that smoking prevention programs focus on.

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 (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 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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2.16 Risky alcohol consumption

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who consume alcohol at risky or high-risk levels

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, the National Mortality Database and the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS).

The NATSIHS collected information on risky and high-risk alcohol consumption, which is defined as that which exceeds the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines for low-risk drinking, in the short-term or long-term. These guidelines are outlined below.

Risky/high-risk drinking—adult males

- Short-term risky drinking for males is consumption in excess of six but less than 11 standard drinks on any one day.
- Short-term high-risk drinking for males is consumption of 11 or more standard drinks on any one day.
- Long-term risky drinking is average consumption in excess of four but less than six standard drinks per day amounting to 29 but less than 42 standard drinks per week.
- Long-term high-risk drinking is average consumption in excess of six standard drinks per day amounting to 43 or more standard drinks per week.

Risky/high-risk drinking—adult females

- Short-term risky drinking is consumption in excess of four but less than seven standard drinks on any one day.
- Short-term high-risk drinking is consumption in excess of seven or more standard drinks on any one day.

- Long-term risky drinking is average consumption in excess of two but less than five standard drinks per day amounting to 15 but less than 28 standard drinks per week.
- Long-term high-risk drinking is consumption in excess of four standard drinks per day which amounts to 29 or more standard drinks per week.

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 social issues 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.

The National Mortality Database

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

It is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are registered. However, a proportion of these deceased are not reported as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by the family, health worker or funeral director during the death registration process. That is, while data are provided to the ABS for the Indigenous status question for 99% of all deaths, there are concerns regarding the accuracy of the data. The Indigenous status question is not always directly asked of relatives and friends of the deceased by the funeral director.

While the identification of Indigenous Australians in deaths data is incomplete in all state and territory registration systems, 5 jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory) have been assessed by the ABS and the AIHW as having adequate identification. Longer term mortality trend data are limited to 3 jurisdictions (Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory) with adequate identification of Indigenous deaths in their recording systems from 1991 onwards. The quality of the time-series data is also influenced by the late inclusion of a not stated category for Indigenous status in 1998. Prior to this time, the not stated responses were probably included with the non-Indigenous.

Deaths registered in 2010 with a usual residence of Queensland have been adjusted to exclude deaths registered in 2010 that occurred prior to 2007. This is to minimise the impact of late registration of deaths due to recent changes in the timeliness of death registrations in Queensland.

Western Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths for 2007, 2008 and 2009, have been revised to correct for a data quality issue which resulted in the over-reporting of Indigenous deaths during this period.

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

Data have been combined for the 5-year period 2006–2010 because of the small number of deaths from some conditions each year. Data have been analysed using the year of registration of death for all years.

The National Hospital Morbidity Database

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

Hospitalisation data are presented for the 2-year period from July 2008 to June 2010. An aggregate of 2 years of data has been used, because the number of hospitalisations for some conditions is likely to be small for a single year.

Hospital records are for 'separations' and not individuals, and as there can be multiple admissions for the same individual, hospital separation rates do not usually reflect the incidence or prevalence of the disease or condition in question. For example, it is not possible to identify whether one patient was admitted 5 times or five patients were admitted once. People who receive treatment at hospital but are not admitted are not counted in hospital records. Hospital separation data are also affected by variations in admission practices, and the availability of and access to hospital and non-hospital services.

Care types 7.3, 9 and 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital border) have been excluded from analysis.

Data are presented for the six jurisdictions that the AIHW has assessed as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations in 2006–08—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (public hospitals only). These six jurisdictions represent approximately 96% of the Indigenous population of Australia. National totals include separations for people resident in these six jurisdictions only and are not necessarily representative of the jurisdictions not included. Indigenous status data are reported for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (public hospitals only) with caveats until further audits of the quality of data in these jurisdictions are completed. Hospitalisations for which the Indigenous status of the patient was not reported are excluded from hospitalisations data for non-Indigenous Australians, apart from Western Australia where records with an unknown status are recorded as non-Indigenous.

Data are presented by state/territory of usual residence of the patient.

The following caveats have been recommended for analysis of hospitalisation data from selected jurisdictions (AIHW 2010):

- Interpretation of results should take into account the relative quality of the data from the jurisdictions included (currently a small degree of Indigenous under-identification in data from New South Wales and South Australia, and relatively marked Indigenous under-identification in data from Queensland and Victoria).
- Interpretation of time series analysis should take into account the possible contribution of changes over time in ascertainment of Indigenous status. This will be reflected in Indigenous patient changes in hospitalisation rates for Indigenous people.

Data analyses

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

NATSIH data

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected data on alcohol consumption based on levels of risk associated with short-term drinking (consuming alcohol at risky levels in a single day over the past 12 months) and long-term risk levels (based on average daily consumption over the previous week).

Self-reported alcohol consumption and risk levels

- In 2004–05, approximately 50% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported having consumed alcohol in the week before the survey, and around one-quarter (24%) of Indigenous adults reported they had not consumed alcohol in the previous 12 months (Table 2.16.1).
- Of those who consumed alcohol in the week before the survey, around one-third (34%) reported drinking at long-term risky/high-risk levels (Table 2.16.1).
- Indigenous adults were twice as likely as non-Indigenous Australians to have abstained from alcohol consumption in the previous 12 months.
- Overall, based on alcohol consumption in the week before the survey, approximately 17% of Indigenous adults reported drinking at long-term risky/high-risk levels (Table 2.16.2).
- Fifty five per cent of Indigenous adults drank at short-term risky/high-risk levels in the previous 12 months and 19% drank at short-term risky/high-risk levels at least once a week in the previous 12 months (Table 2.16.2).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, Indigenous Australians were twice as likely as non-Indigenous Australians to drink at short-term risky/high-risk levels at least once a week in the previous 12 months. However, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians were equally as likely to drink at long-term risky/high-risk levels in the week before the survey (about 15%).

Table 2.16.1: Alcohol consumption by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

	Non age-standardised proportions	Age-standardised proportions		
	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
Consumed alcohol in last week	49	45	63	0.7*
Did not consume alcohol in last week	50	53	36	1.5*
Consumed alcohol in last 12 months	75	70	84	0.8*
Did not consume alcohol in last 12 months	24	29	15	1.9*
Long-term risk[(a)(b)(c)]				
Of those who consumed alcohol in last week, per cent who drank at risky/high risk levels in last week	34	34	22	1.6*

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

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 NHS/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of drinks in previous year. The number of drinks was based on the NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(c) Risk level based on consumption in week before the interview.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Alcohol risk levels by age

- Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 years were most likely to report drinking at long-term risky/high-risk levels in the previous week (20%) (Table 2.16.2).
- Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report drinking at short-term risky/high-risk levels at least once in the previous 12 months across all age groups except in the 18–24 year aged group where the levels were similar (64% and 63%, respectively).
- A significantly higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–34 and 35–44 years drank at long-term risky/high-risk levels in the previous week than non-Indigenous Australians of the same age.

Table 2.16.2: Alcohol risk levels[a], by Indigenous status and age, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

	Age group (years)													
	18–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55 and over		Total non age-standardised	Total age-standardised		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	Per cent													
Abstainers[b]	16*	12*	18*	12*	22*	12*	31*	15*	46*	22*	24*	29	15	1.9*
Short-term risk[c]														
Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last 12 months[d]	64	63	64*	56*	59*	46*	45*	35*	22	16	55*	47	40	1.2*
Drank at risky/high-risk levels at least once a week[e]	23*	15*	20*	9*	22*	9*	16*	8*	9*	4*	19*	17	8	2.1*
Long-term risk[f]														
Low	33*	47*	36*	51*	34*	52*	31*	50*	21*	47*	32*	30	49	0.6*
Risky or high-risk	16	14	17*	13*	20*	15*	17	16	10	12	17*	15	14	1.1
Total long-term risk[g]	*50**	*61**	*53**	*64**	*54**	*66**	*48**	*66**	*32**	*58**	*49**	*46*	*63*	*0.7**
Total[h][i]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**. .**
Total number ('000)	**57**	**1,857**	**70**	**2,761**	**59**	**2,900**	**40**	**2,706**	**33**	**4,530**	**258**	**258**	**14,753**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.16.2 (continued): Alcohol risk levels[(a)], by Indigenous status and age, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

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

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) No alcohol consumed in previous 12 months.

(c) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 NHS/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of drinks in previous year. The number of drinks was based on the NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(d) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term on at least one occasion in the previous 12 months.

(e) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term at least once a week in the previous 12 months.

(f) Risk level based on consumption in week before the interview.

(g) Includes persons whose risk level was reported as 'not known'.

(h) Includes persons who consumed alcohol more than 1 week but less than 12 months before the survey.

(i) Includes persons who reported time since last consumed alcohol 'not known'.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Alcohol risk levels by sex

- A higher proportion of Indigenous females than Indigenous males reported abstaining from alcohol consumption in the 12 months prior to survey (30%compared with 17%) (Table 2.16.3).
- Indigenous males were more likely to report drinking at short-term and long-term risky/high-risk levels than Indigenous females.
- Indigenous males and females were two and three times as likely as non-Indigenous males and females to report drinking at short-term risky/high-risk levels at least once a week in the previous 12 months.
- Indigenous males were more likely to report drinking at long-term risky/high-risk levels in the week before the survey than non-Indigenous males (18% compared with 15%). The proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous females reporting drinking at long-term risky/high-risk levels were similar.

Table 2.16.3: Alcohol risk levels,[a] by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05 (per cent)

	Non age-standardised proportions		Age-standardised proportions					
	Males	Females	Males			Females		
	Indig.	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%	%	%		%	%	
Abstainers[b]	17*	30*	22*	10	2.1*	35	20	1.8*
Short-term risk[c]								
Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last 12 months[d]	64*	46*	56	48	1.2*	40	31	1.3*
Drank at risky/high-risk levels at least once a week[e]	24*	15*	21	12	1.8*	14	5	3.0*
Long-term risk[f]								
Low	38*	27*	36	50	0.7*	24	43	0.6*
Risky or high-risk	20*	14	18	15	1.2*	13	12	1.1
Total long-term risk[g]	*58**	*41**	*55*	*71*	*0.8**	*38*	*55*	*0.7**
Total[h][i]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**
Total number	**120,479**	**137,818**	**120,479**	**7,257,683**	**. .**	**137,818**	**7,495,573**	**. .**

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

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) No alcohol consumed in previous 12 months.

(c) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 NHS/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of drinks in previous year. The number of drinks was based on the NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(d) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term on at least one occasion in the previous 12 months.

(e) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term at least once a week in the previous 12 months.

(f) Risk level based on consumption in week before the interview.

(g) Includes persons whose risk level was reported as 'not known'.

(h) Includes persons who consumed alcohol more than 1 week but less than 12 months before the survey.

(i) Includes persons who reported time since last consumed alcohol 'not known'.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Alcohol risk levels by state/territory

- The proportion of Indigenous adults who drank at long-term risky/high-risk levels ranged from 8% in the Northern Territory to 19% in Queensland and Western Australia (Table 2.16.4).
- Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report drinking at short-term risky/high-risk levels at least once a week in all states and territories. The proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians reporting drinking at long-term risky/high-risk levels in the previous week was similar across all states and territories (Table 2.16.5).

Table 2.16.4: Alcohol risk levels,[a] Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by state/territory, 2004–05

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
Abstainers[b]	19	16	21	26	23	11	12	48	24
Short-term risk[c]									
Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last 12 months[d]	56	58	59	57	49	54	59	40	55
Drank at risky/high-risk levels at least once a week[e]	19	17	18	27	19	14	17	16	19
Long-term risk[f]									
Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last week	17	16	19	19	17	13	11	8	16
Total number	**75,001**	**16,516**	**70,623**	**36,542**	**14,480**	**9,477**	**2,300**	**33,358**	**258,297**

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

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) No alcohol consumed in previous 12 months.

(c) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 NHS/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of drinks in previous year. The number of drinks was based on the NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(d) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term on at least one occasion in the previous 12 months.

(e) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term at least once a week in the previous 12 months.

(f) Risk level based on consumption in the week before the interview.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.16.5: Age-standardised percentages of alcohol risk levels,[a] persons aged 18 years and over, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2004–05

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT[b]	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Per cent (age standardised)															
Abstainers[c]	23*	17*	19	16	28*	13*	30*	14*	34*	13*	14	11	11[d]	11	51	n.a.
Short-term risk[e]																
Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last 12 months[f]	49*	37*	50*	38*	51*	42*	43	42	47	43	47	44	51*	40*	37	n.a.
Drank at risky/high-risk levels at least once a week[g]	17*	7*	17*	7*	16*	9*	18*	8*	22*	10*	13	10	15*[d]	6*	15	n.a.
Long-term risk[h]																
Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last week	17	13	17[d]	12	18	14	16	15	16	16	13	12	9[d]	14	7	n.a.
Total number	**75,001**	**4,970,170**	**16,516**	**3,758,032**	**70,623**	**2,790,801**	**14,480**	**1,138,920**	**36,542**	**1,418,543**	**9,477**	**347,075**	**2,300**	**239,879**	**33,358**	**n.a.**

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

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) Non-Indigenous data not available for the Northern Territory because of small sample size. Northern Territory records for non-Indigenous people contribute to the national estimates but are insufficient to support reliable estimates for the Northern Territory.

(c) No alcohol consumed in previous 12 months.

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

(e) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 NHS/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of drinks in previous year. The number of drinks was based on the NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(f) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term on at least one occasion in the previous 12 months.

(g) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term at least once a week in the previous 12 months.

(h) Risk level based on consumption in the week before the interview.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Alcohol risk levels by remoteness

- Indigenous adults in remote areas were more likely than those in non-remote areas to report drinking at short-term risky/high-risk levels in the week before the interview. Similar proportions of Indigenous Australians in remote and non-remote areas reported drinking at long-term risky/high-risk levels in the week before the interview (15% and 17%, respectively) (Table 2.16.6).
- Indigenous adults in remote areas were much more likely to have abstained from alcohol consumption in the previous 12 months than Indigenous adults in non-remote areas (38% compared with 19%)

Table 2.16.6: Alcohol risk levels,[(a)] by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

	Non-remote	Remote	Total
		Per cent	
Abstainers[(b)]	19	38	24
Short-term risk[(c)]			
Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last 12 months[(d)]	57	49	55
Drank at risky/high-risk levels at least once a week in last 12 months[(e)]	18	23	19
Long-term risk[(f)]			
Drank at risky or high-risk levels in last week	17	15	16
Total number	**185,515**	**72,782**	**258,297**

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) No alcohol consumed in previous 12 months.

(c) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 NHS/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of drinks in previous year. The number of drinks was based on the NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(d) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term on at least one occasion in the previous 12 months.

(e) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term at least once a week in the previous 12 months.

(f) Risk level based on consumption in the week before the interview.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Alcohol risk levels by selected health and population characteristics

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who drank at long-term risky/high-risk levels and reported their health as fair/poor (25%) was similar to the proportion of Indigenous Australians in the total population who reported their health as fair/poor (24%) (Table 2.16.7).
- Indigenous Australians who spoke English as their main language at home (18%) or were in the highest (4th and 5th) quintiles of household income (20%) were more likely to drink at long-term risky/high-risk levels than Indigenous Australians who spoke a language other than English as their main language (9%) or were in the lowest (1st) quintile of household income (15%) (Table 2.16.8).
- Indigenous Australians who were not in the labour force were less likely to report drinking at short-term or long-term risky/high-risk levels than Indigenous Australians who were employed or unemployed (Table 2.16.8).

Table 2.16.7: Alcohol risk levels,[a] by self-assessed health status, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

	Long-term[b]	Short-term[c]		Total population
Health status	Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last week	Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last 12 months[d]	Drank at risky/high-risk levels at least once a week in last 12 months[e]	Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over
		Per cent		
Excellent/very good	35	41	36	40
Good	40	38	42	36
Fair/poor	25	21	22	24
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 NHS/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of drinks in previous year. The number of drinks was based on the NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(c) Risk level based on consumption in the week before the interview.

(d) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term on at least one occasion in the previous 12 months.

(e) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term at least once a week in the previous 12 months.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.16.8: Alcohol risk level, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

	Long-term risk[a]	Short-term risk[b]	
	Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last week	Drank at risky/high-risk levels in last 12 months[c]	Drank at risky/high-risk levels at least once a week in last 12 months[d]
	Per cent		
Main language spoken at home			
English	18	57	20
Language other than English	9	39	16
Location			
Remote	15	49	23
Non-remote	17	57	18
Household income			
1st quintile (lowest)	15	49	20
4th and 5th quintile (highest)	20	63	15
Employment			
Employed CDEP	21	60	32
Employed non-CDEP	19	62	18
Total employed	*19*	*61*	*21*
Unemployed	20	67	23
Not in the labour force	12	43	16
Housing tenure type			
Owner[e]	19	55	14
Renter	15	54	21
Other[f]	25[g]	65	22
Treatment when seeking health care in last 12 months compared with non-Indigenous people			
Worse	16	56	19
The same or better	16	53	19

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000 for risk of harm in the long-term.

(b) Based on responses to questions in 2004–05 National Health Survey/NATSIHS about frequency of consumption of specified number of standard drinks in the previous year. The number of standard drinks is based on NHMRC guidelines for risky and high-risk short-term alcohol consumption for males and females.

(c) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term on at least one occasion in the previous 12 months.

(d) Persons who consumed alcohol at specified risky/high-risk levels in the short-term at least once a week in the previous 12 months

(e) Includes owners with a mortgage and owners without a mortgage.

(f) Includes persons living under life tenure schemes, participants of rent/buy (or shared equity) schemes, persons living rent-free, boarders and other tenure type.

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

Note: CDEP = Community Development Employment Projects scheme.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

NATSISS data

The 2008 NATSISS included a set of questions on chronic alcohol consumption (amount consumed on a usual drinking day in previous 12 months) and binge drinking (largest quantity of alcohol consumed in a single day during the previous fortnight). Note that these questions are not the same questions that were asked in the 2004–05 NATSIHS and therefore results are not comparable.

Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over

- In 2008, 17% of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over reported drinking at chronic risky/high-risk levels, 46%reported drinking at low risk levels and 35% had not consumed alcohol in the previous 12 months (Table 2.16.9).
- The proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who reported drinking at chronic risky/high-risk levels in 2008 (17%) was similar to the proportion reported in the 2002 NATSISS (15%) (ABS 2012).
- Indigenous males were more likely than Indigenous females to drink at chronic risky/high-risk levels (20% compared with 14%) (Table 2.16.9).

Binge drinking

- In 2008, 37% of Indigenous people age 15 years and over reported drinking at acute risky/high-risk levels (binge drinking) in the two weeks prior to the survey, this is similar to the rate reported in 2002 (ABS 2012).
- Binge drinking was more common among Indigenous males (46%) than Indigenous females (28%) (ABS 2012).

Table 2.16.9: Alcohol risk levels[(a)], Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by sex, 2008

	Males	Females	Persons
		Per cent	
Low risk	51.1	41.9	46.3
Chronic risky/high risk levels	20.3	14.3	17.2
Did not consume alcohol in previous 12 months	26.5	43.0	35.1
Total[(b)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number ('000)[(b)]	**156.1**	**171.0**	**327.1**

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) Includes not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over

- In 2008, 39% of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over reported drinking at short-term risky/high-risk levels in the two weeks prior to interview (Table 2.16.10).
- The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who reported drinking at short-term risky/high-risk levels decreased with age, from 49% in the 18–24 year age group to 20% for those aged 55 years and over (Table 2.16.10).

Table 2.16.10: Alcohol risk levels[a], Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Age group (years)					
	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55 and over	Total Indigenous persons
	Per cent					
Short-term risk						
Low risk	10.2	11.7	16.1	15.2	16.5	13.6
Risky or high-risk	49.4	42.6	42.2	34.2	19.9	39.4
Total short term risk[b]	***59.6***	***54.3***	***58.3***	***49.4***	***36.4***	***53.0***
Long-term risk						
Low risk	52.1	54.8	49.1	41.1	34.7	47.8
Risky or high-risk	23.2	18.8	22.0	16.8	9.7	18.9
Total long term risk[c]	***75.3***	***73.5***	***71.1***	***57.9***	***44.4***	***66.6***

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.
(b) Total who reported drinking alcohol in the last 2 weeks.
(c) Total who reported drinking alcohol in the last 12 months.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Alcohol risk levels by sex

- Higher proportions of Indigenous males aged 18 years and over reported drinking at short (50%) and long-term (23%) risky/high-risk levels than Indigenous females (30% short-term and 15% long-term) (Table 2.16.11).

Table 2.16.11: Alcohol risk levels[a], Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Males	Females	Persons
	Per cent		
Short-term risk			
Low risk	15.6	11.8	13.6
Risky or high-risk	50.2	29.7	39.4
Total short term risk[b]	*65.8*	*41.6*	*53.0*
Long-term risk			
Low risk	52.9	43.2	47.8
Risky or high-risk	22.7	15.4	18.9
Total long term risk[c]	*75.6*	*58.6*	*66.6*

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.
(b) Total who reported drinking alcohol in the last 2 weeks.
(c) Total who reported drinking alcohol in the last 12 months.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Alcohol risk levels by state/territory

- The proportion of Indigenous adults who drank at short-term risky levels in the last 12 months varied across jurisdictions, from 29% in the Northern Territory to 46% in Western Australia (Table 2.16.12).
- Western Australia had the highest proportion (18%) of Indigenous adults who drank at long-term risky levels at least once a week in the last 12 months, and the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion (13%) (Table 2.16.12).

Table 2.16.12: Alcohol risk levels[a], Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, by state/territory, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
Abstainers[b]	20.0	15.0	23.2	23.7	25.2	18.4	*15.4	44.7	24.4
Short-term risky drinking									
Drank alcohol in last 12 months	40.7	40.4	40.3	45.8	38.3	36.4	39.9	29.0	39.4
Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	31.5	27.7	31.3	31.8	27.1	28.7	32.8	21.8	29.6
Long-term risky drinking									
Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	18.3	16.1	18.4	18.8	18.6	13.7	15.6	13.2	17.4
Total Indigenous persons[c]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number of Indigenous persons ('000)	**85,257**	**19,312**	**80,218**	**38,925**	**16,111**	**10,777**	**2,564**	**37,774**	**290,937**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) Those who did not drink alcohol in the last 12 months.

(c) Rows do not add to total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Alcohol risk levels by remoteness

- In general, the proportion of Indigenous adults who did not consume alcohol in the previous 12 months decreased with remoteness, from 82% in *Major cities* to 58% in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.16.13).
- The proportion of Indigenous adults who drank at short-term risky levels in the last 12 months was highest in I*nner regional* areas (44%) and lowest in *Very remote* areas (32%) (Table 2.16.13).

Table 2.16.13: Alcohol risk levels[a], by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Total
			Per cent			
Abstainers[b]	82.4	82.5	76.7	65.3	58.3	75.6
Short-term risk						
Drank alcohol in last 12 months	37.8	43.9	42.9	40.6	31.9	39.4
Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	28.4	32.6	32.8	31.7	22.9	29.6
Long-term risk						
Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	15.2	20.5	19.2	19.5	14.4	17.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number ('000)[c]	**92,691**	**58,208**	**64,889**	**27,031**	**48,118**	**290,937**

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) Those who did not drink alcohol in the last 12 months.

(c) Rows will not add to total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Alcohol risk levels by selected health and population characteristics

- The proportion of Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over who drank at long-term risky levels and reported their health as fair/poor (24%) was similar to the proportion of Indigenous Australians in the total population who reported their health as fair/poor (24%) (Table 2.16.14).
- Around three quarters (76%) of Indigenous adults who reported drinking at long-term risky levels lived in non-remote areas (Table 2.16.15).
- A slightly higher proportion of Indigenous adults who reported drinking at long-term risky levels were employed (58%) compared with the total Indigenous adult population (54%) (Table 2.16.15).

Table 2.16.14: Alcohol risk levels[a], by self-assessed health status, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Short-term risky drinker		Long-term risky drinker	Total population
Health status	Drank alcohol in last 12 months	Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over
Excellent/very good	41.9	41.4	34.8	41.3
Good	36.3	37.0	41.4	34.4
Fair/poor	21.8	21.6	23.8	24.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number ('000)[b]	**114,715**	**86,203**	**50,720**	**290,937**

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000.

(b) Columns will not add to total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.16.15: Alcohol risk level[a], by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Short-term risky drinker		Long-term risky drinker	Total population
	Drank alcohol in last 12 months	Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	Drank alcohol at least once a week in last 12 months	Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over
	Per cent			
Main language spoken at home[b]				
English	91.3	92.3	90.8	86.4
Language other than English	8.7	7.7	9.2	13.6
Location[c]				
Remote	22.9	22.7	24.1	25.8
Non-remote	77.1	77.3	75.9	74.2
Employment				
Employed CDEP	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.8
Employed non-CDEP	55.7	58.1	52.6	48.2
Total employed	*62.2*	*64.1*	*58.3*	*54.0*
Unemployed	10.4	9.5	9.8	9.6
Not in the labour force	27.4	26.4	31.9	36.4
Housing tenure type				
Owner	26.8	28.5	28.2	28.3
Renter	70.5	68.4	69.0	68.8
Other	2.3*	2.7*	2.6*	2.3
Total persons[d]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**114,715**	**86,203**	**50,720**	**290,937**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Risk level based on Australian Alcohol Guidelines 2000 for risk of harm in the long-term.
(b) Excludes not stated and not currently speaking.
(c) Exclude migratory.
(d) Total does not add to 100 because excludes not stated.

Note: CDEP = Community Development Employment Projects scheme.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy

Information about alcohol consumption during pregnancy is available from the 2008 NATSISS.

- In 2008, 3% of mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years drank more or the same amount of alcohol during pregnancy, 16% drank less and 80% did not drink at all during their pregnancy (Table 2.16.16).
- The proportion of mothers who did not drink alcohol during pregnancy was greatest in the Northern Territory (85%), and lowest in Victoria and Queensland (77%). The proportion of mothers who drank more or the same amount of alcohol during pregnancy

was greatest in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory combined (6%) and lowest in South Australia and Queensland (2%) (Table 2.16.16).

Table 2.16.16: Alcohol consumption by child's mother during pregnancy, Indigenous children aged 0–3 years, by state/territory, 2008

Alcohol consumption	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas/ ACT	NT	Aust.
				Per cent				
Drank more or the same amount of alcohol during pregnancy	3.4	5.4	2.3	5.0	1.8	6.0	3.0	3.3
Drank less alcohol during pregnancy	14.1	17.6	20.5	15.7	15.2	13.1	11.9	16.3
Did not drink alcohol during pregnancy	82.6	77.0	77.3	79.3	83.1	80.9	85.1	80.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**13,261**	**2,474**	**13,334**	**5,444**	**2,240**	**1,856**	**4,144**	**42,753**

Note: Excludes not stated & not collected.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Mortality

Table 2.16.10 presents deaths related to alcohol use of Indigenous Australians in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the period 2006–2010.

- In New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, there were 382 deaths of Indigenous Australians related to alcohol use (Table 2.16.17). This represented approximately 3.4% of total deaths of Indigenous Australians in these jurisdictions.
- Of all deaths related to alcohol use among Indigenous people, the majority were for alcoholic liver disease (261 deaths).
- Overall, Indigenous males died from alcohol-related causes at 5 times the rate of non-Indigenous males and Indigenous females died from alcohol-related causes at 8 times the rate of non-Indigenous females.
- Indigenous Australians died from mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol use at 7 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians, from alcoholic liver disease at 6 times the rate, and by alcohol poisoning at 5 times the rate.

Table 2.16.17: Deaths related to alcohol use, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2006–2010[a][b][c][d][e][f]

Cause of death	Number		No. per 100,000[g]		Ratio[h]	Rate difference[i]	Rate difference%[j]	Rate difference% all causes[k]
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.				
			Males					
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)	158	1,764	21.7	4.5	4.8*	17.2*	. .	. .
Mental & behavioural disorders due to alcohol use (F10)	66	664	11.2	1.8	6.4*	9.4*	. .	. .
Poisoning by alcohol (X45, X65, Y15)	22	176	2.4	0.5	5.0*	1.9*	. .	. .
Total deaths related to alcohol use	**246**	**2,604**	**35.2**	**6.7**	**5.2***	**28.5***	**. .**	**. .**
			Females					
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)	103	593	12.8	1.5	8.6*	11.3*	. .	. .
Mental & behavioural disorders due to alcohol use (F10)	27	182	3.7	0.4	8.5*	3.3*	. .	. .
Poisoning by alcohol (X45, X65, Y15)	6	56	0.6	0.1	4.4*	0.5*	. .	. .
Total deaths related to alcohol use	**136**	**831**	**17.1**	**2.1**	**8.3***	**15.1***	**. .**	**. .**
			Persons					
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)	261	2,357	17.0	2.9	5.8*	14.1*	66.2	2.5
Mental & behavioural disorders due to alcohol use (F10)	93	846	7.1	1.1	6.7*	6.0*	28.3	1.1
Poisoning by alcohol (X45, X65, Y15)	28	232	1.5	0.3	4.8*	1.2*	5.5	0.2
Total deaths related to alcohol use	**382**	**3,435**	**25.6**	**4.3**	**5.9***	**21.3***	**100.0**	**3.8**

(continued)

Table 2.16.17 (continued): Deaths related to alcohol use, NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT, 2006–2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(g)]

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

(a) Data are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory only. These five states and territories are currently considered to have adequate levels of Indigenous identification in mortality data for these periods. Data for these five jurisdictions over-represent Indigenous populations in less urbanised and more remote locations. Mortality data for the five jurisdictions should not be assumed to represent the experience in the other jurisdictions.

(b) Data are presented in 5-year groupings because of small numbers each year.

(c) Although most deaths of Indigenous Australians are registered, it is likely that some are not accurately identified as Indigenous. Therefore, these statistics are likely to underestimate the Indigenous mortality rate. It is also difficult to exactly identify the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous mortality rates because of these data quality issues.

(d) Deaths prior to 2007 are by year of registration and state/territory of usual residence. Deaths from 2007 onwards are by reference year and state/territory of usual residence. Registration year prior to 2007 is equivalent to reference year from 2007 onwards.

(e) Care should be taken when interpreting mortality rates for Queensland due to recent changes in the timeliness of birth and death registrations. Queensland deaths data for 2010 have been adjusted to minimise the impact of late registration of deaths on mortality indicators.

(f) All causes of death data from 2006 onward are subject to a revisions process - once data for a reference year are 'final', they are no longer revised. Affected data in this table are: 2006 (final), 2007 (final), 2008 (final), 2009 (revised) and 2010 (preliminary). See Causes of Death, Australia, 2010 (cat.no. 3303.0) Explanatory Notes for further information.

(g) Rates are directly age-standardised death rates per 100,000, using the 2001 Australian Estimated Resident population, by 5-year age group to 75+.

(h) Rate ratio is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians divided by the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(i) Rate difference is the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians minus the mortality rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

(j) Rate difference per cent is the rate difference for each specific cause divided by the rate difference for deaths related to alcohol use.

(k) Rate difference per cent of all causes is the rate difference for each specific cause divided by the rate difference for all causes.

Note: Deaths with not stated age have been excluded from the calculation of rates, but included in totals. Note that the ABS pro ratas not stated age across each age group in the calculation of mortality rates. This leads to some small differences in the mortality rates as calculated by ABS and AIHW.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS Mortality Database.

Hospitalisations

Table 2.16.18 presents hospitalisations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for principal diagnoses related to alcohol use in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined, over the period July 2008 to June 2010.

- There were 7,763 hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians in the six jurisdictions combined with a principal diagnosis related to alcohol use. This represented approximately 2% of all hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians (excluding dialysis) in these jurisdictions.
- Indigenous males were hospitalised for diagnoses related to alcohol use at almost five times the rate of non-Indigenous males, and Indigenous females were hospitalised for alcohol-related conditions at almost four times the rate of non-Indigenous females.
- Over three-quarters (86%) of all hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians that were related to alcohol use had a principal diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol use (6,638 hospitalisations). The most common type of mental and behavioural disorder due to alcohol use was acute intoxication, for which Indigenous Australians were hospitalised at eight times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians were hospitalised at 8 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians for mental and behavioural disorders due to withdrawal, and 17 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians for psychotic disorder.
- Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for alcoholic liver disease at six times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians, and for accidental poisoning by alcohol at four times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.

Table 2.16.18: Hospitalisations for principal diagnoses related to alcohol use, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010 [(a)(b)(c)(d)]

	Males						Females						Persons					
	Number		No per 1,000[(e)]				Number		No per 1,000[(e)]				Number		No per 1,000[(e)]			
Principal diagnosis	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio[(f)]	Difference[(g)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio[(f)]	Difference[(g)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio[(f)]	Difference[(g)]
Mental & behavioural disorders due to alcohol use (F10)																		
Acute intoxication (F10.0)	2,033	13,049	5.0	0.6	7.9*	4.4*	1,642	8,084	3.5	0.40	8.9*	3.1*	3,675	21,133	4.2	0.5	8.2*	3.7*
Withdrawal state (F10.3, F10.4)	792	4,717	2.1	0.2	9.1*	1.8*	210	2,111	0.5	0.10	5.0*	0.4*	1,002	6,828	1.2	0.2	7.6*	1.1*
Dependence syndrome (F10.2)	860	26,866	2.2	1.3	1.7*	0.9*	482	23,936	1.1	1.13	1.0	0.0	1,342	50,802	1.6	1.2	1.4*	0.4*
Psychotic disorder (F10.5)	118	341	0.3	0.0	15.9*	0.2*	49	118	0.1	0.01	19.9*	0.1*	167	459	0.2	0.0	16.8*	0.2*
Harmful use (F10.1)	238	1,765	0.6	0.1	6.6*	0.5*	139	1,248	0.3	0.06	5.2*	0.2*	377	3,014	0.4	0.1	6.0*	0.4*
Other[(h)] (F10.6–F10.9)	52	997	0.2	0.1	3.6*	0.1*	23	296	0.1	0.01	4.8*	0.1*	75	1,293	0.1	0.0	3.8*	0.1*
Total F10 categories	*4,093*	*47,735*	*10.2*	*2.3*	*4.5**	*7.9**	*2,545*	*35,793*	*5.6*	*1.7*	*3.3**	*3.9**	*6,638*	*83,529*	*7.8*	*2.0*	*3.9**	*5.8**
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)	571	7,481	1.7	0.35	4.8*	1.3*	354	2,413	0.9	0.11	8.0*	0.8*	925	9,894	1.3	0.2	5.6*	1.0*
Toxic effect of alcohol (T51)	61	754	0.1	0.04	3.5*	0.1*	54	667	0.1	0.03	3.2*	0.1*	115	1,421	0.1	0.0	3.4*	0.1*
Other inflammatory diseases of the liver (K75)	31	982	0.1	0.05	1.6*	0.03	35	1,162	0.1	0.05	1.6*	0.0	66	2,144	0.1	0.1	1.6*	0.03*
Intentional self-poisoning by alcohol (X65)	21	298	0.0	0.01	3.1*	0.03*	22	359	0.0	0.02	2.7*	0.03*	43	657	0.0	0.0	2.9*	0.03*

(continued)

Table 2.16.18 (continued): Hospitalisations for principal diagnoses related to alcohol use, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)]

	Males						Females						Persons					
	Number		No per 1,000[(e)]				Number		No per 1,000[(e)]				Number		No per 1,000[(e)]			
Principal diagnosis	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio[(f)]	Difference[(g)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio[(f)]	Difference[(g)]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio[(f)]	Difference[(g)]
Accidental poisoning by alcohol (X45)	25	280	0.1	0.01	4.2*	0.04*	17	211	0.0	0.01	3.2*	0.02*	42	491	0.0	0.0	3.7*	0.03*
Poisoning by alcohol undetermined intent (Y15)	31	259	0.1	0.01	5.2*	0.1*	22	205	0.0	0.01	4.5*	0.03*	53	464	0.1	0.0	4.9*	0.04*
Total	**4,769**	**57,060**	**12.1**	**2.7**	**4.5***	**9.4***	**2,994**	**40,157**	**6.7**	**1.9**	**3.5***	**4.8***	**7,763**	**97,218**	**9.3**	**2.3**	**4.0***	**7.0***

* Represents results with statistically significant differences at the $p < 0.05$ level.

(a) Data excludes private hospitals in the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

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

(f) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(g) Rate difference Indigenous minus non-Indigenous.

(h) Includes amnesic syndrome, residual or late onset psychotic disorder, other and unspecified mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol use.

Notes

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

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisations by remoteness

Hospitalisation rates for hospitalisations with a primary diagnosis related to alcohol use in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory are presented by Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) in Table 2.16.19, covering the period July 2008 to June 2010.

- Indigenous Australians in all remoteness areas were more likely to be hospitalised for alcohol related conditions than non-Indigenous Australians. The ratio of hospitalisations of Indigenous people compared with non-Indigenous Australians was higher and the difference was statistically significant for all ASGC areas.
- Rates of hospitalisations per 1,000 head of population were highest for Indigenous people living in *Remote* areas, at 14 per 1,000. The rate was highest for non-Indigenous Australians who lived in *Major cities*, at 2.6 per 1,000. The lowest rates were observed in *Very remote* areas for Indigenous people (6.9 per 1,000) and *Outer regional* for non-Indigenous Australians (1.6 per 1,000).
- Indigenous people were hospitalised for alcohol related conditions at a rate of 7.9 times that of non-Indigenous Australians in *Remote* areas of Australia. In *Major cities*, where the lowest ratio was observed, Indigenous Australians were hospitalised at a rate of 3.5 times that of non-Indigenous Australians. Nationally, the rate ratio was 4.1.

Table 2.16.19: Hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis related to alcohol use, by Indigenous status and remoteness, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)]

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous					
	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Ratio[(i)]	Difference[(j)]
Major cities	2,392	9.1	8.7	9.5	75,869	2.6	2.5	2.6	3.5*	6.5*
Inner regional	1,348	8.2	7.8	8.7	13,147	1.7	1.6	1.7	4.9*	6.6*
Outer regional[(k)]	1,765	9.9	9.4	10.4	5,979	1.6	1.6	1.7	6.1*	8.3*
Remote[(l)]	1,162	13.9	13.1	14.8	951	1.8	1.7	1.9	7.9*	12.1*
Very remote	955	6.9	6.4	7.3	322	1.9	1.7	2.2	3.6*	4.9*
Total[(m)]	**7,763**	**9.4**	**9.1**	**9.6**	**97,218**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**4.1***	**7.1***

* Indicates a significant difference at the p <0.05 level.

(a) Data are from public and most private hospitals. Data exclude private hospitals in the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania.

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

(e) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population, by 5 year age groups to 65+.

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

(g) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(h) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(i) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.

(j) Rate difference Indigenous- non-Indigenous.

(k) Includes remote Victoria.

(l) Excludes remote Victoria.

(m) Total includes hospitalisations where ASGC is missing.

Notes

1. Rates are calculated using the remoteness distribution by Indigenous status, age and sex based on the 2006 ERP and applied to the 2008–10 population projections (Series B) based on the 2006 Census.
2. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded from analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

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* areas and *Remote and very 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).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. However, some factor may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010a).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010a).

Mortality data

Mortality data presented in this report are from the AIHW National Mortality Database. The AIHW National Mortality Database includes information on the factors that caused death, as well as other information about the deceased person, such as age at death, place of death, country of birth, and where applicable, the circumstances of their death. These data are collected in Australia by the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory. The data are then compiled nationally by the ABS, which codes the data according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

Deaths

Although it is considered likely that most deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians are registered, a proportion of these deaths are not registered as Indigenous. Information about the deceased is supplied by a relative or other person acquainted with the deceased, or by an official of the institution where the death occurred and may differ from the self-identified Indigenous origin of the deceased.

Queensland deaths

In November 2010, the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised the ABS of an outstanding deaths registration initiative undertaken by the Registry. This initiative resulted in the November 2010 registration of 374 previously unregistered deaths which occurred between 1992 and 2006 (including a few for which a date of death was unknown). Of these, around three-quarters (284) were deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

The ABS discussed different methods of adjustment of Queensland death registrations data for 2010 with key stakeholders. Following the discussion, a decision was made by the ABS and key stakeholders to use an adjustment method that added together deaths registered in 2010 for usual residents of Queensland which occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. This method minimises the impact on mortality indicators used in various government reports. However, care should still be taken when interpreting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death data for Queensland for 2010.

Western Australia deaths

Indigenous deaths registered in Western Australia in 2007, 2008 and 2009 were corrected by the ABS in mid-2012 due to some non-Indigenous deaths being incorrectly recorded as Indigenous for these years. Data presented in this report are based on the corrected data and will differ from mortality data presented in the 2010 Health Performance Framework report which presented data prior to the ABS corrections.

Indigenous status question

All jurisdictions comply with the standard wording for the Indigenous status question and categories for their death registration forms.

Under-identification

At present, there is considerable variation across the states and territories in the completeness of mortality data for Indigenous people. Information concerning the number of deaths of Indigenous people is limited by the accuracy with which Indigenous persons are identified in death records. Problems associated with identification result in an underestimation of deaths of Indigenous people and in the gap in mortality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Mortality data for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory are considered to have sufficient coverage to produce reliable statistics on Indigenous Australian deaths for the period 2001–2010.

Longer term mortality trend data are limited to three jurisdictions (Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory) which are considered to have adequate identification from 1991. Queensland is considered to have sufficient coverage of Indigenous deaths from 1998.

The quality of the time series data is also influenced by the late inclusion of a 'not stated' category for Indigenous status in 1998. Before this time, the 'not stated' responses were probably included with the non-Indigenous.

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

Indigenous Mortality Quality Study

The ABS conducted a number of quality studies based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and other data sets as part of the Census Data Enhancement (CDE) project (ABS 2008). The CDE Indigenous Mortality Quality Study linked Census records with death registration records for the 11-month period following the Census and examined differences in the reporting of Indigenous status across the two data sets.

For the purpose of this study, the linked record was assumed to be an Indigenous record if a positive response was recorded against the Indigenous status question on either the death registration or the corresponding Census record. Following linkage, the number of death records identified as Indigenous increased from 1,800 to 2,123 records, or from 1.7% to 2.0% of all registered deaths.

'While 323 additional death records were able to be identified as Indigenous from Census records, more may have been expected if all death records had been linked. A key reason records could not be linked appears to be Census undercount, with a corresponding Census record not existing to link to for many Indigenous death records' (ABS 2008).

The results from the study suggested that coverage of Indigenous deaths in death registrations is considerably higher, at least in 2006–07, than previous estimates have

indicated. Nationally, the coverage rate was estimated to be 85%. State/territory coverage estimates were: NSW 76%, Vic 74%, Qld 87%, SA 86%, WA 92% and NT 99% (ABS 2008).

Numerator and denominator

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

National Hospital Morbidity Database

The scope of the NMDS is episodes of care for admitted patients in essentially all hospitals in Australia, including public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals, free-standing day hospital facilities, alcohol and drug treatment hospitals and dental hospitals. Hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and in Australia's off-shore territories are not included. Hospitals specialising in ophthalmic aids and other specialised acute medical or surgical care are included. The NHMD does not include episodes of non-admitted patient care provided in outpatient clinics or emergency departments.

For 2009–10 almost all public hospitals provided data for the NHMD, with the exception of all separations for a mothercraft hospital in the Australian Capital Territory and about 2,400 separations for one public hospital in Western Australia. The majority of private hospitals provided data, with the exception of the private day hospital facilities in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. In addition, Western Australia was not able to provide about 10,600 separations for one private hospital.

Separations

Data are a count of hospital separations (episodes of admitted patient care, which can be a total hospital stay or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care) and not patients. Patients who separated from hospital more than once in the year will be counted more than once in the data set.

The number and pattern of hospitalisations can be affected by differing admission practices among the jurisdictions and from year to year, and differing levels and patterns of service delivery.

Separations with care types of *Newborn* episodes that did not include qualified days, and records for *Hospital boarders* and *Posthumous organ procurement* have been excluded as these activities are not considered to be admitted patient care.

Indigenous status question

Some jurisdictions have slightly different approaches to the collection and storage of the standard Indigenous status question and categories in their hospital collections.

Approximately 2% of hospital records have missing Indigenous status information.

Hospitalisations for which the Indigenous status of the patient was not reported are excluded from hospitalisations data for non-Indigenous Australians, apart from Western Australia where records with an unknown status are recorded as non-Indigenous.

Under-identification

The incompleteness of Indigenous identification means the number of hospital separations recorded as Indigenous is an underestimate of hospitalisations involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2007, the AIHW completed an assessment of the level of Indigenous under-identification in selected public hospitals in all states and territories.

Results from this assessment indicate that New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory have adequate Indigenous identification (20% or less overall under-identification of Indigenous patients) in their hospital separations data.

It has therefore been recommended that reporting of Indigenous hospital separations data be limited to aggregated information from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Interpretation of results should take into account the relative quality of the data from the jurisdictions. The proportion of the Indigenous population covered by these six jurisdictions is 96%. Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory data are presented at the State/Territory level and should be used with caution, but they are not aggregated with the other 6 jurisdictions.

From the AIHW study, it was possible to produce correction factors for the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital data for each jurisdiction and at the national level. Adjustments for Indigenous under-identification have been made at the national level for the total number of hospital separations using an adjustment factor of 89%. No adjustments for under-identification have been made at the state/territory level or principal diagnosis level.

The 2007 AIHW study indicated acceptable levels of Indigenous identification for all remoteness areas, ranging from 80% in *Major cities* to 97% in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas. The quality of data supports analyses for hospitalisations by remoteness areas at the national level only.

In 2011–12, the AIHW commenced another study to re-assess the level of under-identification in public hospitals data. All states and territories have participated in the study to assess improvements in data quality. A report on the findings is expected to be published in mid-2013 which will include new correction factors for the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital separations data at the national, state/territory and remoteness levels.

Numerator and denominator

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

List of symbols used in tables

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

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2.17 Drug and other substance use including inhalants

The use of drugs and other substances including inhalants among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, the National Hospital Morbidity Database and the Australian Institute of Criminology Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey.

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 social issues including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

National Hospital Morbidity Database

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

Hospitalisation data are presented for the 2-year period from July 2008 to June 2010. An aggregate of 2 years of data has been used, because the number of hospitalisations for some conditions is likely to be small for a single year.

Hospital records are for 'separations' and not individuals, and as there can be multiple admissions for the same individual, hospital separation rates do not usually reflect the incidence or prevalence of the disease or condition in question. For example, it is not possible to identify whether one patient was admitted 5 times or five patients were admitted once. People who receive treatment at hospital but are not admitted are not counted in hospital records. Hospital separation data are also affected by variations in admission practices, and the availability of and access to hospital and non-hospital services.

Care types 7.3, 9 and 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital border) have been excluded from analysis.

Data are presented for the six jurisdictions that the AIHW has assessed as having adequate identification of Indigenous hospitalisations in 2006–08—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory (public hospitals only). These six jurisdictions represent approximately 96% of the Indigenous population of Australia. National totals include separations for people resident in these six jurisdictions only and are not necessarily representative of the jurisdictions not included. Indigenous status data are reported for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (public hospitals only) with caveats until further audits of the quality of data in these jurisdictions are completed.

Data are presented by state/territory of usual residence of the patient.

The following caveats have been recommended for analysis of hospitalisation data from selected jurisdictions (AIHW 2010):

- Interpretation of results should take into account the relative quality of the data from the jurisdictions included (currently a small degree of Indigenous under-identification in data from New South Wales and South Australia, and relatively marked Indigenous under-identification in data from Queensland and Victoria).
- Interpretation of time series analysis should take into account the possible contribution of changes over time in ascertainment of Indigenous status. This will be reflected in Indigenous patient changes in hospitalisation rates for Indigenous people.

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey

DUMA is an annual survey which has been conducted by the AIC since 1999 at some locations across Australia. The survey reports on drug use among police detainees at selected police stations. The survey is by a voluntary questionnaire and drug use is confirmed by a urine sample provided by the detainee.

The number of detainees questioned is quite low and thus includes a very small Indigenous sample. The Indigenous status of the detainee is established by the following question: 'What is your ethnic background?' (if the respondent mentions 'Australian' but not 'Aboriginal', prompt: 'Do you consider yourself an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?').

Analysis is presented by state/territory, as the figures do not permit national coverage.

Data analyses

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

Illicit substance use can be divided into two categories: use of substances which are illegal to possess (for example, heroin) and non-medical use of substances that are legally available (for example, petrol inhalation and misuse of prescription drugs).

Self-reported illicit drug use

Self-reported data on illicit substance use among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from the 2008 and 2002 NATSISS are presented below.

- In 2008, approximately 23% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported illicit substance use in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.17.1).
- In 2008, 43% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over reported illicit substance use at least once in their lifetime (Table 2.17.2).

Substance use by age and sex

- In 2008, the age groups with the highest proportions of Indigenous persons who used substances in the previous 12 months were aged 18–24 years (32%) and 25–34 years (26%) (Table 2.17.1).
- In 2008, 51% of Indigenous males and 36% of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over reported illicit substance use at least once in their lifetime (Table 2.17.2).

Substance use by remoteness

- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas than remote areas reported ever having used illicit substances (47% compared with 31%) and substance use in the previous 12 months (24% compared with 17%) (Table 2.17.3).

Table 2.17.1: Substance use, by age and sex, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over[(a)], 2008

	Never used substances			Used substances but not in last 12 months			Used substances in last 12 months		
Age (years)	**Males**	**Females**	**Persons**	**Males**	**Females**	**Persons**	**Males**	**Females**	**Persons**
				Proportion of total persons (Per cent)					
15–17[(b)]	18.5	11.8	14.6	3.5	3.8	3.7	6.8	7.9	7.3
18–24	19.6	17.1	18.1	13.8	22.0	17.7	31.5	31.5	31.5
25–34	17.1	17.1	17.1	27.0	30.0	28.5	25.8	27.0	26.3
35–44	14.0	19.2	17.1	28.2	25.8	27.0	20.1	19.3	19.8
45–54	13.2	16.3	15.0	18.1	13.6	15.9	12.1	11.6	11.9
55+	17.5	18.5	18.1	9.3	4.8	7.1	3.7	2.7	3.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
				Proportion of age group (Per cent)					
15–17[(b)]	77.1	78.2	77.6	6.7	7.4	7.0	16.3	14.4	15.4
18–24	44.6	53.2	49.0	14.3	20.1	17.3	41.1	26.7	33.7
25–34	38.7	51.3	45.2	27.8	26.5	27.1	33.6	22.1	27.6
35–44	36.6	59.9	49.3	33.3	23.7	28.1	30.1	16.4	22.6
45–54	46.6	69.5	59.0	29.0	17.0	22.5	24.5	13.5	18.5
55+	73.4	89.6	82.4	17.8	6.8	11.7	8.8	3.6	5.9
Total	**49.3**	**63.8**	**56.9**	**22.4**	**18.8**	**20.5**	**28.3**	**17.4**	**22.6**
Total number	**69,293**	**98,949**	**168,242**	**31,453**	**29,104**	**60,557**	**39,764**	**26,996**	**66,759**

(a) People who accepted the substance use form.

(b) Excludes data obtained through child proxy.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.2: Substance use, by type of substance and sex, Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Males		Females		Persons	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Has ever used substances						
Marijuana, hashish or cannabis resin	60,860	43.3	45,425	29.3	106,285	35.9
Amphetamines or speed	19,499	13.9	12,869	8.3	32,368	10.9
Ecstasy or designer drugs	13,433	9.6	9,270	6.0	22,704	7.7
Pain killers or analgesics for non-medical purposes	11,120	7.9	10,654	6.9	21,775	7.4
Kava	11,506	8.2	5,427	3.5	16,932	5.7
LSD or synthetic hallucinogens	9,744	6.9	5,692	3.7	15,437	5.2
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	9,323	6.6	3,334	2.1	12,656	4.3
Cocaine	7,143	5.1	4,400	2.8	11,543	3.9
Petrol	6,003	4.3	2,476	1.6	8,479	2.9
Other inhalants	5,203	3.7	3,267	2.1	8,470	2.9
Tranquillisers or sleeping pills for non-medical purposes	5,112	3.6	3,199	2.1	8,311	2.8
Heroin	4,932	3.5	2,099	1.4	7,031	2.4
Methadone for non-medical purposes	1,051	0.7	491	0.3	1,543	0.5
Total has ever used substances[(a)]	*71,263*	*50.7*	*56,295*	*36.3*	*127,558*	*43.1*
Has not used substances	69,293	49.3	98,949	63.7	168,242	56.9
Total	**140,555**	**100.0**	**155,244**	**100.0**	**295,799**	**100.0**
Not stated	15,497	9.9	15,805	9.2	31,302	9.6
Total	**156,052**	**100.0**	**171,049**	**100.0**	**327,101**	**100.0**
Has used substances in the last 12 months						
Marijuana, hashish or cannabis resin	32,596	23.2	18,229	11.8	50,825	17.2
Pain killers or analgesics for non-medical purposes	6,862	4.9	6,564	4.2	13,425	4.5
Amphetamines or speed	7,631	5.4	4,179	2.7	11,810	4.0
Ecstasy or designer drugs	6,116	4.4	3,555	2.3	9,671	3.3
Tranquillisers or sleeping pills for non-medical purposes	2,384	1.7	1,788	1.2	4,172	1.4
Kava	2,365	1.7	1,090	0.7	3,454	1.2
LSD or synthetic hallucinogens	1,813	1.3	753	0.5	2,566	0.9
Cocaine	1,515	1.1	817	0.5	2,332	0.8
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	1,537	1.1	297	0.2	1,834	0.6
Volatile solvents	877	0.6	273	0.2	1,150	0.4
Other analgesics	719	0.5	271	0.2	990	0.3
Total used substances in last 12 months[(a)]	*39,764*	*28.3*	*26,996*	*17.4*	*66,759*	*22.6*
Has not used substances in last 12 months	100,746	71.7	128,053	82.6	228,799	77.4
Total	**140,510**	**100.0**	**155,049**	**100.0**	**295,558**	**100.0**
Not stated	15,543	10.0	16,000	9.4	31,543	9.6
Total	**156,052**	**100.0**	**171,049**	**100.0**	**327,101**	**100.0**

(a) Totals may not be equal to the sum of their components as survey respondents may have used more than one type of substance.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.3: Illicit drug or substance use, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Remote		Non-remote		Persons	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Has ever used substances						
Marijuana, hashish or cannabis resin	19,283	26.1	87,002	39.2	106,285	35.9
Amphetamines or speed	2,317	3.1	30,051	13.5	32,368	10.9
Ecstasy or designer drugs	1,916	2.6	20,788	9.4	22,704	7.7
Pain-killers/analgesics	2,872	3.9	18,903	8.5	21,775	7.4
Kava	2,235	3.0	14,698	6.6	16,932	5.7
LSD or synthetic hallucinogens	1,119	1.5	14,318	6.5	15,437	5.2
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	1,036	1.4	11,620	5.2	12,656	4.3
Cocaine	1,217	1.6	10,326	4.7	11,543	3.9
Petrol	2,210	3.0	6,269	2.8	8,479	2.9
Other inhalants	1,007	1.4	7,463	3.4	8,470	2.9
Tranquillisers/sleeping pills	484	0.7	7,826	3.5	8,311	2.8
Heroin	505	0.7	6,526	2.9	7,031	2.4
Total has ever used substances[(a)]	*22,608*	*30.6*	*104,950*	*47.3*	*127,558*	*43.1*
Has not used substances	51,224	69.4	117,018	52.7	168,242	56.9
Total	**73,832**	**100.0**	**221,967**	**100.0**	**295,799**	**100.0**
Not stated	7,669	9.4	23,632	9.6	31,302	9.6
Total	**81,501**	**100.0**	**245,600**	**100.0**	**327,101**	**100.0**
Has used substances in last 12 months						
Marijuana, hashish or cannabis resin	10,459	14.2	40,365	18.2	50,825	17.2
Pain Killers or Analgesics for non-medical purposes	1,405	1.9	12,021	5.4	13,425	4.5
Amphetamines or Speed	729	1.0	11,081	5.0	11,810	4.0
Ecstasy or Designer Drugs	1,073	1.5	8,598	3.9	9,671	3.3
Tranquillisers or Sleeping Pills for non-medical purposes	298	0.4	3,874	1.7	4,172	1.4
Kava	862	1.2	2,592	1.2	3,454	1.2
LSD or Synthetic Hallucinogens	165	0.2	2,401	1.1	2,566	0.9
Cocaine	464	0.6	1,868	0.8	2,332	0.8
Naturally Occurring Hallucinogens	82	0.1	1,752	0.8	1,834	0.6
Volatile solvents	156	0.2	995	0.4	1,150	0.4
Other Analgesics	170	0.2	820	0.4	990	0.3
Total used substances in last 12 months[(a)]	*12,739*	*17.3*	*54,021*	*24.4*	*66,759*	*22.6*
Has not used substances in last 12 months	60,988	82.7	167,811	75.6	228,799	77.4
Total	**73,727**	**100.0**	**221,831**	**100.0**	**295,558**	**100.0**
Not stated	7,774	9.5	23,768	9.7	31,543	9.6
Total	**81,501**	**100.0**	**245,600**	**100.0**	**327,101**	**100.0**

(a) Totals may not be equal to the sum of their components as survey respondents may have used more than one type of substance.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Type of substance use

- Marijuana was the most commonly reported illicit drug used by Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over in 2008. Around 36% reported ever having tried marijuana and 17% had used marijuana in the previous 12 months. Amphetamines/speed was the next most frequently reported substance ever used (11%) while ecstasy and designer drugs followed (8%) (Table 2.17.4).

Table 2.17.4: Illicit substance use, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Ever used	Used in last 12 months
	Per cent	
Marijuana, hashish or cannabis	35.9	17.2
Amphetamines/speed	10.9	4.0
Painkillers/analgesics	7.4	4.5
LSD/synthetic hallucinogens	5.2	0.9
Ecstasy/designer drugs	7.7	3.3

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS

Time series analyses

- For Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who accepted the substance use form, reported rates of ever having used illicit substances increased slightly from 40% to 43% between 2002 and 2008 (Table 2.17.5).
- Over the same period, reported rates of illicit substance use in the 12 months before the survey were similar (24% in 2002 and 23% in 2008).
- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who reported marijuana, hashish or cannabis resin use in the previous 12 months decreased from 2002 to 2008 (19% compared with 17%).
- The proportion of Indigenous males who reported use of amphetamines/speed in the last 12 months in 2008 was similar to that reported in 2002 (around 5%).

Table 2.17.5: Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas[a], substance use, by sex, 2002 and 2008

Substance use	2002			2008		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	Per cent					
Used substances in last 12 months						
Marijuana, hashish or cannabis resin	23.0	15.5	19.1	23.1	11.7	17.1
Amphetamines or speed	4.9	4.5	4.7	5.4	2.7	4.0
Ecstasy or designer drugs	2.2	1.6	1.9	4.3	2.3	3.3
LSD or synthetic hallucinogens	0.7[b]	0.6[b]	0.7[b]	1.3[b]	0.5[b]	0.9[b]
Pain-killers or analgesics for non-medical purposes	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.9	4.2	4.5
Naturally occurring hallucinogens	0.5[b]	0.2[c]	0.3[b]	1.1[b]	0.2[b]	0.6[b]
Cocaine	0.5[b]	0.8[b]	0.6[b]	1.1[b]	0.5[b]	0.8[b]
Other analgesics and opiates[d]	0.5[b]	0.6[b]	0.5[b]	0.5[b]	0.2[b]	0.3[b]
Volatile organic and other inhalants[e]	0.5[b]	0.3[c]	0.4[b]	0.6[b]	0.2[b]	0.4
Tranquillisers or sleeping pills for non-medical purposes	0.7	2.2[b]	1.5	1.7	1.1	1.4
Kava	0.5[b]	0.6[b]	0.6[b]	1.7[b]	0.7[b]	1.2
Total used substances in last 12 months	**26.6**	**20.7**	**23.5**	**28.2**	**17.3**	**22.5**
Used substances but not in last 12 months	16.4	15.9	16.1	22.3	18.6	20.4
Total used substances	**43.0**	**36.6**	**39.6**	**50.5**	**35.9**	**42.8**
Never used substances	48.3	54.2	51.4	49.2	63.2	56.6
Total[a]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Substance use form status						
Form accepted	93	92	93	55.4	58.9	57.2
Form non-response	7	8	7	5.9	5.5	5.7
Form status not known	. .	. .	. .	38.7	35.7	37.1
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) People who accepted the substance use form.

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

(c) Estimates with a relative standard error greater than 50% are considered too unreliable for general use.

(d) Includes other analgesics and heroin.

(e) Includes petrol, volatile solvents and other inhalants.

Source: AIHW and ABS analysis of 2002 and 2008 NATSISS.

Substance use by selected health and population characteristics

Tables 2.17.6 and 2.17.7 present information on Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, by substance use status and selected health and population characteristics. Proportions in Table 2.17.6 are calculated within a column using the total across the rows as a denominator; while proportions in Table 2.17.7 are calculated within a row using the column totals as a denominator.

- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were recent substance users (that is, used substances in the previous 12 months) reported they were currently daily smokers than those who had never used illicit substances (Table 2.17.6).
- Indigenous persons who were recent substance users were also more likely to be unemployed, renters and have experienced stressors in the last 12 months than persons who had never used illicit substances (Table 2.17.6).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous persons with high/very high levels of psychological distress had ever used substances, than Indigenous persons with low/moderate levels of psychological distress (50% compared with 40%) (Table 2.17.7).
- Interestingly, Indigenous persons in the highest quintiles of household income were more likely to have ever used substances that Indigenous persons in the lowest income quintiles (Table 2.17.7).

Table 2.17.6: Substance use status, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over[a][b], 2008

	Never used illicit substances	Ever used substances[a]	Recent substance use[b]
		Per cent	
Self-assessed health status			
Excellent/very good	44.3	43.0	40.5
Good	33.8	34.4	35.4
Fair/poor	21.9	22.6	24.0
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Other substance use			
Current daily smoker	35.2	57.6	68.1
Risky/high-risk alcohol consumption (3 day)	3.0	7.0	7.3
Risky/high-risk alcohol consumption (7 day)	3.4	8.7	8.9
Level of psychological distress[c]			
Low or moderate	72.5	63.6	60.0
High or very high	27.5	36.4	40.0
Total	*100*	*100*	*100*
Gross weekly equivalised income			
1st quintile (lowest)	49.1	43.0	46.8
4th and 5th quintile (highest)	18.1	25.9	23.7
Financial stress—unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	50.8	49.8	55.1
Highest year of school completed[d]			
Year 12	17.9	22.8	18.5
Year 11	12.5	14.8	14.1
Year 10	30.5	31.7	33.4
Year 9 or below[e]	39.1	30.8	34.1
Total[d]	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Whether has non-school qualification[e]			
Has a non-school qualification	31.8	37.7	34.2
Does not have a non-school qualification	68.3	62.3	65.8
Total[d]	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Employment			
Employed CDEP	6.2	4.4	6.3
Employed non-CDEP	42.4	52.9	47.5
Total employed	*48.7*	*57.3*	*53.9*
Unemployed	8.9	12.0	14.8
Not in the labour force	42.4	30.7	31.4
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*

(continued)

Table 2.17.6 (continued): Substance use status, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over[(a)(b)], 2008

	Never used illicit substances	Ever used substances[(a)]	Recent substance use[(b)]
		Per cent	
Housing			
Owner	31.0	30.1	23.3
Renter[(f)]	69.0	69.9	76.7
Stressors in last 12 months			
Serious illness or disability	13.1	16.0	14.9
Witness to violence	2.8	5.1	6.4
Abuse or violent crime	1.8	4.6	5.9
Other stressors	46.1	62.1	67.0
Total experienced stressors[(g)]	*63.9*	*87.8*	*94.2*
No stressors	48.1	34.6	30.4
Total[(h)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) People who accepted the substance use form.
(b) Excludes data obtained through child proxy.
(c) Grouped Kessler (K5) score.
(d) Persons not still at school.
(e) Includes persons who never attended school.
(f) Excludes boarders.
(g) Total may be greater than the sum of its components as survey respondents may indicate positive response to more than one category.
(h) Includes whether experienced stressor not stated and refusals.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.7: Substance use status, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over[a][b], 2008

	Never used illicit substances	Ever used substances[a][c]	Total	Recent substance use only[b]
		Per cent		
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/very good	57.7	42.3	100.0	20.9
Good	56.5	43.5	100.0	23.5
Fair/poor	56.2	43.8	100.0	24.4
Total	*56.9*	*43.1*	*100.0*	*22.6*
Other substance use				
Current daily smoker	44.7	55.3	100.0	34.3
Risky/high-risk alcohol consumption (3 day)	36.1	63.9	100.0	35.2
Risky/high-risk alcohol consumption (7 day)	34.0	66.0	100.0	35.5
Level of psychological distress[d]				
Low or moderate	59.8	40.2	100.0	19.9
High or very high	49.7	50.3	100.0	29.1
Gross weekly equivalised income				
1st quintile (lowest)	59.3	40.7	100.0	23.0
4th and 5th quintile (highest)	47.1	52.9	100.0	25.2
Financial stress—unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	57.5	42.5	100.0	24.5
Highest year of school completed[e]				
Year 12	48.8	51.2	100.0	21.5
Year 11	50.5	49.5	100.0	24.5
Year 10	53.8	46.2	100.0	25.2
Year 9 or below[f]	60.6	39.4	100.0	22.6
Total[e]	*54.7*	*45.3*	*100.0*	*23.5*
Whether has non-school qualification[f]				
Has a non-school qualification	50.5	49.5	100.0	23.3
Does not have a non-school qualification	57.0	43.0	100.0	23.6
Total[e]	*54.7*	*45.3*	*100.0*	*23.5*
Employment				
Employed CDEP	65.3	34.7	100.0	26.3
Employed non-CDEP	51.4	48.6	100.0	22.9
Total employed	*52.9*	*47.1*	*100.0*	*23.2*
Unemployed	49.6	50.4	100.0	32.5
Not in the labour force	64.6	35.4	100.0	19.0
Total	*56.9*	*43.1*	*100.0*	*22.6*

(continued)

Table 2.17.7 (continued): Substance use status, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over[(a)(b)], 2008

	Never used illicit substances	Ever used substances[(a)(c)]	Total	Recent substance use only[(b)]
		Per cent		
Housing				
Owner	57.6	42.4	100.0	17.2
Renter[(g)]	56.6	43.4	100.0	25.0
Stressors in last 12 months				
Serious illness or disability	52.0	48.0	100.0	23.5
Witness to violence	41.7	58.3	100.0	38.2
Abuse or violent crime	34.4	65.6	100.0	44.0
Other stressors	49.5	50.5	100.0	28.5
Total experienced stressors	*51.2*	*48.8*	*100.0*	*27.2*
No stressors	64.8	35.2	100.0	16.3
Total[(h)]	*56.9*	*43.1*	*100.0*	*22.6*
Total number	**168,242**	**127,317**	**295,558**	**66,759**

(a) People who accepted the substance use form.
(b) Excludes data obtained through child proxy.
(c) Includes people who recently used illicit substances.
(d) Grouped Kessler (K5) score.
(e) Persons not still at school.
(f) Includes persons who never attended school.
(g) Excludes boarders.
(h) Includes whether experienced stressor not stated and refusals.

Note: Excludes not stated an unknown responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Multiple drug use

- In 2008, approximately 19% of Indigenous males and 13% of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over had used one substance in the previous 12 months, and 9% of Indigenous males and 4% of Indigenous females had used two or more substances in the previous 12 months (Table 2.17.8).
- Use of multiple substances among Indigenous Australians ranged from 13% among those who drank alcohol at risky/high risk levels, to 9% among current smokers and 8% among those who had high or very high levels of psychological distress (Table 2.17.9).
- In 2008, Indigenous Australians who consumed alcohol at risky or high risk levels, or who were current smokers, where around 3.5 times more likely than those who did not drink at risky levels or smoke to report multiple substance use. Indigenous Australians who reported high levels of psychological distress were almost 2 times more likely than those with low or moderate levels to report multiple substance use. These differences were statistically significant (Table 2.17.9).

Table 2.17.8: Multiple substance use, by sex, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008[a]

	Did not use substances[b][c]	Used one substance[c]	Used two or more substances[c]	Total used substances[c]	Total	Total number
			Per cent			
Males	71.7	19.4	8.9	28.3	100.0	140,510
Females	82.6	13.4	4.0	17.4	100.0	155,049
Persons	77.4	16.2	6.4	22.6	100.0	295,558

(a) Self-reported data.

(b) Comprises persons who have never used a substance and those who used substances, but not in the previous 12 months.

(c) In the previous 12 months.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.9: Multiple substance use, by alcohol use, smoking or psychological distress of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Risky/ high risk alcohol consumption					Current smoker[a]					Level of psychological distress				
	Yes		No[b]		Significant difference	Yes		No[c]		Significant difference	High/very high		Low-moderate		Significant difference
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	
Did not use substances[d][e]	30,832	54.8	196,201	73.6	Yes	91,363	59.7	137,436	78.9	Yes	65,103	64.8	161,025	72.6	Yes
Used one substance[e][g]	13,122	23.3	34,373	12.9	Yes	33,076	21.6	14,862	8.5	Yes	18,185	18.1	29,609	13.4	Yes
Used two or more substances[b]	7,412	13.2	10,272	3.9	Yes	14,325	9.4	4,496	2.6	Yes	8,482	8.4	10,339	4.7	Yes
Total persons aged 15 years and over[f]	**56,213**	**100.0**	**266,458**	**100.0**	**. .**	**153,003**	**100.0**	**174,098**	**100.0**	**. .**	**100,405**	**100.0**	**221,717**	**100.0**	**. .**

(a) Includes people who smoke daily, weekly but not daily and less than weekly.

(b) Includes people whose level of drinking was classified as low risk.

(c) Includes ex-smokers and people who never smoked.

(d) Comprises persons who have never used a substance and those who used substances, but not in the previous 12 months.

(e) In the previous 12 months.

(f) Total includes not stated.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Substance use during pregnancy

Data on the use of illicit drugs or substances by the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years during pregnancy from the 2008 NATSISS is presented in Table 2.17.10 and Table 2.17.11. Rates by state/territory are presented in Table 2.17.10 and rates by Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) are presented in Table 2.17.11. For further information on substance use during pregnancy see indicator '2.21 Health behaviours during pregnancy'.

- In 2008, 5% of mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years reported that they used illicit substances during pregnancy.
- Use of illicit drugs or substances during pregnancy by the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years was highest in Victoria and Western Australian (9%) (Table 2.17.10).
- Use of illicit drugs or substances during pregnancy by the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years was similar in remote and non-remote areas (5%) (Table 2.17.11).

Table 2.17.10: Illicit drug or substance use by child's mother during pregnancy, Indigenous children aged 0–3 years, by state/territory, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas/ACT	NT	Aust.
				Per cent				
Used illicit drugs/ substances during pregnancy	3.9	9.3	3.9	8.5	6.1	4.2	4.2	5.0
Did not use illicit drugs/ substances during pregnancy	96.1	90.7	96.1	91.5	93.9	95.8	95.8	95.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**16,132**	**3,336**	**16,523**	**6,767**	**2,730**	**2,444**	**5,948**	**53,880**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.17.11: Illicit drug or substance use, by child's mother during pregnancy, by remoteness, Indigenous children aged 0–3 years, 2008

	Remote		Non-remote		Persons	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Used illicit substances during pregnancy	429	4.9	1,693	5.0	2,122	5.0
Did not use illicit substances during pregnancy	8,295	95.1	32,354	95.0	40,649	95.0
Total	**8,724**	**100.0**	**34,047**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**
Not collected	3,256	27.2	7,853	18.7	11,109	20.6

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Hospitalisations

Table 2.17.12 presents data on hospitalisations with principal diagnoses related to drug use for the period July 2008 to June 2010 in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

- During the period July 2008 to June 2010, in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined there were 4,537 hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians relating to substance use (Table 2.17.12).
- Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for conditions relating to substance use at around twice the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.
- Poisoning due to anti-epileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-Parkinson disease drugs, poisoning due to psychotropic drugs, and poisoning due to antibiotics and hormones were responsible for 14%, 15% and 13% respectively of all hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians relating to substance use over the period June 2008 to July 2010. Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for these three types of poisoning at almost twice the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.
- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabis and use of multiple drug and psychoactive substances were responsible for 17% and 9% respectively of all hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians relating to substance use. Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for these disorders at five and three times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians respectively.

Table 2.17.13 presents hospitalisations for external causes related to drug use for the period July 2008 to June 2010 in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

- Indigenous Australians were hospitalised for external causes related to drug use at 4.3 per 1,000 population, while the rate for non-Indigenous Australians was 1.9 per 1,000 population (Table 2.17.13).

Table 2.17.12: Hospitalisations with principal diagnoses related to drug use in NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010 [a][b][c][d]

	Number		Per cent		Indigenous			Non-Indigenous				
Principal diagnosis	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate per 1,000[e]	95% LCL[f]	95% UCL[g]	Rate per 1,000[e]	95% LCL[f]	95% UCL[g]	Ratio[h]	Difference[i]
Poisoning												
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-Parkinson's drugs (T42)	654	16,647	14.4	21.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.7*	0.3*
Psychotropic drugs, includes antidepressants (T43)	698	15,014	15.4	19.3	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.8*	0.3*
Antibiotics and hormones (T36–T39)	599	13,233	13.2	17.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.8*	0.3*
Narcotics, including opium, heroin, methadone and cocaine (T40)	305	5,540	6.7	7.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5*	0.2*
Toxic effect of organic solvents (T52)	61	481	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6*	0.03*
Mental/behavioural disorders												
From use of cannabinoids (F12)	755	5,285	16.6	6.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.3*	0.6*
From use of multiple drug and psychoactive substances (F19)	406	5,481	8.9	7.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.9*	0.3*
From use of other stimulants (F15)	263	3,613	5.8	4.7	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.8*	0.2*
From use of opioids (F11)	429	8,414	9.5	10.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.1*	0.2*
From use of volatile solvents (F18)	128	72	2.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.5*	0.1*
From use of sedatives (F13)	78	2,519	1.7	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3*	0.02*
From use of cocaine (F14)	10	380	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Other												
Neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction (P96.1)	135	750	3.0	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6*	0.1*

(continued)

Table 2.17.12 (continued): Hospitalisations with principal diagnoses related to drug use in NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)]

	Number		Per cent		Indigenous			Non-Indigenous				
Principal diagnosis	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Rate per 1,000[(e)]**	**95% LCL[(f)]**	**95% UCL[(g)]**	**Rate per 1,000[(e)]**	**95% LCL[(f)]**	**95% UCL[(g)]**	**Ratio[(h)]**	**Difference[(i)]**
Acute hepatitis C (B17.1)	14	166	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5*	0.01*
Maternal care for suspected damage to foetus by drugs (035.5)	2	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.9*	0.0
Total	**4,537**	**77,602**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**4.3**	**4.2**	**4.5**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**2.3***	**2.4***

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

(a) Data excludes private hospitals in the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

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

(f) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(g) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(h) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.

(i) Rate difference Indigenous minus non-Indigenous Australians.

Notes

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

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Table 2.17.13: Hospitalisations for external causes relating to drug use in NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010 [(a)(b)(c)(d)]

	Number		Per cent		Indigenous			Non-Indigenous				
Principal diagnosis	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate per 1,000[(e)]	95% LCL[(f)]	95% UCL[(g)]	Rate per 1,000[(e)]	95% LCL[(f)]	95% UCL[(g)]	Ratio[(h)]	Difference[(i)]
Accidental poisoning												
Antidepressants and barbiturates (X41)	389	6,665	53.4	49.0	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.2*	0.2*
Unspecified (includes glues and paints) (X49)	146	3,842	20.0	28.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3*	0.03*
Narcotics (includes cannabis, cocaine, heroin, opium and methadone) and hallucinogens (X42)	206	3,715	28.3	27.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.6*	0.1*
Organic solvents, including petroleum derivatives (X46)	46	326	6.3	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1*	0.02*
Total[(j)]	**729**	**13,593**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**0.7**	**0.6**	**0.7**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**2.1***	**0.4***

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

(a) Data excludes private hospitals in the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

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

(f) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(g) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(h) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous Australians.

(i) Rate difference Indigenous minus non-Indigenous Australians.

(j) Total may be less than sum of components as more than one external cause can be reported for each hospitalisation.

Notes

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

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisations by remoteness

Hospitalisation rates with a principal diagnosis related to drug use in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory covering the period July 2008 to June 2010 are presented by Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) in Table 2.17.14.

- Indigenous Australians were more likely to be hospitalised for drug related conditions than non-Indigenous Australians for all remoteness classifications. There was a statistically significant difference between the rate of hospitalisation of Indigenous Australians and non-Indigenous Australians in all remoteness areas.
- Rates of hospitalisation were highest for Indigenous Australians in *Major cities* (5.8 per 1,000 population), followed by *Inner regional* (4.7 per 1,000), *Remote* (4.1 per 1,000*), Outer regional* (3.6 per 1,000) and *Very remote* areas (1.9 per 1,000). For non-Indigenous Australians, rates were highest in *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas (1.9 per 1,000), followed by *Outer regional* (1.7 per 1,000), remote (1.5 per 1,000) and *Very remote* areas (1.3 per 1,000).
- Indigenous Australians were three times more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be hospitalised for drug related conditions in *Major cities* of Australia. In *Very remote* areas, where the lowest rate ratio was observed, Indigenous Australians were 1.4 times more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be hospitalised.

Table 2.17.14: Hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis related to drug use, by Indigenous status and remoteness, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)]

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous					
	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Ratio[(i)]	Difference[(j)]
Major cities	1,971	5.8	5.5	6.1	56,913	1.9	1.9	1.9	3.0*	3.9*
Inner regional	966	4.7	4.4	5.1	13,421	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.5*	2.9*
Outer regional[(k)]	811	3.6	3.4	3.9	5,672	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.2*	2.0*
Remote[(l)]	399	4.1	3.6	4.5	775	1.5	1.4	1.6	2.8*	2.6*
Very remote	334	1.9	1.6	2.1	228	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.4*	0.5*
Total[(m)]	**4,537**	**4.4**	**4.2**	**4.5**	**77,602**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**2.3***	**2.5***

* Indicates a significant difference at the p < 0.05 level.

(a) Data are from public and most private hospitals. Data exclude private hospitals in the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification of Health 2010).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

(e) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population, by 5 year age groups to 65+.

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

(g) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(h) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(i) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(j) Rate difference Indigenous- non-Indigenous.

(k) Includes remote Victoria.

(l) Excludes remote Victoria.

(m) Total includes hospitalisations where ASGC is missing.

Notes

1. Rates are calculated using the remoteness distribution by Indigenous status, age and sex based on the 2006 ERP and applied to the 2008-10 population projections (Series B) based on the 2006 Census.
2. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded from analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisation rates for external causes related to drug use in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory are presented by Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) in Table 2.17.15, covering the period July 2008 to June 2010.

- Indigenous Australians in all remoteness areas, except *Very remote*, were more likely to be hospitalised for these conditions than non-Indigenous Australians. There was a statistically significant difference between the rate of hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians and the rate of hospitalisations of non-Indigenous Australians in all ASGC areas, except *Very remote*.
- Rates of hospitalisations per 1,000 head of population were highest for Indigenous people living in *Major cities*, at 0.8 per 1,000. The rate was highest for non-Indigenous Australians who lived in *Very remote* areas, at 0.5 per 1,000. The lowest rates were observed in *Very remote* areas for Indigenous people (0.4 per 1,000) and *Major cities* for non-Indigenous Australians (less than 0.3 per 1,000).
- Indigenous people were hospitalised for these conditions at 2.6 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians in *Major cities* of Australia. In *Very remote* areas, where the lowest

rate ratio was observed, Indigenous Australians were hospitalised at around the same rate as non-Indigenous Australians.

Table 2.17.15: Hospitalisations for any external causes related to drug use, by Indigenous status and remoteness, NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT, July 2008 to June 2010[(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)]

	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous					
	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Number	No. per 1,000	LCL 95%[(g)]	UCL 95%[(h)]	Ratio[(i)]	Difference[(j)]
Major cities	267	0.8	0.7	0.9	9,249	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.6*	0.5*
Inner regional	142	0.6	0.5	0.7	2,638	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.8*	0.3*
Outer regional[(k)]	169	0.7	0.6	0.8	1,362	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.9*	0.3*
Remote[(l)]	73	0.7	0.5	0.9	214	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.8*	0.3*
Very remote	74	0.4	0.3	0.5	84	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.0
Total[(m)]	**729**	**0.7**	**0.6**	**0.7**	**13,593**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**2.1***	**0.4***

* Indicates a significant difference at the p < 0.05 level.

(a) Data are from public and most private hospitals. Data exclude private hospitals in the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification of Health 2010).

(c) Financial year reporting.

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

(e) Directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population, by 5 year age groups to 65+.

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

(g) LCL = lower confidence limit.

(h) UCL = upper confidence limit.

(i) Rate ratio Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(j) Rate difference Indigenous- non-Indigenous.

(k) Includes remote Victoria.

(l) Excludes remote Victoria.

(m) Total includes hospitalisations where ASGC is missing.

Notes

1. Rates are calculated using the remoteness distribution by Indigenous status, age and sex based on the 2006 ERP and applied to the 2008–10 population projections (Series B) based on the 2006 Census.
2. Care types 7.3, 9 & 10 (Newborn – unqualified days only; organ procurement; hospital boarder) excluded from analysis.
3. Categories are based on the ICD–10–AM sixth edition (National Centre for Classification in Health 2010): ICD10–AM codes X41, X49, X42 or X46 for any external cause.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Detainees and drug use

The AIC Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey reports on drug use among police detainees at selected police stations in Australia. The survey is by a voluntary questionnaire and drug use is confirmed by a urine sample provided by the detainee. Data from the 2010 and 2011 surveys are presented in Tables 2.17.16 and 2.17.17.

Data from 2010 DUMA survey

- In 2010, in all of the selected police stations shown in Table 2.17.16 there was a higher proportion of Indigenous detainees testing positive to drugs than non-Indigenous detainees.
- Between 57% and 100% of Indigenous detainees at selected police stations in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and

Victoria tested positive to drugs in 2010 compared with between 54% and 70% of non-Indigenous detainees.

- Cannabis was the most common drug for which both Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Methamphetamines and benzodiazepines were also common drugs to which Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Between 3% and 55% of Indigenous detainees and between 2% and 29% of non-Indigenous detainees tested positive for multiple drugs.

Data from 2011 DUMA survey

Data from the 2011 DUMA survey is presented in table 2.17.16. Please note that this data only became available after the 2012 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework was published by the Department of Health and Ageing.

- In 2011, in all of the selected police stations shown in Table 2.17.17 there was a higher proportion of Indigenous detainees testing positive to drugs than non-Indigenous detainees.
- Between 70% and 100% of Indigenous detainees at selected police stations in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria tested positive to drugs compared with between 52% and 71% of non-Indigenous detainees.
- Cannabis was the most common drug for which both Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Methamphetamines and benzodiazepines were also common drugs to which Indigenous and non-Indigenous detainees tested positive. Between 4.4% and 40.0% of Indigenous detainees and between 2.1% and 23.9% of non-Indigenous detainees tested positive for multiple drugs.

Table 2.17.16: Detainees at selected police stations, by drug use and Indigenous status, 2010

	Adelaide (SA)		Bankstown, Kings Cross + Parramatta (NSW)		Brisbane + Southport (Qld)		East Perth (WA)		Darwin (NT)		Footscray (Vic)	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Tested positive to a drug						Per cent						
Benzodiazepines	25.4	21.1	29.4	18.9	25.2	23.5	17.1	22.6	4.6	12.5	57.1	40.2
Cannabis	63.5	34.9	54.9	36.4	66.4	43.3	74.3	45.6	53.7	45.8	100.0	40.9
Cocaine	0.0	0.7	11.8	5.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.4
Heroin	6.4	9.4	27.5	11.8	15.4	10.8	2.7	7.0	0.0	8.3	85.7	44.5
Methylamphetamine	3.2	14.8	11.8	11.0	18.2	17.2	19.3	19.3	3.7	12.5	0.0	25.8
Multiple drugs	12.6	7.4	28.1	9.7	32.4	21.9	18.3	9.1	2.5	2.3	54.6	28.7
Total tested positive to a drug[(a)]	*73.0*	*54.0*	*70.6*	*54.3*	*78.3*	*61.7*	*81.3*	*62.5*	*56.5*	*54.2*	*100.0*	*69.5*
Did not test positive to a drug	27.0	46.0	29.4	45.7	21.7	38.3	18.7	37.5	43.5	45.8	0.0	30.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**63**	**298**	**51**	**508**	**143**	**985**	**187**	**371**	**108**	**24**	**7**	**164**

(b) Proportion who tested positive to a least one drug. Sum of components will add to more than the subtotal because detainees can test positive to more than one type of drug.

Source: AIC Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey 2010.

Table 2.17.17: Detainees at selected police stations, by drug use and Indigenous status, 2011

	Adelaide (SA)		Bankstown, Kings Cross + Parramatta (NSW)		Brisbane + Southport (Qld)		East Perth (WA)		Darwin (NT)		Footscray (Vic)	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Tested positive to a drug						Per cent						
Benzodiazepines	35.6	22.9	32.7	18.2	22.8	24.0	16.7	21.2	9.9	19.1	50.0	36.1
Cannabis	64.4	39.9	67.3	34.1	60.9	43.5	69.1	47.1	66.9	33.3	100.0	41.4
Cocaine	2.2	1.2	1.8	3.9	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8
Heroin	4.4	10.7	16.4	12.6	11.6	9.9	3.1	5.5	0.7	4.8	66.7	55.1
Methylamphetamine	15.6	23.3	27.3	16.5	19.1	23.8	26.0	25.9	0.7	14.3	16.7	18.8
Multiple drugs	26.1	7.8	29.6	10.7	29.8	23.9	25.5	9.5	4.4	2.1	40.0	20.0
Total tested positive to a drug[(a)]	*71.1*	*61.3*	*87.3*	*53.7*	*74.1*	*65.0*	*75.8*	*68.3*	*69.7*	*52.4*	*100.0*	*71.4*
Did not test positive to a drug	28.9	38.7	12.7	46.3	25.9	35.0	24.2	31.7	30.3	47.6	0.0	28.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**45**	**253**	**55**	**484**	**189**	**1,011**	**223**	**382**	**142**	**42**	**6**	**133**

(a) Proportion who tested positive to a least one drug. Sum of components will add to more than the subtotal because detainees can test positive to more than one type of drug.

Source: AIC Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) survey 2011.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

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

National Hospital Morbidity Database

The scope of the NMDS is episodes of care for admitted patients in essentially all hospitals in Australia, including public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals, free-standing day hospital facilities, alcohol and drug treatment hospitals and dental hospitals. Hospitals

operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and in Australia's off-shore territories are not included. Hospitals specialising in ophthalmic aids and other specialised acute medical or surgical care are included. The NHMD does not include episodes of non-admitted patient care provided in outpatient clinics or emergency departments.

For 2009–10 almost all public hospitals provided data for the NHMD, with the exception of all separations for a mothercraft hospital in the Australian Capital Territory and about 2,400 separations for one public hospital in Western Australia. The majority of private hospitals provided data, with the exception of the private day hospital facilities in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. In addition, Western Australia was not able to provide about 10,600 separations for one private hospital.

Separations

Data are a count of hospital separations (episodes of admitted patient care, which can be a total hospital stay or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care) and not patients. Patients who separated from hospital more than once in the year will be counted more than once in the data set.

The number and pattern of hospitalisations can be affected by differing admission practices among the jurisdictions and from year to year, and differing levels and patterns of service delivery.

Separations with care types of *Newborn* episodes that did not include qualified days, and records for *Hospital boarders* and *Posthumous organ procurement* have been excluded as these activities are not considered to be admitted patient care.

Indigenous status question

Some jurisdictions have slightly different approaches to the collection and storage of the standard Indigenous status question and categories in their hospital collections.

Approximately 2% of hospital records have missing Indigenous status information.

Hospitalisations for which the Indigenous status of the patient was not reported are excluded from hospitalisations data for non-Indigenous Australians, apart from Western Australia where records with an unknown status are recorded as non-Indigenous.

Under-identification

The incompleteness of Indigenous identification means the number of hospital separations recorded as Indigenous is an underestimate of hospitalisations involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2007, the AIHW completed an assessment of the level of Indigenous under-identification in selected public hospitals in all states and territories. Results from this assessment indicate that New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory have adequate Indigenous identification (20% or less overall under-identification of Indigenous patients) in their hospital separations data.

It has therefore been recommended that reporting of Indigenous hospital separations data be limited to aggregated information from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Interpretation of results should take into account the relative quality of the data from the jurisdictions. The proportion of the Indigenous population covered by these six jurisdictions is 96%. Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory data are presented at the State/Territory level and should be used with caution, but they are not aggregated with the other 6 jurisdictions.

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

for the total number of hospital separations using an adjustment factor of 89%. No adjustments for under-identification have been made at the state/territory level or principal diagnosis level.

The 2007 AIHW study indicated acceptable levels of Indigenous identification for all remoteness areas, ranging from 80% in *Major cities* to 97% in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas. The quality of data supports analyses for hospitalisations by remoteness areas at the national level only.

In 2011–12, the AIHW commenced another study to re-assess the level of under-identification in public hospitals data. All states and territories have participated in the study to assess improvements in data quality. A report on the findings is expected to be published in mid-2013 which will include new correction factors for the level of Indigenous under-identification in hospital separations data at the national, state/territory and remoteness levels.

Numerator and denominator

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

AIC Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA)

The Indigenous status of the detainee is established in the questionnaire by the following question:

'What is your ethnic background?' (if the respondent mentions 'Australian' but not 'Aboriginal' prompt: 'Do you consider yourself an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?').

It is likely that this question will underestimate the number of Indigenous persons being detained through a reluctance on the part of detainees to identify as Indigenous.

This survey is conducted at police stations in selected metropolitan areas and does not provide regional coverage. In addition, the actual number of detainees questioned is quite low, which does not permit great analysis of the Indigenous data. Finally, the figures do not permit national coverage, but instead analysis by state is recommended.

List of symbols used in tables

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

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2.18 Physical activity

The proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult population classified as having sedentary, low, moderate or high physical activity levels

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) and the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

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 social issues 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.

Data analyses

Physical activity

Information on the level of physical activity of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over in the 2 weeks before the survey was collected in non-remote areas only and is presented below.

- In 2004–05, approximately 47% of Indigenous persons reported their exercise level as sedentary, 28% as low, 18% as moderate and 7% as high.
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, approximately 51% reported their exercise level as sedentary (very low or no exercise), 27% as low and 21% as moderate or high, compared with 33%, 36% and 31% respectively of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.18.1).

Physical activity by age and sex

- Sedentary or low levels of physical activity were highest among Indigenous people aged 45–54 years and 55 years and over (83% and 85% respectively); moderate or high levels of physical activity were highest among those aged 15–24 and 25–34 years (32% and 27% respectively) (Table 2.18.1).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous females than Indigenous males reported that their level of exercise was sedentary (51% compared with 42%).
- A higher proportion of males exercised at moderate or high levels than females across all age groups in both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

Table 2.18.1: Level of physical activity, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, non-remote areas, 2004–05

Physical activity level	15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Total		Total (age-standardised)[a]		Rate ratio
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	
								Per cent							
								Males							
Sedentary	31*	23*	39*	26*	45*	34*	57*	36*	60*	39*	42*	32*	48*	32*	1.5
Low	25	30	24*	35*	30	35	20*	34*	24	30	25*	33*	24*	33*	0.7
Moderate	24	26	27	25	19	23	19[b]	24	14*	27*	22	25	20*	25*	0.8
High	19	20	9*	13*	6[b]	8	3[b]	5	n.p.	3	10	9	7*	9*	0.8
Total number[c]	**35,604**	**1,330,358**	**23,150**	**1,352,832**	**18,468**	**1,418,963**	**13,654**	**1,323,380**	**10,995**	**2,147,296**	**101,870**	**7,572,828**	**101,870**	**7,572,828**	**. .**
								Females							
Sedentary	46*	31*	50*	29*	51*	32*	55*	32*	60*	41*	51*	34*	53*	34*	1.6
Low	33	39	30*	42*	33*	42*	32*	42*	26	34	31*	39*	30*	39*	0.8
Moderate	15*	22*	16*	23*	14*	22*	10*	22*	12*	22*	14*	22*	13*	22*	0.6
High	5[c]	8	3*[b]	6*	2[d]	4	n.p.	3	n.p.	2	3*	4*	2*	4*	0.5
Total number[c]	**34,789**	**1,275,738**	**26,616**	**1,372,860**	**22,114**	**1,440,884**	**15,246**	**1,347,588**	**12,787**	**2,334,857**	**111,552**	**7,771,928**	**111,552**	**7,771,928**	**. .**
								Persons							
Sedentary	39*	27*	45*	28*	48*	33*	56*	34*	60*	40*	47*	33*	51*	33*	1.5
Low	29*	34*	27*	39*	31*	39*	27*	38*	25*	32*	28*	36*	27*	36*	0.8
Moderate	20*	24*	21	24	16*	22*	14*	23*	13*	25*	18*	24*	16*	24*	0.7
High	12	14	6*	10*	4*[b]	6*	3[b]	4	1[d]	3	7	7	5*	7*	0.7
Total number[c]	**70,393**	**2,606,096**	**49,766**	**2,725,692**	**40,582**	**2,859,847**	**28,900**	**2,670,968**	**23,781**	**4,482,153**	**213,422**	**15,344,756**	**213,422**	**15,344,756**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.18.1 (continued): Level of physical activity, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, non-remote areas, 2004–05

* Represents statistically significant differences at the p<0.05 level in the Indigenous and non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Directly age-standardised proportions.
(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(c) Includes physical activity level not stated.
(d) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Physical activity by state/territory

- Sedentary or low levels of physical activity among Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over ranged from 70% in Tasmania to 78% in New South Wales (Table 2.18.2).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians reported their exercise level as sedentary in all states and territories. Data were not available for non-Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory (Table 2.18.3).

Table 2.18.2: Level of physical activity, by state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, non-remote areas, 2004–05

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust.
					Per cent				
Sedentary	51	38	46	46	48	37	37	40	47
Low	27	33	27	25	25	33	34	34	28
Moderate	16	22	15	24	18	22	19	20	18
High	5	6[(a)]	9	5	6[(a)]	8	10	7[(a)]	7
Total[(b)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number[(b)]	**81,264**	**18,399**	**57,337**	**21,965**	**12,473**	**10,929**	**2,596**	**6,264**	**211,226**

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

(b) Includes physical activity level not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.18.3: Level of physical activity, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, non-remote areas, 2004–05

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT [a]		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
										Per cent								
Sedentary	54*	35*	42*	31*	51*	35*	52*	30*	52*	34*	38	33	37*	24*	51	n.a.	51*	33*
Low	27*	36*	32	37	27*	34*	23*	37*	25*	38*	35	36	34	40	29	n.a.	27*	36*
Moderate	15*	23*	22	24	14*	23*	22	26	17	22	21	25	23	27	16	n.a.	16*	24*
High	4*	7*	4[b]	7	6	7	3*	8*	4[b]	6	6	7	7	9	5[b]	n.a.	5*	7*
Total[c]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number[c]	**81,264**	**5,208,965**	**18,399**	**3,944,895**	**57,337**	**2,899,135**	**21,965**	**1,448,876**	**12,473**	**1,164,894**	**10,929**	**352,957**	**2,596**	**252,744**	**6,264**	**n.a.**	**211,226**	**15,344,756**

* Represents statistically significant differences at the p<0.05 level in the Indigenous and non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) The National Health Survey sample does not support a non-Indigenous Northern Territory estimate.

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

(c) Includes physical activity level not stated.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Physical activity by selected health characteristics

- Approximately 58% of Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas with fair/poor health status reported exercising at sedentary levels compared with 48% of Indigenous Australians with excellent/very good/good health status (Table 2.18.4). Over three-quarters (78%) of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who were overweight or obese reported exercising at low or sedentary levels. Approximately 79% of Indigenous Australians with a long-term health condition reported sedentary or low levels of physical activity.
- Approximately 59% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas who were current smokers reported sedentary levels of physical activity, compared with 45% of Indigenous Australians who never smoked (Table 2.18.5).
- Approximately one third of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed Year 12 reported to be physically inactive in 2004–05, compared with 61% of Indigenous Australians whose highest year of schooling was Year 9 or below (Table 2.18.6)

Table 2.18.4: Level of physical activity, summary health characteristics, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, non-remote areas, 2004–05

	Self-assessed health status						Long-term conditions												Overweight/obesity		
	Excellent/very good			Fair/poor			Diabetes/high sugar levels			Heart & circulatory problems			High blood pressure			Total with long-term health condition			Overweight/obese		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[a]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[a]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[a]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[a]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[a]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[a]	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio[a]
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Sedentary	48	30	1.6*	58	48	1.2*	50	35	1.4*	54	35	1.5*	59	34	1.7*	51	33	1.5*	50	32	1.5*
Low	28	37	0.8*	25	34	0.8*	26	35	0.7	29	37	0.8*	30	39	0.8	28	37	0.8*	28	37	0.8*
Moderate	18	25	0.7*	14	16	0.9	17[b]	23	0.7	14	23	0.6*	9[b]	23	0.4*	16	24	0.7*	15	24	0.6*
High	5	7	0.7*	2[b]	3	0.6	5[c]	6[b]	0.8	2[c]	5	0.4*	—[c]	4[b]	0.1*	4	7	0.7*	6	7	0.9
Total[d]	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**

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

(a) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

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

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

(d) Includes physical activity level not stated.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Table 2.18.5: Level of physical activity by smoker and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, non-remote areas, 2004–05

	Current smoker			Ex-smoker			Never smoked		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio[(a)]	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio[(a)]
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Sedentary	59	44	1.3	46	29	1.6	45	32	1.4
Low	24	32	0.7	30	38	0.8	32	38	0.9
Moderate	14	20	0.7	20	26	0.8	14	23	0.6
High	3	4	0.7	4	7	0.5	7	7	1.0
Total[(b)]	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**

(a) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(b) Includes physical activity level not stated.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.18.6: Relationship between selected socio-economic factors and physical inactivity, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2004–05

	Physical inactivity
Household income	
1st quintile (lowest)	51.6
4th and 5th quintile (highest)	43.6
Ratio	1.2
Highest year of school completed	
Year 9 or below	60.8
Year 12	34.4
Ratio	1.8
Employment	
Employed	45.1
Unemployed	38.0
Not in the labour force	51.8
Ratio unemployed/employed	0.8
Housing	
Renter	49.0
Owner	45.0
Ratio	1.1

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS & AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Time series analyses

- The level of sedentary physical activity for Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over increased between 2001 and 2004–05 from 37% to 47%. The level of low and moderate physical activity declined over the period (from 57% in 2001 to 46% in 2004–05), and the level of high physical activity remained the same (7%) (Table 2.18.7).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in the proportion reporting sedentary levels of exercise was larger in 2004–05 than in 2001 (Table 2.18.7).

Table 2.18.7: Level of physical activity, persons aged 15 years and over, by Indigenous status, non-remote areas, age standardised proportions, 2001 and 2004–05

	2001		2004–05	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	Per cent			
Sedentary	42	31	51	33
Low	29	38	27	36
Moderate	24	24	16	24
High	5	7	5	7
Total number	**197,086**	**14,744,464**	**213,422**	**15,344,756**

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2001 NHS (Indigenous supplement), 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Physical activity in Indigenous children

Data on the level of physical activity in Indigenous children aged 4–14 years are presented in Tables 2.18.8, 2.18.9 and 2.18.10 for 2008.

- During 2008, 74% of Indigenous children aged 4–14 years were physically active for at least 60 minutes every day in the week before the survey. Only 3% of Indigenous children aged 4–14 years were not active at all in the previous week (Table 2.18.8).
- Western Australia and Tasmania had the highest percentage of Indigenous children aged 4–14 years who participated in any level of physical activity everyday (80% for both) and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest (59%) (Table 2.18.9).
- The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4–14 years who were active every day for at least 60 minutes increased with remoteness, with the highest proportion in very remote areas (88%) and the lowest in Major cities (66%) (Table 2.18.10).

Table 2.18.8: Number of days last week when child was physically active for at least 60 minutes, Indigenous children aged 4–14, 2008

	Number	Per cent
1 day	2,682	1.9
2 days	5,920	4.3
3 days	6,898	5.0
4 days	4,619	3.3
5 to 6 days	11,691	8.4
Everyday	103,279	74.3
No days	3,970	2.9
Total[(a)]	**139,060**	**. .**
Not known	308	. .

(a) Excludes not known responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.18.9: Number of days last week when child was physically active for at least 60 minutes, by state/territory, by state/territory, Indigenous children aged 4–14 years, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
1–3 days	14.5	16.2	8.7	9.2	8.4	10.0	18.8	9.1	11.1
3–6 days	13.2	12.4	12.0	8.0	13.6	8.8[(a)]	13.6[(a)]	11.1	11.7
Everyday	67.8	67.4	77.6	80.2	75.5	79.8	58.7	78.3	74.3
No days	4.5[(a)]	3.9[(a)]	1.6[(a)]	2.6[(a)]	2.6[(a)]	1.3[(b)]	9.0[(a)]	1.6[(a)]	2.9
Total participating	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.18.10: Number of days last week when child was physically active for at least 60 minutes, by remoteness, Indigenous children aged 4–14 years, 2008

	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Total
			Per cent			
1–3 days	12.0	11.5	14.1	11.7[(a)]	3.6	11.1
4–6 days	17.2	12.2	8.1	7.4[(a)]	6.9	11.7
Everyday	65.5	74.9	75.3	78.3	87.6	74.1
No days	4.9[(b)]	1.5[(b)]	2.5[(a)]	2.6[(a)]	1.1[(a)]	2.8
Total children[(b)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number of children[(b)]	**44,600**	**31,634**	**29,812**	**13,603**	**19,719**	**139,369**

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(b) Total includes not known.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

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

Physical activity data

The information is 'as reported' by respondents and reflects their perception of the activity undertaken, the intensity of their participation, their level of fitness, and so on. Information about physical activity that persons aged 15 to 17 years undertook was reported by an adult

within the household, usually a parent. The child may or may not have been consulted. As a result, data for this age group should be interpreted with particular care.

In general, the use of a 2-week reference period was not considered to pose significant recall problems for respondents. For many people, participation in exercise is regular and/or for a set period each session. However, to the extent that persons undertook exercise in less formal circumstances or that the reference period was atypical of usual exercise patterns, the accuracy of the information provided may have been affected.

Recent developments in the area of statistics on exercise or physical activity have tended to move away from the use of metabolic equivalent level (MET) values in deriving exercise level, and have placed more emphasis on measures of time spent exercising. Retention of the exercise level approach as described above was mainly for the purpose of consistency and comparability with data from the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys. However, measures of time exercising are also available as outputs from this survey (ABS 2005).

Survey respondents are required to recall recent activity in minutes without being primed and without independent checks. Diary recording (as used in the ABS Time Use Survey) or independent observation would probably produce higher quality data; however, these are more resource-intensive.

Respondents are required to provide an estimate of time spent on certain types of activity. Many come up with a broad rounded estimate or guess. Others attempt to add together in their heads the time spent in each exercise session, possibly for several different activities.

The differences of intensity between different activities is not always clear for respondents, although explanatory instructions are included. Mutual exclusivity of concepts remains a problem.

A well-recognised reporting issue for self-report surveys is the tendency of respondents to report in a socially desirable way. For example, the less active may want to over-report activity to appear healthier.

Survey questions about duration of exercise differ slightly in the questionnaire for remote areas and may affect the comparability of results.

Despite the limitations of the survey data, users have generally considered the data produced to be of sufficient quality for the very broad measures of physical activity required (ABS 2005).

A reliable tool for measuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander physical activity levels has not yet been developed. A study to determine the reliability of the Active Australian Survey in measuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations revealed that it was not a reliable tool (not culturally appropriate)(Marshall & Miller 2004). The Active Australian Survey uses very similar questions to the National Health Survey to determine physical activity levels. For this reason the data should be interpreted cautiously.

List of symbols used in tables

n.a.	not available
—	rounded to zero (including null cells)
0	zero
. .	not applicable
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.f.d.	not further defined

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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Marshall A & Miller R 2004. Measuring physical activity in urban Indigenous Australians. Final report. Brisbane: University of Queensland.

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2.19 Dietary behaviour

The dietary behaviour of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including fruit and vegetable consumption, type of milk consumed and salt intake

Data sources

Data for this measure comes from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), and the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating (Kellet et al. 1998) has been used to provide guidelines on recommended daily fruit and vegetable intake for children and adolescents.

The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating

This booklet has been developed for the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and is based on research on nutrition. The Guide contains advice about the amounts and kinds of food to be eaten each day to maintain good health and well-being.

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

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 social issues 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.

Data analyses

Current guidelines according to the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating recommend daily intake of fruit and vegetables for children and adolescents as seen in Table 2.19.1. It is advised that children should eat a variety of fruit and vegetables daily: the quantities are dependent on their age, appetite, the composition of the remainder of their diet, and activity levels.

Table 2.19.1: Fruit and vegetable servings from the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating suggested for children and adolescents

	Fruit (serves)	Vegetable (serves)
4–7 years	1–2	2–4
8–11 years	1–2	3–5
12–18 years	3–4	4–9

Note: One serve of fruit is 150 grams; one serve of vegetables is 75 grams.

Source: Kellet et al. 1998.

Previous regulations stipulated that children should aim to consume a set number of serves of fruit or vegetables, the most widely quoted figures being two or more serves of fruit and five or more serves of vegetables daily regardless of their age and dietary composition.

Because of the variety of recommendations currently available, fruit and vegetable consumption as reported in this indicator is presented in terms of the number of serves consumed daily, allowing the reader to interpret the results according to whichever fruit and vegetable consumption guidelines they are familiar with.

Dietary habits

- In 2004–05, the majority of Indigenous people aged 12 years and over reported eating vegetables (95%) and/or fruit (87%) daily (Table 2.19.2).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous persons aged 12 years and over were twice as likely to report no usual daily fruit consumption and seven times as likely to report no usual daily vegetable consumption as non-Indigenous persons of the same age (Table 2.19.2).
- Around 22% of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas reported they sometimes added salt after cooking, and a further 44% reported they usually added salt after cooking (Table 2.19.3).
- Approximately 71% of Indigenous people aged 12 years and over in non-remote areas reported they usually drank whole (full-cream) milk and 17% reported drinking low or reduced fat milk (Table 2.19.3).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, Indigenous Australians aged 12 years and over in non-remote areas were twice as likely to report no usual daily fruit intake, and 1.6 times as likely to report no usual daily vegetable intake. In addition, they were

more likely to consume whole milk and less likely to consume low or reduced fat milk (Table 2.19.3).

Dietary habits by age group

- In non-remote areas, Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 years were most likely to report a daily intake of five or more serves of vegetables (13%) and Indigenous Australians aged 55 years and over were most likely to report a daily fruit intake of two serves or more (Table 2.19.3).
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 12–14 years were more likely to report drinking whole milk (88% and 69%, respectively) than those in the older age groups (Table 2.19.3).
- The proportion of Indigenous people who reported usually adding salt after cooking increased with age (Table 2.19.3).

Table 2.19.2: Age standardised proportion[(a)] of usual daily vegetable consumption and usual daily fruit consumption status of persons aged 12 years and over, Australia 2004–05

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	Per cent		
Does eat vegetables on a daily basis	94.7	99.2	1.0
Does eat fruits on a daily basis	86.8	93.4	0.9
Does not eat vegetables daily	5.3	0.8	6.8
Does not eat fruit daily	13.2	6.6	2.0

(a) Proportions are directly age standardised to the 2001 Australian standard population.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Table 2.19.3: Selected dietary habits, by Indigenous status and age, persons aged 12 years and over in non-remote areas, 2004–05

	12–14		15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55 and over		Total non-age-standardised	Total age-standardised			
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Rate difference
								Per cent									
Usual daily intake of vegetables																	
Doesn't usually eat vegetables	1.7	1.2	2.3	1.5	1.3	0.9	1.3	0.7	1.8	0.5	1.7	0.4	1.7	1.7	0.8	2.0	0.8
1 or less serves	20.4	22.6	24.2	27.4	26.6	23.6	21.2	20.2	20.8	18.0	16.0	13.4	22.6	21.6	20.4	1.1	1.1
2 serves	18.6	21.5	20.5	23.7	18.7	23.6	16.6	20.8	13.9	18.0	15.1	15.2	17.9	17.0	20.2	0.8	–3.2
3 serves	29.0	27.9	28.3	24.7	29.0	25.0	30.8	27.5	35.7	28.1	37.0	28.6	30.7	32.1	26.9	1.2	5.2
4 serves	18.4	17.7	16.3	14.2	15.5	16.3	17.4	17.8	16.5	19.0	18.8	23.6	16.8	17.0	18.3	0.9	–1.3
5 serves	8.5	7.1	5.6	5.6	4.7	6.9	9.7	8.0	9.2	10.0	8.2	12.5	7.1	7.6	8.6	0.9	–1.0
6 serves or more	3.4	2.0	2.7	2.9	4.2	3.6	3.0	4.8	2.1	6.5	3.2	6.2	3.1	3.1	4.7	0.7	–1.6
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**..**	**..**
Usual daily intake of fruit																	
Doesn't usually eat fruit	5.4	4.7	14.2	9.6	12.6	8.4	12.0	7.8	12.0	6.2	6.5	3.4	11.5	11.0	6.9	1.6	4.2
1 or less serves	40.8	39.1	46.3	43.8	48.2	45.1	53.3	42.4	43.5	37.9	36.8	32.1	46.0	45.3	40.0	1.1	5.2
2 serves	30.0	29.8	23.6	24.1	23.7	25.6	22.8	26.6	19.0	28.9	27.9	30.3	24.0	23.9	27.3	0.9	–3.4
3 serves	15.9	15.3	10.3	14.0	9.3	12.6	6.3	14.6	13.8	16.8	17.9	19.9	11.2	11.8	15.6	0.8	–3.8
4 serves	5.6	6.3	2.9	4.6	3.9	5.3	3.2	4.9	8.0	6.0	6.9	8.2	4.5	5.0	5.9	0.9	–0.9
5 serves	1.8	2.6	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.3	2.0	2.8	2.6	3.0	3.6	1.9	2.1	2.4	0.8	–0.4
6 serves or more	0.6	2.2	1.0	1.8	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.7	1.1	2.4	0.9	1.0	1.8	0.5	–0.8
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**..**	**..**

(continued)

Table 2.19.3 (continued): Selected dietary habits, by Indigenous status and age, persons aged 12 years and over in non-remote areas, 2004–05

	12–14		15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55 and over		Total non-age-standardised	Total age-standardised			
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Rate difference
								Per cent									
Usual type of milk																	
Whole	88	69	81	55	76	49	73	48	68	37	58	35	76	71	45	1.6	26.0
Low/reduced fat	8	22	11	25	12	28	17	29	16	38	24	35	14	17	31	0.5	–14.0
Skim	1[(b)]	4	4	11	6	13	7	13	6	13	11	17	5	7	13	0.5	–6.0
Soy	n.p.	n.p.	—[(b)]	3	2[(a)]	4	n.p.	4	2[(b)]	5	2[(a)]	5	1	1	4	0.3	–3.0
None of the above[(c)]	n.p.	n.p.	—[(b)]	1(a)	—[(a)]	1	n.p.	1	3[(b)]	1	1[(b)]	1	1	1	1	0.7	0.0
Total drinks milk	*98*	*98*	*97*	*95*	*96*	*96*	*98*	*95*	*96*	*94*	*95*	*94*	*97*	*96*	*95*	*1.0*	*1.0*
Does not drink milk	2*	2*	3	5	3	4	2[(a)]	5	4	6	5[(a)]	6	3	4	5	0.7	–1.0
Total[(d)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**. .**
Salt added after cooking																	
Never/rarely	. .	n.a.	38	n.a.	35	n.a.	32	n.a.	25	n.a.	27	n.a.	33	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sometimes	. .	n.a.	24	n.a.	23	n.a.	18	n.a.	24	n.a.	21	n.a.	22	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Usually	. .	n.a.	38	n.a.	42	n.a.	50	n.a.	51	n.a.	52	n.a.	44	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total[(c)]	**. .**	**n.a.**	**100**	**n.a.**	**100**	**n.a.**	**100**	**n.a.**	**100**	**n.a.**	**100**	**n.a.**	**100**	**. .**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**

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

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

(c) Includes evaporated or sweetened condensed milk.

(d) Includes usual type of milk not known.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Dietary habits by sex

- A higher proportion of Indigenous males aged 12 years and over reported not eating fruit daily than Indigenous females (16% compared with 12%) (Table 2.19.4).
- Indigenous females aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas were nearly twice as likely as Indigenous males to report drinking skim milk as the usual type of milk consumed (7% compared with 4%) (Table 2.19.5).
- There was little difference in the proportion of Indigenous males and females reporting eating vegetables daily or adding salt after cooking.

Table 2.19.4: Selected dietary habits, by sex, Indigenous persons aged 12 years and over, 2004–05

Dietary behaviours	Males	Females	Persons
		Per cent	
Vegetable intake			
Eats vegetables daily	93	95	95
Does not eat vegetables daily	6	5	5
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**100**
Fruit intake			
Eats fruit daily	84	88	86
Does not eat fruit daily	16	12	14
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**100**
Usual type of milk consumed			
Whole	81	76	79
Low/reduced fat	10	12	11
Skim	3	6	5
Soy	1	1	1
None of the above[(b)]	1	1	1
Total drinks milk	*96*	*96*	*96*
Does not drink milk	4	4	4
Total[(c)]	**100**	**100**	**100**
Salt added after cooking			
Never/rarely	27	32	30
Sometimes	25	24	25
Usually	47	44	46
Total[(d)]	**100**	**100**	**100**

(a) Includes whether eats fruit/vegetables not known.
(b) Includes evaporated or sweetened condensed milk.
(c) Includes usual type of milk not known.
(d) Includes frequency salt is added after cooking not known.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.19.5: Selected dietary habits, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas, 2004–05

	Males					Females					Persons				
	Non-age-standardised	Age-standardised				Non-age-standardised	Age-standardised				Non-age-standardised	Age-standardised			
	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference
	%	%	%			%	%	%			%	%	%		
Usual daily intake of vegetables															
Does not eat vegetables	2	2	1	2.2	1.0	1	1	1	1.9	0.0	2	2	1	2.1	1.0
1 serve or less	25	25	24	1.0	1.0	21	19	17	1.1	2.0	23	22	20	1.1	2.0
2–4 serves	64	65	64	1.0	1.0	67	67	67	1.0	0.0	65	66	65	1.0	1.0
5 serves or more	9	9	12	0.7	–3.0	11	12	15	0.8	–3.0	10	11	14	0.8	–3.0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**
Usual daily intake of fruit															
Does not eat fruit	14	14	9	1.5	5.0	11	9	5	1.9	4.0	12	11	7	1.6	4.0
1 serve or less	47	47	44	1.1	3.0	46	44	36	1.2	8.0	47	46	40	1.1	6.0
2–4 serves	36	36	43	0.9	–7.0	41	43	54	0.8	–11.0	38	40	49	0.8	–9.0
5 serves or more	3	3	4	0.8	–1.0	3	3	5	0.7	–2.0	3	3	4	0.7	–1.0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**
Usual type of milk															
Whole	77	74	52	1.4	22.0	71	68	37	1.8	31.0	74	71	45	1.6	26.0
Low/reduced fat	13	15	28	0.5	–13.0	16	18	34	0.5	–16.0	15	16	31	0.5	–15.0
Skim	4	6	10	0.6	–4.0	7	8	17	0.5	–9.0	6	7	13	0.5	–6.0
Soy	1	1	4	0.4	–3.0	1	2	5	0.3	–3.0	1	2	4	0.3	–2.0

(continued)

Table 2.19.5 (continued): Selected dietary habits, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas, 2004–05

	Males					Females					Persons				
	Non-age-standardised	Age-standardised				Non-age-standardised	Age-standardised				Non-age-standardised	Age-standardised			
	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Rate difference
	%	%	%			%	%	%			%	%	%		
None of the above[(a)]	1	1	1	1.4	0.0	0	0	1	0.3	–1.0	1	1	1	0.7	0.0
Total drinks milk	*97*	*97*	*95*	*1.0*	*2.0*	*96*	*96*	*95*	*1.0*	*1.0*	*97*	*96*	*95*	*1.0*	*1.0*
Does not drink milk	3	3	5	0.6	–2.0	4	4	5	0.8	–1.0	3	4	5	0.7	–1.0
Total[(b)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**1.0**	**. .**
Salt added after cooking															
Never/rarely	31	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	36	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sometimes	22	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Usually	47	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	42	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	44	. .	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total[(c)]	**100**	**. .**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**100**	**. .**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**100**	**. .**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**

(a) Includes evaporated or sweetened condensed milk.

(b) Includes usual type of milk not known.

(c) Includes frequency salt added after cooking not known.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Dietary habits by state/territory

The dietary habits of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas in 2004–05 are presented in Table 2.19.6 below, with non-Indigenous comparisons presented in Table2.19.7. Note that data on the number of daily serves of vegetables and fruit are presented for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia only because of output restrictions for these data items.

- In 2004–05, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over in non-remote areas who reported eating five serves or more of vegetables daily was 8% in New South Wales, 9% in Queensland, 12% in Victoria and 14% in Western Australia (Table 2.19.6).
- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reporting eating two or more serves of fruit a day was 41% in New South Wales and Queensland, 43% in Victoria and 45% in Western Australia.
- The proportion of Indigenous persons reporting drinking whole milk as the usual type of milk consumed was highest in Queensland (80%) and lowest in Victoria (62%).
- The proportion of Indigenous persons reporting usually adding salt after cooking was highest in Western Australia (57%) and lowest in Victoria (35%).
- Non-Indigenous Australians were more likely to report eating five or more serves of vegetables a day than Indigenous Australians in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. Rates were similar for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in Victoria (Table 2.19.7).
- Non-Indigenous Australians were more likely than Indigenous Australians to report eating five or more serves of fruit a day in three of the four jurisdictions for which data are presented (New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland) (Table 2.19.7).
- Indigenous Australians were more likely to report whole milk as the usual type of milk consumed in the four jurisdictions for which data are presented.

Table 2.19.6: Selected dietary habits, by state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, non-remote areas, 2004–05

Dietary behaviours	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas/ACT	NT	Aust.
				Per cent				
Vegetable intake								
Does not eat vegetables	1	3	2	2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	2
1 serve or less	24	22	19	29	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	23
2–4 serves	67	62	70	55	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	66
5 serves or more	8	12	9	14	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	10
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**n.p.**	**n.p.**	**n.p.**	**100**
Fruit intake								
Does not eat fruit	13	11	13	9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	12
1 serve or less	46	45	46	46	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	47
2–4 serves	39	40	38	39	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	38
5 serves or more	2	3	3	6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**n.p.**	**n.p.**	**n.p.**	**100**
Usual type of milk consumed								
Whole	75	62	80	68	69	64	75	74
Low/reduced fat	13	22	10	22	15	21	14	15
Skim	6	6	6	3	9	9	6	6
Other[(b)]	1	6	2	1	2	2	2	2
Total drinks milk	*95*	*89*	*96*	*94*	*92*	*94*	*95*	*94*
Does not drink milk	4	4	2	5	5	4	4	4
Total[(c)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Salt added after cooking								
Never/rarely	34	33	31	23	36	45	29	33
Sometimes	20	31	22	19	23	18	27	22
Usually	45	35	47	57	41	37	44	45
Total[(d)]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

n.p. Not published because of output restrictions for non-remote data items for these states and territories.

(a) Includes whether eats fruit/vegetables not known.

(b) Includes soy milk and evaporated or sweetened condensed milk.

(c) Includes usual type of milk not known.

(d) Includes frequency salt is added after cooking not known.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.19.7: Selected dietary habits, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, non-remote areas, NSW, Vic, Qld and WA, 2004–05

	NSW			Vic			Qld			WA		
Dietary behaviours	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Ratio**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Ratio**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Ratio**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Ratio**
	%	**%**		**%**	**%**		**%**	**%**		**%**	**%**	
Vegetable intake												
Does not eat vegetables	1	1	1.2	2	1	4.5	2	1	3.2	1	1	2.2
1 serve or less	22	22	1.0	22	21	1.0	18	19	1.0	28	16	1.8
2–4 serves	68	65	1.0	62	63	1.0	71	66	1.1	56	66	0.8
5 serves or more	9	11	0.8	14	15	0.9	9	14	0.7	15	18	0.8
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**
Fruit intake												
Does not eat fruit	12	7	1.6	10	7	1.5	13	8	1.6	9	6	1.5
1 serve or less	44	40	1.1	45	39	1.2	45	41	1.1	46	39	1.2
2–4 serves	42	49	0.9	42	50	0.8	39	47	0.8	38	50	0.8
5 serves or more	2	4	0.6	3	5	0.7	3	4	0.7	6	5	1.3
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**
Usual type of milk consumed												
Whole	74	47	1.6	59	41	1.4	76	48	1.6	64	41	1.6
Low/reduced fat	14	27	0.5	23	35	0.7	12	30	0.4	26	39	0.7
Skim	7	14	0.5	6	13	0.5	7	12	0.6	3	10	0.3
Other[(b)]	2	6	0.2	8	6	1.3	2	5	0.4	1	4	0.3
Total drinks milk	*95*	*88*	*3.0*	*88*	*89*	*3.0*	*95*	*90*	*3.0*	*94*	*90*	*3.0*
Does not drink milk	4	5	0.7	4	5	0.8	3	5	0.5	5	5	0.9
Total[(c)]	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**100**	**100**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.19.7 (continued): Selected dietary habits, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, non-remote areas, NSW, Vic, Qld and WA, 2004–05

(a) Includes whether eats fruit/vegetables not known.

(b) Includes soy milk and evaporated or sweetened condensed milk.

(c) Includes usual type of milk not known.

Note: Data for South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are not presented because of output restrictions for non-remote data items for these states and territories.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Dietary habits by remoteness

- Fruit and vegetables may be less accessible to Indigenous people in remote areas. In remote areas in 2004–5, 20% of Indigenous Australians aged 12 years and over reported no usual daily fruit intake compared with 12% in non-remote areas. The disparity was even greater for vegetables, where 15% of Indigenous people in remote areas reported no usual daily intake compared with 2% in non-remote areas (Table 2.19.8).
- Indigenous people in remote areas were more likely to report drinking whole milk (87%) than those in non-remote areas (76%).
- Indigenous people in remote areas were more likely than those in non-remote areas to report sometimes or usually adding salt after cooking (83% compared with 66%) (Table 2.19.8).

Table 2.19.8: Selected dietary habits, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 12 years and over, 2004–05

Dietary behaviours	Remote	Non-remote	Total
		Per cent	
Vegetable intake			
Eats vegetables daily	84	98	95
Does not eat vegetables daily	15	2	5
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**100**
Fruit intake			
Eats fruit daily	80	88	86
Does not eat fruit daily	20	12	14
Total[(a)]	**100**	**100**	**100**
Usual type of milk consumed			
Whole	87	76	79
Low/reduced fat	4	14	11
Skim	2	5	5
Soy	—[(b)]	1	1
None of the above[(c)]	1[(b)]	1[(b)]	1[(b)]
Total drinks milk	*95*	*97*	*96*
Does not drink milk	5	3	4
Total[(d)]	**100**	**100**	**100**
Salt added after cooking			
Never/rarely	16	35	30
Sometimes	30	23	25
Usually	53	43	46
Total[(e)]	**100**	**100**	**100**

(a) Includes whether eats fruit/vegetables not known.
(b) Estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.
(c) Includes evaporated or sweetened condensed milk.
(d) Includes usual type of milk not known.
(e) Includes frequency salt is added after cooking not known.

Source: ABS 2006a.

Time series analyses

- In 2004–05, approximately 24% of Indigenous Australians aged 12 years and over in non-remote areas reported a low usual daily vegetable intake (one or less serves per day) compared with 18% in 2001 (ABS 2002). The proportion reporting a low usual daily fruit intake (one or less serves per day) was similar in 2001 and 2004–05 (56% and 58%, respectively) (Table 2.19.9).

Table 2.19.9: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 12 years and over reporting high and low usual daily intake of vegetables and fruit, non-remote areas, 2001 and 2004–05

	2001	2004–05
	Per cent	
Five or more serves of vegetables (high intake)	n.a.	10.2
Two or more serves of fruit (high intake)	43.8	42.3
One or less serves of vegetables (low intake)	18.2	24.2
One or less serves of fruit (low intake)	56.2	57.5

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2001 NHS (Indigenous supplement) and 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Fruit and vegetable intake by selected health and population characteristics

- In 2004–05, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians with fair/poor health reported no usual daily vegetable intake and/or no usual daily fruit intake than those with excellent/very good health status (Table 2.19.10).
- Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over in the lowest (1st) quintile of household income were much more likely than those in the highest quintile to report no usual daily fruit and/or vegetable intake.
- Indigenous Australians who reported Year 9 or below as their highest year of school completed or did not have a non-school qualification were more likely to report no usual daily fruit and/or vegetable intake than those whose highest year of school completed was Year 12 or who had a non-school qualification.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous people who were renting reported no usual daily vegetable intake (7%) and no usual daily fruit intake (16%) than those who were home owners (1% and 11% respectively).

Table 2.19.10: Dietary risk behaviours, by selected health and population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2004–05

	No usual daily vegetable intake	No usual daily fruit intake
	Per cent	
Self-assessed health status		
Excellent/very good	4.7	12.9
Good	6.3	16.6
Fair/poor	6.5	16.2
Household income		
1st quintile (lowest)	7.8	16.8
5th quintile (highest)	0.2	5.8
Financial stress—unable to raise $2,000 within a week for something important	2.6	10.4
Highest year of school completed		
Year 12	3.8	9.4
Year 9 or below	7.7	16.9
Whether has non-school qualification		
Has a non-school qualification	3.3	13.3
Does not have a non-school qualification	7.2	16.1
Employment		
Employed	5.0	14.3
Unemployed	4.0	14.4
Not in the labour force	6.8	15.6
Housing		
Owner	0.5	11.1
Renter	7.4	16.4
Stressors in last 12 months[(a)]		
Serious illness or disability	6.2	14.6
Other stressors	5.7	14.7
Total experienced stressors	*5.8*	*14.7*
No stressors	4.6	15.3
All persons aged 15 years and over	**5.7**	**14.9**
Total number persons aged 15 years and over	**16,681**	**43,610**

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Fruit and vegetable intake by selected chronic diseases and health risk factors

- In 2004–05, Indigenous Australians without diabetes were more likely to consume vegetables and fruit on a daily basis than Indigenous Australians with diabetes (Table 2.19.11).
- Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas who reported high levels of physical activity were most likely to consume vegetables on a daily basis, however Indigenous Australians who reported moderate levels of physical activity were most likely to consume fruit on a daily basis.
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over with reported short-term risky/high-risk alcohol consumption were less likely to eat fruit (22% reporting no usual daily fruit intake compared with 13%) and vegetables (8% reporting no usual daily vegetable intake compared with 4%) on a daily basis than those not reporting risky alcohol consumption.
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who reported being current smokers were more likely to report no usual daily fruit intake and no usual daily vegetable intake than Indigenous persons who were ex-smokers or who had never smoked.

Table 2.19.11: Dietary risk behaviours, by selected chronic diseases and other risk factors, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2004–05

	No usual daily vegetable intake	No usual daily fruit intake
	Per cent	
Circulatory problems		
Yes	4.7	13.3
No	5.9	15.2
Has diabetes		
Yes	8.5	13.1
No	5.4	15.0
Has cancer		
Yes	1.7	10.3
No	5.7	14.9
Physical activity[(a)]		
Low/sedentary	1.7	13.4
Moderate	1.8	7.3
High	0.5	10.1
Overweight/obesity		
Yes	4.8	14.8
No	7.2	15.1
Long-term risky/high-risk alcohol consumption[(b)]		
Yes	5.9	19.6
No	5.5	13.9
Short-term risky/high-risk alcohol consumption[(b)]		
Yes	7.8	21.5
No	3.6	13.1
Smoking status[(b)]		
Current	6.4	19.3
Ex-smoker	4.9	10.0
Never smoked	4.6	9.9
All persons aged 15 years and over	**5.7**	**14.9**
Total number persons aged 15 years and over	**16,681**	**43,610**

(a) Non-remote areas only.

(b) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Whether ran out of food in the 12 months before the survey

- In 2004–05, approximately 24% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported they ran out of food in the 12 months before the survey compared with 5% of non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.19.12).
- Approximately 8% of Indigenous people reported they went without food when they couldn't afford to buy more compared with 2% of non-Indigenous people.
- Indigenous Australians aged 15–24, 25–34 and 35–44 years were most likely to report they went without food when they couldn't afford to buy more.
- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who reported they ran out of food in the previous 12 months was much higher in the Northern Territory (45%) than the other states and territories (between 18% and 29%).
- Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over living in remote areas were more likely to report having run out of food in the last 12 months (36%) than those in non-remote areas (20%).

Table 2.19.12: Proportion of persons aged 15 years and over who ran out of food and couldn't afford to buy more at some time over the previous 12 months,[(a)] by Indigenous status 2004–05

	Ran out of food when couldn't afford to buy any more									Did not run out of food		
	Went without food			Did not go without food			Total ran out of food					
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	Per cent									Per cent		
Sex												
Males	7	2	3.7	14	3	5.7	21	4	4.9	79	96	0.8
Females	8	2	4.1	18	3	5.7	27	5	5.1	73	95	0.8
Persons	8	2	4.0	17	3	5.7	24	5	5.0	76	95	0.8
Age												
15–24	8	4	2.1	17	5	3.2	24	9	2.7	76	91	0.8
25–34	8	3	3.0	19	4	4.5	27	7	4.0	73	93	0.8
35–44	9	2	4.4	17	4	4.6	26	6	4.5	74	94	0.8
45–54	7	2	3.3	14	2	6.3	21	4	4.9	79	96	0.8
55+	5	1	8.7	12	1	13.2	17	2	11.4	83	98	0.8
State/territory												
NSW	7	2	3.9	11	2	4.8	18	4	4.4	82	96	0.9
Victoria	10	2	5.1	12	3	3.9	21	5	4.4	79	95	0.8
Qld	7	2	3.3	13	4	3.8	21	6	3.6	79	94	0.8
WA	8	2	4.3	18	3	5.7	26	5	5.2	74	95	0.8
SA	9	2	4.4	20	3	6.7	29	5	5.7	71	95	0.8
Tas/ACT	9	2	4.1	10	4	2.7	19	6	3.2	81	94	0.9
NT	7	—	—	38	3	14.7	45	3	17.4	55	97	0.6
Australia	8	2	4.0	17	3	5.7	24	5	5.0	76	95	0.8
Remoteness area												
Remote	7	1	5.1	28	4	8.1	36	5	7.2	64	95	0.7
Non – remote	8	2	4.0	12	3	4.1	20	5	4.1	80	95	0.8
Total no.	**19,676**	**283,628**	**. .**	**42,674**	**425,252**	**. .**	**62,350**	**708,880**	**. .**	**195,913**	**1.4 mill**	**. .**

(a) Information for some persons aged 15–17 years was provided by a parent or guardian.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Dietary behaviour of children aged 4 to 14 years

Fruit and vegetable consumption

- In 2008, approximately 5% of Indigenous children aged 4 to 14 years did not usually eat fruit and 4% did not usually eat vegetables (Table 2.19.13). Approximately 33% had one serve or less of fruit per day and 27% had one serve or less of vegetables per day.

Table 2.19.13: Number of serves of fruit and vegetables consumed daily, Indigenous children aged 4 to 14 years, by sex, non-remote areas, 2008

	Males	Females	Persons
		Per cent	
Number of serves of fruit child usually eats in a day			
1 serve or less	33.7	32.6	33.1
2 serves	36.7	42.1	39.4
3 serves	16.1	14.3	15.2
4 serves	4.6	4.4	4.5
5 serves or more	2.2	2.6	2.4
Does not usually eat fruit	6.8	4.0	5.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number[(a)]	**53,960**	**51,469**	**105,429**
Number of serves of vegetables child usually eats in a day			
1 serve or less	27.3	26.7	27.0
2 serves	29.7	28.8	29.3
3 serves	24.7	24.2	24.4
4 serves	9.9	10.2	10.0
5 serves or more	4.9	6.6	5.7
Does not usually eat vegetables	3.5	3.5	3.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number[(a)]	**54,041**	**51,738**	**105,779**

(a) Excludes not known responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Fruit and vegetable consumption by state/territory

- In 2008, data on the number of serves of fruit and vegetables consumed daily by Indigenous children aged 4 to 14 years was available from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. Of these, Victoria had the highest proportion of children with a high daily intake of fruit (65%) and vegetables (7%) and Western Australia had the lowest (58% and 4%, respectively) (Table 2.19.14).

Table 2.19.14: Number of serves of fruit and vegetables consumed daily, Indigenous children aged 4 to 14 years, by state/territory[(a)], non-remote areas, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Australia
			Per cent		
Number of serves of fruit child usually eats in a day					
1 serve or less (low intake)[(b)]	38.7	34.7	38.2	42.1	38.6
2 or more serves (high intake)	61.3	65.3	61.8	57.9	61.4
Total number[(c)]	**40,109**	**8,997**	**30,337**	**10,672**	**105,429**
Number of serves of vegetables child usually eats in a day					
1 serve or less (low intake)[(b)]	30.2	28.9	31.1	27.7	30.5
5 serves or more (high intake)	5.4	7.1	6.4	3.8	5.7
Total number[(c)]	**40,298**	**8,997**	**30,362**	**10,745**	**105,779**

(a) Data not available for South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory due to survey output restrictions.

(b) Includes persons who reported they do not usually consume fruit or vegetables

(c) Excludes not known responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Fruit and vegetable consumption by household characteristics and functional facilities

- The 2008 NATSISS showed that Indigenous children aged 1–14 years in non-remote areas who consumed 1 or less serves of fruit per day were most likely to be in the most disadvantaged (socio-economic index for areas) (1st) quintile (44%), similar to the proportion of children who consumed 2 or more serves per day (45%) (Table 2.19.15).
- Forty-two per cent of Indigenous children who consumed 1 or less serves of vegetables per day were in the most disadvantaged quintile, compared with 34% who consumed 5 serves or more.
- The survey also showed that there was little difference in relation to housing utilisation between children who consumed 1 or less services of fruit per day and those who consumed 2 or more. However, in relation to vegetable consumption, Indigenous children who consumed 5 or more serves per day were less likely to be in a household requiring 1 or more bedrooms than those who consumed 1 or less serves per day (12% compared with 25% respectively) (former figure subject to a large relative standard error).
- Table 2.19.16 presents information on fruit and vegetable consumption in relation to functional facilities, including facilities for washing people and clothes, storing and preparing food, and adequate sewerage. There appears to be little association between the consumption of fruit and vegetables and functioning facilities, with the proportions of fruit and vegetable consumption varying minimally across the four categories of facilities.

Table 2.19.15: Dietary risk behaviours, by household characteristics, Indigenous children aged 1–14 in non-remote areas, 2008

	Number of serves of fruit child usually eats in a day[(a)]				Number of serves of vegetables child usually eats in a day[(a)]			
	1 serve or less (low intake)		2 or more serves (high intake)		1 serve or less (low intake)		5 serves or more (high intake)	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
SEIFA								
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	20,519	43.7	37,390	45.4	17,374	42.1	2,348	33.9
2nd quintile	9,919	21.1	20,377	24.8	9,588	23.3	1345*	19.4*
3rd quintile	9,199	19.6	15,573	18.9	8,976	21.8	1355*	19.6*
4th/5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	7,277	15.5	8,936	10.9	5,287	12.8	1881*	27.1*
Total excluding not stated	*46,914*	*100.0*	*82,277*	*100.0*	*41,226*	*100.0*	*6,930*	*100.0*
Housing utilisation								
1 or more bedrooms required	9,701	20.5	19,447	23.7	10,313	24.9	830*	11.9*
None required/None spare	19,149	40.5	33,130	40.3	16,484	39.8	2664*	38.2
1 or more bedrooms spare	18,467	39.0	29,565	36.0	14,637	35.3	3,485	49.9
Total excluding not stated	*47,317*	*100.0*	*82,142*	*100.0*	*41,434*	*100.0*	*6,979*	*100.0*
Total children 1–14 in non-remote areas	**47,410**	**. .**	**82,580**	**. .**	**41,598**	**. .**	**6,979**	**. .**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Non remote areas only.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.19.16: Proportion of children aged 1–14 in non-remote areas: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by nutritional factors, 2008

	Washing people		Washing clothes / bedding		Storing / preparing food		Sewerage facilities		Total children aged 1–14 in non-remote areas[(a)]	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Number of serves of vegetables consumed daily										
Does not usually eat vegetables	4,833	3.6	4,783	3.7	4,697	3.6	4,833	3.6	4,841	3.5
1 serve or less	40,736	30.3	38,842	29.9	39,257	30.4	40,837	30.4	41,598	30.4
2 serves	38,700	28.8	37,321	28.7	36,854	28.5	38,637	28.8	39,476	28.8
3 serves	31,398	23.4	30,809	23.7	30,039	23.3	31,261	23.3	31,832	23.3
4 serves	11,881	8.8	11,424	8.8	11,562	9.0	11,832	8.8	12,131	8.9
5 serves or more	6,855	5.1	6,724	5.2	6,724	5.2	6,840	5.1	6,979	5.1
Total[(e)]	**134,669**	**100.0**	**130,065**	**100.0**	**129,419**	**100.0**	**134,508**	**100.0**	**137,123**	**100.0**
Number of serves of fruit consumed daily										
Does not usually eat fruit	6,451	4.8	6,237	4.8	6,309	4.9	6,495	4.9	6,511	4.8
1 serve or less	46,673	34.8	45,645	35.3	45,205	35.1	46,731	34.9	47,410	34.7
2 serves	51,268	38.2	49,105	37.9	48,668	37.8	51,162	38.2	52,678	38.6
3 serves	21,027	15.7	20,137	15.6	20,356	15.8	20,889	15.6	21,221	15.5
4 serves	5,521	4.1	5,409	4.2	5,415	4.2	5,521	4.1	5,556	4.1
5 serves or more	3,108	2.3	2,922	2.3	2,871	2.2	3,093	2.3	3,124	2.3
Total[(e)]	**134,669**	**100.0**	**130,065**	**100.0**	**129,419**	**100.0**	**134,508**	**100.0**	**137,123**	**100.0**

(a) Nutrition data represents non-remote participants only.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Additional information

Research on traditional and non-traditional diets of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Poverty and food insecurity have been recognised as important factors in the poor-quality diet of many Indigenous people, especially those living in remote communities. Food prices are generally higher in remote areas for many types of food. The price of basic healthy foods is at least 50% higher in remote locations than in *Major cities* (NHMRC 2003). Foods of better nutritional choice, including fresh fruits and vegetables, are often expensive because of transport and overhead costs, or only minimally available (Shannon 2002). Remote stores, on average, sell half the fruit and one-quarter of the vegetable intake per capita of that of the Australian community overall (Lee et al. 1994). In comparison, takeaway and convenience food items, which are often energy dense and high in fat or sugar, are less affected by issues of cost and availability.

There is evidence to suggest that people living in poverty tend to maximise calories per dollar spent on food. Energy-dense foods rich in fats, refined starches and sugars represent the lowest cost options, whereas healthy diets based on lean meats, whole grains and fresh vegetables and fruits are more costly (Drewnowski & Spencer 2004). A study that analysed the store turnover of food supplies at six remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory found a very high consumption of fat and sugar, with fatty meats making the largest contribution to fat intake. In comparison to national consumption data, intake of sweetened carbonated beverages and sugar was much higher in these communities. The proportion of energy derived from refined sugars was approximately four times the recommended intake. The diets of people living in these communities had high levels of animal fat (mainly from poor-quality meat) and very low levels of fruit and vegetables (Lee et al. 1994).

A study that looked at the therapeutic potential of a traditional lifestyle and diet involved a trial of a group of 10 middle-aged Indigenous people with diabetes who were overweight or obese in the West Kimberly region of Western Australia. The group reverted to a traditional hunter-gatherer diet for 7 weeks. After this short time living off their traditional lands, the people involved in the study lost an average of 7 kg and the metabolic abnormalities of diabetes and risk factors for heart disease (blood pressure, blood cholesterol, triglycerides) all improved markedly (O'Dea 1984).

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

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 has 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* and *Inner and outer regional* and *Remote and Very 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 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 2006a).

Dietary behaviour data

The questions on dietary behaviour are complex as respondents needed to understand and apply the inclusions/exclusions, understand the concept of a serve and assess their consumption levels accordingly, and think about their total consumption in what would constitute an average day. Overall, it is considered that the indicators of vegetable and fruit intake in the non-remote component of the 2004–05 NATSIHS are of a lower quality than most other items from the survey, but are considered sufficiently reliable for the purposes of assessing broad intake levels for population groups, and for comparisons between population groups. Using the data for other purposes should be done with care. Data for all those aged 12–14 years, and 68% of those aged 15–17 years, were provided by a proxy, usually a parent. As a result, the data reflect the parent's knowledge of the child's consumption; this is likely to be less accurate for usual consumption of fruit items than for the type of milk and usual consumption of vegetables items collected in non-remote areas (ABS 2006b).

Picture prompt cards were used to help non-remote respondents understand the concept of a serve; one prompt card showed six examples of single serves of different vegetables and another card showed six single serves of fruit. If respondents had difficulty in reporting, interviewers were encouraged to prompt in terms of asking respondents about their usual consumption of vegetables and fruit at breakfast, lunch and dinner and for snacks. Remote respondents were asked whether they usually ate fruit and/or vegetables each day. In addition to products excluded in non-remote areas, fruit or vegetables considered to be bush tucker were also excluded.

In remote areas the questions on vegetable and fruit intake were amended to whether the respondents usually ate fruit and/or vegetables each day. Therefore it is not possible to produce indicators based on usual serves for remote areas from the 2004–05 NATSIHS.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

List of symbols used in tables

n.a.	not available
–	rounded to zero (including null cells)
0	zero

. . not applicable

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

n.f.d. not further defined

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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2.20 Breastfeeding practices

The breastfeeding status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander infants, breastfeeding duration, breastfeeding and other sources of food and reasons mothers stopped breastfeeding

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 2010 Infant Feeding Survey.

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

Definitions of breastfeeding terms used in the NATSIHS

Breastfeeding. The child receives some breastmilk but can also receive any food or liquid including non-human milk.

Breastfeeding duration. The total length of time an infant received any breastmilk at all from initiation until weaning is complete.

Ever breastfed. An infant has been put to the breast, even if only once, and/or an infant has received expressed breastmilk but has never been put to the breast.

Exclusively breastfed. An infant has received only breastmilk from his/her mother or a wet nurse or expressed breastmilk and no other liquids or solids with the exception of drops or syrups consisting of vitamins, mineral supplements or medicines.

Predominantly breastfed. An infant's predominant source of nourishment has been breastmilk but the infant has also received water and water-based drinks (sweetened and flavoured water, teas, infusions, etc.); fruit juice; oral rehydration solution; drops and syrup forms of vitamins, minerals and medicines; and/or ritual foods (in limited quantities). All other food-based fluids are excluded, in particular non-human milk.

Fully breastfed. An infant is fully breastfed if he/she receives breastmilk as the main source of nourishment. This includes infants who are either (a) exclusively breastfed or (b) predominantly breastfed—that is, infants with no other liquids or solids (except vitamins,

mineral supplements, or medicines) or infants who receive breastmilk and water, water-based drinks, fruit juice, oral rehydration solution, but do not receive breast milk substitutes or solids. The fully breastfed rate is the combined rate of exclusively breastfed and predominantly breastfed (Webb et al. 2001).

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 social issues 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.

2010 Australian National Infant Feeding Survey

The 2010 Australian National Infant Feeding Survey (ANIFS) is the first specialised national survey of infant feeding practices in Australia. The survey also collected information on attitudes towards, and enablers for and barriers against breastfeeding. This report provides baseline data on key infant feeding indicators, including: most babies (96%) were initially breastfed, but only 39% were exclusively breastfed for less than 4 months, and 15% for less than 6 months; overall 35% of infants were introduced to solid foods by 4 months of age and 92% by the recommended age of 6 months.

The initial methodology for the ANIFS was developed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing in consultation with Medicare Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). A pilot study to test the survey method and survey instrument was conducted from August 2010 to September 2010. The main survey was conducted between October 2010 and February 2011.

Data analyses

NATSIHS data

Breastfeeding status

- According to the 2004–05 NATSIHS and NHS surveys, approximately 79% of Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years in non-remote areas had ever been breastfed compared with 88% of non-Indigenous infants (Table 2.20.1).
- At the time of the surveys, approximately 13% of Indigenous infants were currently breastfeeding compared with 16% of non-Indigenous infants (Table 2.20.1).

- A similar proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous infants had been breastfed for 12 months or more (13% and 14%, respectively) (Table 2.20.1).
- The maximum duration of breastfeeding among fully breastfed children was 130 weeks for Indigenous children compared with 156 weeks for non-Indigenous children (Table 2.20.1).

Breastfeeding status by state/territory

- In Queensland, a significantly lower proportion of Indigenous infants had ever been breastfed (79%) compared with non-Indigenous infants (89%) (Table 2.20.1). In all other states and territories the difference between the proportion of infants breastfed was not statistically significant between the two population groups.

Breastfeeding status when first taken home from hospital

- In 2004–05, approximately 96% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants aged 0–3 years in non-remote areas were breastfed when they were first taken home from hospital (Table 2.20.2). Proportions ranged from 89% in the Australian Capital Territory to 98% in the Northern Territory.

Table 2.20.1: Breastfeeding status, by state/territory and Indigenous status, infants aged 0–3 years in non-remote areas, 2004–05

Breastfeeding measure	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT[a]		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
									Per cent									
Child has been breastfed																		
0 to less than 6 months	35	33	43	39	31	39	22	34	27	33	51	35	41	29	32	n.p.	33	36
For 6 to 12 months	21	25	22[c]	25	19[b]	20	14[b]	16	16[c]	19	15[b]	18	16[b]	24	15[b]	n.p.	19	22
For 12 months or more[d]	11	13	10[c]	14	18[b]	13	15[b]	16	10[c]	17	9[c]	15	17[b]	23[b]	13[b]	n.p.	13	14
Currently breastfeeding	8[b]	13	9[b]	15	12[b]	17	30[b]	24	18[c]	13	11[c]	17	17[b]	21[b]	29[b]	n.p.	13	16
Ever breastfed	*76*	*84*	*84*	*93*	*79**	*89**	*81*	*90*	*70*	*81*	*86*	*86*	*92*	*96*	*89*	*n.p.*	*79**	*88**
Never breastfed	24	16	15*(b)	7*	20	10	19(b)	10(b)	30(b)	19	14(b)	14(f)	5(c)	4(b)	11(b)	n.p.	21*	12*
Total[e]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**n.p.**	**100**	**100**
Total no. of infants	**13,418**	**310,805**	**2,373**	**240,930**	**10,325**	**182,712**	**3,552**	**85,191**	**2,019**	**69,745**	**1,762**	**22,526**	**433**	**16,702**	**1,082**	**4,402**	**34,964**	**933,013**
									Weeks									
Maximum duration of breastfeeding among fully breastfed children (weeks)[f]	78[g]	104[g]	56[g]	104[g]	117[g]	87[g]	83[g]	109[g]	52[g]	104[g]	65[g]	84[g]	78[g]	70[g]	78[g]	n.p.	130	156
Minimum duration of breastfeeding among fully breastfed children (weeks)[f]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	n.p.	1	1

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

(a) Non-Indigenous results are not provided because the non-Indigenous sample for this area was insufficient for purposes of estimation of these characteristics.

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

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

(d) Includes length of time child has been breastfed not known.

(e) Includes breastfeeding status not known.

(f) Excludes children currently breastfed and children who had been fully breastfed for less than 1 week.

(g) Indicates that the maximum length of time breastfed in weeks is greater than this value, but for confidentiality reasons the maximum length of time cannot be released.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Table 2.20.2: Breastfeeding status when first taken home from hospital, by state/territory, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants aged 0–3 years who were breastfed, non-remote areas, 2004–05

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
					Per cent				
Breastfed when first taken home	97	96	95	96	92	95	89	98	96
Not breastfed when first taken home	2[a]	4[a]	—	3[a]	2[a]	4[a]	11[a]	—	2[b]
No hospital	—	—	—	1[a]	—	—[a]	—	2[a]	—[a]
Total ever breastfed	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number ever breastfed	**10,186**	**1,983**	**8,014**	**2,871**	**1,449**	**1,507**	**396**	**962**	**27,369**

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Age at which first given solid food

- Over the period 2004–05, Indigenous infants aged 0–3 months in non-remote areas were almost twice as likely to be given solid food as non-Indigenous infants (18% compared with 10%) (Table 2.20.3).
- Over the same period, Indigenous infants aged 3–6 months and 6–9 months in non-remote areas were less likely to be given solid food than non-Indigenous infants of the same age (Table 2.20.3).

Table 2.20.3: Age at which first given solid food regularly, by Indigenous status, persons aged 0–3 years in non-remote areas, 2004–05

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Rate difference
	%	%	%	%
1–<3 months	18	10	1.8*	8
3–<6 months	34	40	0.9*	–6
6–<9months	28	34	0.8*	–6
9+months	8	6	1.3	2
Total given solid food[(a)]	*91*	*90*	*1.0*	*1*
Solid food not given regularly	8	10	0.8	–2
Total[(b)]	**100**	**100**	**. .**	**. .**
Total persons	**34,964**	**933,013**	**. .**	**. .**

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

(a) Includes age first given solid food not known.

(b) Includes whether given solid food not known.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Reasons for stopping breastfeeding

- In 2004–05, the main reason mothers of Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years in non-remote areas stopped breastfeeding was that they were no longer producing any or adequate milk (32%).
- Approximately 21% of Indigenous infants were no longer breastfed because mothers felt it was time to stop, and for 6% the mother was pregnant again (Table 2.20.4).
- Approximately 16% of Indigenous infants were no longer breastfed because of other problems with breastfeeding (for example, cracked nipples).

Table 2.20.4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants aged 0–3 years, by main reason stopped breastfeeding, non-remote areas, 2004–05

Main reason stopped breastfeeding	Per cent
Not producing any/adequate milk	32
Felt it was time to stop	21
Pregnant	6[(a)]
Teething	5[(a)]
Resumed work	4[(a)]
Child bored	1[(b)]
Other problems with breastfeeding (e.g. cracked nipples)	16
Not stated	2[(b)]
Total	**100**
Total no. of infants	**22,941**

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

NATSISS data

Breastfeeding status

- According to the 2008 NATSISS, approximately 77% of Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years had ever been breastfed and 21% of Indigenous infants were currently being breastfed in 2008.
- Approximately 34% of Indigenous infants had breastfeeding stopped at less than 6 months, and 22% had it stopped at 6 months or older (Table 2.20.5).

Breastfeeding status by state/territory

- In New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory a lower proportion of Indigenous infants had ever been breastfed (69%) than in any other jurisdiction (Table 2.20.5).
- In the Northern Territory, a lower proportion of Indigenous infants had breastfeeding stopped at less than 6 months (13%) than in any other jurisdiction (Table 2.20.5).

Breastfeeding status by remoteness

- Breastfeeding status varied by remoteness, with a higher proportion of Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years in remote areas being breastfed than those in non-remote areas. Around 48% of Indigenous infants in remote areas were currently being breastfed, 86% had previously been breastfed and 14% had never been breastfed. This compared with 20%, 75% and 25% respectively of Indigenous infants in non-remote areas.
- At all ages between 0 and 3 years, a higher proportion of Indigenous infants in remote areas had ever been breastfed than those in non-remote areas (Table 2.20.6).

Table 2.20.5: Breastfeeding status, by state/territory, Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years, 2008

Breastfeeding measure	NSW/ACT	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Australia
					Per cent			
Child breastfed								
Currently breastfeeding	12.7	14.4	17.8	30.6	16.0[a]	6.7[a]	51.0	20.7
Not currently breastfeeding	87.3	85.6	82.2	69.4	84.0	93.3	49.0	79.3
Age child stopped being completely breastfed								
Less than 6 months	38.6	39.4	36.0	28.3	37.4	35.2	13.1	33.7
Between 6 and 12 months	11.9[a]	11.0	10.7[a]	7.4[a]	9.9[a]	20.2	5.6[a]	10.4
12 months or older	4.5[a]	13.4	14.9	18.0	6.6[a]	11.4[a]	15.8	11.6
Total[b]	*55.8*	*65.9*	*62.4*	*54.1*	*54.2*	*66.8*	*36.9*	*56.6*
Total breastfed[c]	*68.5*	*80.3*	*80.3*	*84.7*	*70.1*	*73.5*	*88.2*	*77.3*
Never breastfed	31.5	19.7	19.7	15.3	29.9	26.5[a]	11.8[a]	22.7
Total[d]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number[d]	**16,133**	**3,322**	**16,385**	**6,623**	**2,759**	**1,818**	**5,608**	**52,648**
Median age at which child stopped being completely breastfed (weeks)	13	17	17	22	9	22	39	17
Mean age at which child stopped being completely breastfed (weeks)	18	25	29	36	19	31	45	27

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(b) Includes age at which child stopped breastfeeding not stated.
(c) Includes not known if child currently breastfed.
(d) Excludes children for whom breastfeeding status was not known.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.20.6: Breastfeeding status, by remoteness and age of infant, Indigenous persons aged 0–3 years, 2008

	Less than 12 months			12 to < 24 months			24 to < 36 months			36 to < 48 months			Total aged 0–3 years		
Breastfeeding status	**Non-remote**	**Remote**	**Total**	**Non-remote**	**Remote**	**Total**	**Non-remote**	**Remote**	**Total**	**Non-remote**	**Remote**	**Total**	**Non-remote**	**Remote**	**Total**
							Per cent								
Currently breastfeeding	54.6	70.4	58.5	14.9	65.4	27.7	3.2	34.8	10.2	1.8	17.1	6.0	19.9	47.5	26.8
Child not currently breastfeeding	45.4	29.6	41.5	85.1	34.6	72.3	96.8	65.2	89.8	98.2	82.9	94.0	80.1	52.5	73.2
Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Whether child was ever breastfed															
Child was breastfed	77.7	87.9	80.0	77.6	88.5	80.1	72.4	78.6	73.7	71.2	88.3	75.2	74.8	86.0	77.3
Child was not breastfed	22.3	12.1	20.0	22.4	11.5	19.9	27.6	21.4	26.3	28.8	11.7	24.8	25.2	14.0	22.7
Total[(a)]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Not known if child was ever breastfed	0.1	1.2	0.4	1.9	0.6	1.6	1.4	4.0	2.0	6.2	1.3	5.1	2.4	1.8	2.3
Total no. of infants	**10,822.0**	**3,172.0**	**13,994.0**	**9,984.0**	**2,931.0**	**12,915.0**	**10,203.0**	**2,765.0**	**12,968.0**	**10,890.0**	**3,113.0**	**14,003.0**	**41,899.0**	**11,981.0**	**53,880.0**

(a) Excludes not known responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Age at which first given solid food

- In 2008, the majority of Indigenous infants were first given solid food between the ages of 3 and 6 months (43%) and between 6 and 9 months (30%) (Table 2.20.7).
- In 2008, the age at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–3 years were given solid food regularly varied between remoteness areas. In remote areas, the majority (39%) were first given solid food between 6 and 9 months of age. In non-remote areas the majority (50%) were first given solid food between 3 and 6 months of age (Table 2.20.8).

Table 2.20.7: Age at which first given solid food regularly, Indigenous children aged 0–3 years[(a)], 2008

	Indigenous
	Per cent
1 week to <3 months	4.8
3 to <6 months	43.0
6 to <9months	30.1
9+months	8.1
Age not known	4.9
Total given solid food[(a)]	*86.0*
Solid food not given[(b)]	9.1
Total[(c)]	**100.0**

(a) Children who have been given solid food regularly.
(b) Excludes whether given solid food 'unknown'.
(c) Includes age infant first given solid food not stated.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.20.8: Age at which first given solid food regularly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants aged 0–3 years and remoteness, 2008

	Remote		Non-remote		Total	
	Number	**Per cent**	**Number**	**Per cent**	**Number**	**Per cent**
0–<3 months	381	3.3	2,163	5.4	2,544	5.0
3–<6 months	3,269	28.8	19,964	50.1	23,232	45.4
6–<9months	4,474	39.4	11,733	29.4	16,206	31.6
9+months	2,212	19.5	2,137	5.4	4,350	8.5
Total given solid food	*10,335*	*90.9*	*35,997*	*90.3*	*46,332*	*90.4*
Solid food not given regularly	1,031	9.1	3,865	9.7	4,897	9.6
Total[(a)]	**11,366**	**100.0**	**39,862**	**100.0**	**51,228**	**100.0**
Not stated	615	5.1	2,038	4.9	2,652	4.9

(a) Excludes not stated responses.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Breastfeeding and other sources of food

- In 2008, around 65% of Indigenous infants aged less than 6 months were never given solid food and around 35% were given solid food (Table 2.20.9).

Table 2.20.9: Whether infant ever given solid food, Indigenous infants aged less than 6 months, 2008

	Number	Proportion (per cent)
Infant given solid food	2,606	34.7
Infant never given solid food	4,897	65.3
Total	**7,503**	**100.0**

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Breastfeeding by selected population characteristics and risk factors

Tables 2.20.10 and 2.20.11 present information on Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years by selected health and population characteristics. Proportions in Table 2.20.10 are calculated within a row using the column totals as a denominator; while proportions in Table 2.20.11 are calculated within a column using the total across the rows as a denominator.

- In 2008, 29% of Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years in the lowest (1st) income quintile were never breastfed, compared with 5% in the highest income quintile. Around one-quarter of Indigenous infants in the most disadvantaged (1st) socioeconomic (SEIFA) quintile were never breastfed, compared with only 1% of Indigenous infants in the least disadvantaged (5th) quintile (Table 2.20.10).
- The proportion of Indigenous infants ever breastfed was slightly higher among home owners than renters (82% compared with 76%) (Table 2.20.10).
- Approximately 73% of Indigenous infants who were never breastfed were living in a household with at least one regular smoker compared with 63% of Indigenous infants who were breastfed (Table 2.20.11).

Table 2.20.10: Selected household characteristics by breastfeeding status, Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years, 2008

	Breastfeeding measure: child has been breastfed[(a)]						
	0 to less than 6 months	For 6 months to 12 months	12 months or more[(b)]	Currently breastfeeding	*Ever breastfed*[(b)]	Never breastfed	Total
				Per cent			
Household income							
1st quintile (lowest)	31.3	10.3	8.0	20.5	*70.6*	*29.4*	100.0
5th quintile (highest)	39.7	12.2	27.4	15.9	*95.1*	*4.9*	100.0
SEIFA (Socio-economic index for areas)[(c)]							100.0
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	31.4	9.1	11.0	22.5	*75.2*	*24.8*	100.0
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	40.4	16.4	4.9	30.7	*99.0*	*1.0*	100.0
Housing							100.0
Owner	39.7	12.8	11.4	16.9	*81.7*	*18.3*	100.0
Renter	32.1	9.8	11.8	21.5	*76.2*	*23.8*	100.0
Regular smoker in households							100.0
Yes	32.3	8.7	12.1	20.7	*74.6*	*25.4*	100.0
No	38.4	14.4	10.8	19.2	*83.8*	*16.2*	100.0
All infants aged 0–3 years	**33.7**	**10.4**	**11.6**	**20.7**	***77.3***	***22.7***	**100.0**
Total no. of infants 0–3 years	**17,723**	**5,473**	**6,086**	**10,892**	***40,696***	***11,952***	**92,822**

(a) Based on age stopped breastfeeding.

(b) Includes length of time child has been breastfed not known.

(c) SEIFA refers to Socio-economic Indexes for Areas developed by the ABS. The SEIFA Indexes allow ranking of regions/areas which provide a method of determining the level of socioeconomic wellbeing in that region. The SIEFA index used is the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.20.11: Breastfeeding status by selected household characteristics, Indigenous infants aged 0–3 years, 2008

	Breastfeeding measure: child has been breastfed[(a)]					
	0 to less than 6 months	For 6 months to less than 12 months	12 months or more[(b)]	Currently breastfeeding	*Ever breastfed*	Never breastfed
			Per cent			
Household income						
1st quintile (lowest)	46.4	49.4	34.3	49.4	45.6	64.5
5th quintile (highest)	4.9	4.8	9.8	3.2	5.1	0.9
SEIFA (Socio-economic index for areas)[(c)]						
1st quintile (lowest)	52.0	48.8	52.9	60.7	54.3	60.9
5th quintile (highest)	3.3	4.4	1.2	4.1	3.6	0.1
Housing						
Owner	22.9	23.9	19.1	15.8	20.5	15.6
Renter	75.3	74.3	80.7	82.0	77.8	82.6
Regular smoker in households						
Yes	62.3	54.0	67.9	65.0	62.7	72.6
No	36.9	44.8	30.3	30.0	35.1	23.1
All infants aged 0–3 years	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total no. of infants 0–3 years	**17,723**	**5,473**	**6,086**	**10,892**	**40,696**	**11,952**

(a) Based on age stopped breastfeeding.

(b) Includes length of time child has been breastfed not known.

(c) SEIFA refers to Socio-economic Indexes for Areas developed by the ABS. The SEIFA Indexes allow ranking of regions/areas which provide a method of determining the level of socioeconomic wellbeing in that region.

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Australian National Infant Feeding Survey data

- In 2010, the Australian National Infant Feeding survey (ANIFS) found that just over two-thirds (69%) of Indigenous infants aged 1 month received any breastmilk, compared with around three-quarters (75%) of non-Indigenous infants of the same age. By 6 months of age, approximately 45% of Indigenous infants had received any breastmilk compared with 60% of non-Indigenous infants (Table 2.20.12).

Table 2.20.12: Proportion of children receiving any breastmilk, by Indigenous status and age, 2010

	Number		Per cent	
Age (completed months)	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
0[(a)] (less than 1 month)	0	29	0.0.	90.2
1	36	2177	69.2	74.7
2	51	3776	61.4	72.9
3	69	3924	67.3	70.3
4	48	3738	59.2	68.8
5	51	3531	57.3	62.9
6	37	3445	45.4	60.3
7–12	24	2560	21.9	42.4
13–18	18	1727	n.p.	18.5
19–24	22	1569	17.3	7.3

(a) An age of 0 completed months indicates an infant aged from birth to less than 1 month. There were only 33 respondents aged 0 months at the time of survey completion. This was an artefact of the delay between when the sample was drawn and when the survey was completed (for some respondents, this was more than 3 months).

Source: Australian National Infant Feeding Survey 2010.

- Approximately 59% of Aboriginal and Torres Islander infants and 61% of non-Indigenous infants less than one month of age were exclusively breast fed according to the 2010 ANIFS. At less than 3 months, 33% of Indigenous infants were exclusively breastfed compared with 48% of non-Indigenous infants. At less than 6 months, 7% of Indigenous infants were exclusively breastfed compared with 16% of non-Indigenous infants (Table 2.20.13).
- A similar proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous infants aged less than 1 month were predominantly breastfed (65%). For infants aged 1 month or more, Indigenous infants were less likely to be predominantly breastfed than non-Indigenous infants (Table 2.20.14).

Table 2.20.13: Duration of exclusively breastfeeding to each month of age by Indigenous status, 2010

		Number		To month	
To month[(a)]	Equivalent duration	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
0	Less than 1 month	344	25149	59.3	61.4
1	Less than 2 months	229	15965	46.2*	56.0*
2	Less than 3 months	177	13313	32.5*	48.1*
3	Less than 4 months	113	9671	18.6*	39.5*
4	Less than 5 months	57	6608	11.0*	27.2*
5	Less than 6 months	19	3552	7.3*	15.5*
6	Less than 7 months	9	1413	—	2.13

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups at the p < 0.05 level.

(a) 'To' indicates an infant's age the months before a fluid other than breastmilk was introduced. This is effectively the month before another fluid was introduced. For example, a child who was introduced to water when they were aged 4 months (in their fifth month of life) was exclusively breastfed to 4 months of age (that is, they had 4 completed months of exclusive breastfeeding). Similarly, a child who was introduced to water at age 1 month (in their second month of life) was exclusively breastfed to 1 month. Or, a child who was introduced to water at 0 months (in their first month of life) was exclusively breastfed to 0 months (or less than 1 month).

Source: Australian National Infant Feeding Survey 2010.

Table 2.20.14: Proportion of children predominately breastfed to each month of age by Indigenous status, 2010

		Number		To month	
To month[(a)]	Equivalent duration	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
0	Less than 1 month	345	25,266	64.9	64.7
1	Less than 2 months	249	17,113	54.3*	60.4*
2	Less than 3 months	200	14,566	40.6*	53.9*
3	Less than 4 months	138	10,881	30.4*	47.4*
4	Less than 5 months	80	7,767	16.6*	34.9*
5	Less than 6 months	28	4,372	10.0*	21.0*
6	Less than 7 months	12	1,864	0.1*	4.0*

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups at the p < 0.05 level.

(a) This indicates an infant's age the month before the event occurred. For example, a child who was introduced to the cow's milk when they were aged 4 months (in their fifth month of life) was predominately breastfed to 4 months of age (that is, they had 4 completed months of predominant breastfeeding).

Source: Australian National Infant Feeding Survey 2010.

- The 2010 ANIFS found that 31% of Indigenous infants aged three months had received soft, semi-solid or solid food in the last 24 hours compared with 9% of non-Indigenous infants. By the time infants reached 5 months, similar proportions of both groups had been given soft, semi-solid or solid food (70%) (Table 2.20.15).

Table 2.20.15: Proportion of children who had received soft/semi-solid/solid food in the last 24 hours, by Indigenous status and current age, 2010

	Number		Per cent	
Age (completed months)	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig,**
0 (less than 1 month)	0	33	n.a.	—
1 month	38	2292	—	0.7
2 months	59	3957	n.p.	2.2
3 months	76	4105	31.2*	9.3*
4 months	51	3907	52.3*	35.1*
5 months	55	3705	69.6	70.3
6 months	40	3596	93.1	91.5
7–12 months	29	2657	90.4	94.3
13–18 months	19	1826	94.4	95.2
19–24 months	24	1650	89.9	89.3

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups at the p < 0.05 level.

Note: The proportion for infants aged 0 months is based on 30 responses only.

Source: Australian National Infant Feeding Survey 2010.

- Around half (49%) of Indigenous infants aged 1 month received non-human milk or formula compared with 40% of non-Indigenous infants. By 6 months of age, 63% of Indigenous infants received non-human milk or formula compared with 55% of non-Indigenous infants (Table 2.20.16).

Table 2.20.16: Proportion of children receiving non-human milk or formula at each month of age, 0–12 months by Indigenous status, 2010

	Number		Per cent	
Age (completed months)	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig,**
0 (less than 1 month)	0	29	n.a.	26.5
1	36	2225	48.9	40.2
2	59	3853	45.2	43.1
3	77	3996	44.7	46.1
4	50	3837	47.0	48.3
5	55	3667	54.4	52.9
6	40	3583	62.9	55.0
7	13	970	76.6	61.6
8	5	409	67.1	68.4
9	3	344	n.p.	68.2
10	3	313	n.p.	75.0
11	3	321	n.p.	77.9

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups at the p < 0.05 level.

Note: The proportion for infants aged 0 months is based on 30 responses only.

Source: Australian National Infant Feeding Survey 2010.

Breastfeeding by selected demographic characteristics

- The 2010 ANIFS found that a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in areas in the most advantaged quintile (5th quintile) had been breastfed at some point (99%) compared with children living in the most disadvantaged quintile (1st quintile) (94%) (Table 2.20.17).
- A similar proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children had ever been breastfed in all states and territories except for Victoria where the proportion for Indigenous children was higher.
- Indigenous children living in major cities were slightly more likely to have ever been breastfed than Indigenous children living in regional or remote areas.

Table 2.20.17: Proportion of children ever breastfed, by Indigenous status and area-level characteristics, 2010

	Number		Per cent	
Socio-demographic characteristics	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**	**Indig.**	**Non-Indig.**
Socioeconomic status (SEIFA quintile)				
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	95	3626	93.2	93.9
2nd quintile	98	4379	94.1	95.6
3rd quintile	104	5825	93.6	94.9
4th quintile	63	6428	97.8	96.1
5th quintile (most advantaged)	30	7447	99.1	97.8
State/territory				
NSW	126	9013	90.2	96.0
Vic	39	6815	98.6*	96.1*
Qld	125	5726	97.5	96.0
WA	42	2843	97.1	95.3
SA	12	2065	91.5	94.3
Tas	28	645	89.3	96.4
ACT	5	541	n.p.	99.6
NT	17	224	n.p.	99.4
Remoteness				
Major cities	166	20213	97.1	96.2
Inner Regional	105	4946	92.4	94.4
Outer regional	98	2169	93.6	97.1
Total non-remote	*369*	*27328*	*94.8*	*95.9*
Remote/very remote	24	461	95.9	97.9

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups at the $p < 0.05$ level.

Source: Australian National Infant Feeding Survey 2010.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

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 has 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 and very 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 2006a).

Breastfeeding data

The following points should be considered when interpreting data on breastfeeding from the NATSIHS:

- The sample size of infants less than 6 months of age will affect the reliability of estimates.
- Information is 'as reported' by respondents. No analysis has been undertaken regarding the accuracy of these reported data and whether the accuracy of recall by the adult respondent declines as the child gets older.
- In addition, the accuracy of the data may be reduced in cases where an adult other than the child's mother responded regarding the child; this occurred for around 27% of infants aged 0–3 years (21% non-remote, 33% remote).
- Issues relating to the benefits of breastfeeding have been widely promoted in the community and some respondents may have tended to report recommended practices rather than actual practices (ABS 2006b).
- In addition, respondents may not have interpreted the concept 'regularly' in relation to the solids question correctly, where they did not seek clarification from the interviewer. It should also be kept in mind that the inclusion both of infants who are still breastfeeding at the time of the survey and of infants who have ceased breastfeeding may produce estimates that are lower than expected.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

2010 Australian National Infant Feeding Survey

The 2010 Australian National Infant Feeding Survey used two data collection modes: mail-out mail-in and 'online' options. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) commissioned Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) to undertake formatting and scanning of the survey questionnaire. EAA also formatted and captured the 'online' survey forms. Medicare Australia extracted the sample and managed the mailing out of the survey communications and survey forms. The data collection period for the survey was from October 2010 to February 2011.

The sampling frame for the survey was the Medicare enrolment database. About 52,000 children aged up to 24 months were randomly selected nationwide. Medicare Australia applied an activity test when identifying children for inclusion in the sample. If there was at least one Medicare service or at least one episode recorded in the Australian Childhood

Immunisation Register in the previous 12 months (enrolment was considered an activity), the child was included in the sample (AIHW 2011).

The survey achieved a response rate of 56%, considered to be an exceptional result for a mail survey. Weights were applied to the survey data to adjust for differential probability of selection, differential response rates and also to adjust for non-coverage.

Limitations

As with all self-reported survey data, the major limitation of the survey was that the estimates are based on recall of infant feeding practices. Poor memory, misunderstanding of the question or intentional deception can all contribute to inaccuracies in the data. Further, although the sample size was reasonable for the national level, any estimates for subpopulations are based on a smaller sample size and are less precise.

Since the survey used the Medicare Australia enrolment database, children who were not enrolled at the time of sample selection date were excluded from the survey. Further, Medicare Australia performed an activity test, and only those children who had at least one Medicare service or Australian Childhood Immunisation Register episode in the previous 12 months (including enrolment) were included in the survey.

Only a small proportion of respondents were Indigenous (1.4%; 401 respondents).

Responses are based on mother's/carer's recall of infant feeding practices without reference to written records. As such, the prevalence estimates may overestimate or underestimate actual breastfeeding rates (AIHW 2011).

List of symbols used in tables

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

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2.21 Health behaviours during pregnancy

The use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit substances and other health issues during pregnancy

Data sources

Data for this measure mainly come from the AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection. Data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and The Healthy for Life (HfL) program is also included.

National Perinatal Data Collection

Perinatal data included in this report come from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC).

Each state and territory has a perinatal collection based on birth notifications completed by midwives and other staff, using information obtained from mothers and from hospital and other records. Perinatal notification forms are completed in Australia for all births of 20 weeks or more gestation, or a birthweight of 400 grams or more.

The Perinatal National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) includes all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. State-level data are based on place of mother's usual residence rather than place where birth occurred. Since 2005, all jurisdictions collect information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the Perinatal NMDS. A data item on Indigenous status of the baby was added to the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set from 1 July 2012.

Data on Indigenous status are not reported for Tasmania prior to 2005 as the not stated category for Indigenous status was included with the non-Indigenous category. Data for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory are not deemed of sufficient stability to support trends analysis (AIHW: Leeds KL et al. 2007).

Data on mothers for whom Indigenous status was 'not stated' have been excluded from analysis.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including

family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

Healthy for Life

The Healthy for Life (HfL) program is an ongoing program funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). The program aims to improve the capacity and performance of primary health-care services to deliver high-quality maternal, children's and chronic disease care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This is carried out through population health approaches using best-practice and quality improvement principles.

Services participating in the HfL program are required to submit de-identified, aggregate service data for 11 essential indicators. These indicators cover maternal health, child health and chronic disease care on a regular basis (6 and 12 months), as well as information about the characteristics of their service and organisational infrastructure.

The Commonwealth and the AIHW are working with the States and Territories to develop a national Key Performance Indicator (KPI) framework for Indigenous primary health care services. The new National KPIs will replace the *Healthy for Life* program Essential Indicators and cover maternal and child health and chronic disease management. The AIHW is leading the development and refinement of the indicators, data standards and analyses and reporting back to services. The national KPI data collection will be implemented in three stages, with rollout in 2012 and 2013.

Data analyses

Proportions have been age-standardised using the direct age standardisation method to account for differences in the age structure of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous female populations who give birth.

Smoking during pregnancy

Information about smoking during pregnancy for is available for Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers from the National Perinatal Data Collection. Additional data is available from the 2008 NATSISS, which collected data on selected health issues from Indigenous mothers with children aged 0–3 years.

- In 2009, 52% of Indigenous mothers and 13.2% of non-Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy. After adjusting for the different age structures of the two populations, Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy at 3.7 times the rate of non-Indigenous mothers (Table 2.21.1).
- The 2008 NATSISS found that 42% of the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0 to 3 years smoked or chewed tobacco during pregnancy. Approximately 18% used more or about the same amount of tobacco during pregnancy and 24% used less (Table 2.21.2).

Table 2.21.1: Tobacco smoking status of mothers during pregnancy, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2009[a][b]

Smoking status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[c][d]	Tas	ACT	NT[d][e]	Total
					Number				
Indigenous									
Smoked	1,517	308	1,756	897	352	147	42	576	5,595
Did not smoke	1,467	396	1,553	858	254	136	40	491	5,195
Not stated	8	64	23	4	18	0	0	371	488
Total	**2,992**	**768**	**3,332**	**1,759**	**624**	**283**	**82**	**1,438**	**11,278**
Non-Indigenous									
Smoked	10,169	7,679	9,717	3,571	3,478	1,392	475	311	36,792
Did not smoke	83,153	59,399	48,006	25,480	15,142	4,534	4,263	1,692	241,669
Not stated	44	1,723	226	4	309	36	52	391	2,785
Total	**93,366**	**68,801**	**57,949**	**29,055**	**18,929**	**5,962**	**4,790**	**2,394**	**281,246**
					Crude proportion				
Indigenous									
Smoked	50.8	43.8	53.1	51.1	58.1	51.9	51.2	54.0	51.9
Did not smoke	49.2	56.3	46.9	48.9	41.9	48.1	48.8	46.0	48.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Non-Indigenous									
Smoked	10.9	11.4	16.8	12.3	18.7	23.5	10.0	15.5	13.2
Did not smoke	89.1	88.6	83.2	87.7	81.3	76.5	90.0	84.5	86.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
					Age standardised proportion[f]				
Indigenous									
Smoked	46.6	38.6	52.4	52.7	56.5	47.7	40.4	54.5	50.0
Did not smoke	53.4	61.4	47.6	47.3	43.5	52.3	59.6	45.5	50.0
Non-Indigenous									
Smoked	11.4	12.5	16.2	12.2	18.5	21.4	11.7	15.3	13.5
Did not smoke	88.6	87.5	83.8	87.8	81.5	78.6	88.3	84.7	86.5
					Ratio[g]				
Smoked	4.1	3.1	3.2	4.3	3.0	2.2	3.4	3.6	3.7
Did not smoke	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6
					Rate difference				
Smoked	35.2	26.2	36.2	40.5	38.0	26.3	28.7	39.2	36.5
Did not smoke	–35.2	–26.2	–36.2	–40.5	–38.0	–26.3	–28.7	–39.2	–36.5

(continued)

Table 2.21.1 (continued): Tobacco smoking status of mothers during pregnancy, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2009[(a)(b)]

(a) Excludes births where the mother's Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) Data are by place of usual residence of the mother. Table excludes non-residents, external territories and not stated state/territory of residence.

(c) For women who gave birth in SA, 'Smoked' includes women who quit before the first antenatal visit.

(d) For women who gave birth in SA and the NT, smoking status was recorded at the first antenatal visit.

(e) The proportion of Indigenous women smoked during pregnancy in NT is underestimated and will be increased when smoking status is assigned for the 'not stated' group. Caution should be used when interpreting these rates.

(f) Data are directly age-standardised using the Australian female population who gave birth in 2009.

(g) Rate ratio is the age standardised rate for Indigenous mothers divided by the age standardised rate for non-Indigenous mothers.

Notes

1. Provisional data were provided by Victoria.
2. Because of differences in definitions and methods used for data collection, care must be taken when comparing across jurisdictions. Mother's tobacco smoking status during pregnancy is self-reported.
3. Percentages calculated after excluding records with missing or null values.

Source: AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Table 2.21.2: Smoking during pregnancy, Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by remoteness, 2008

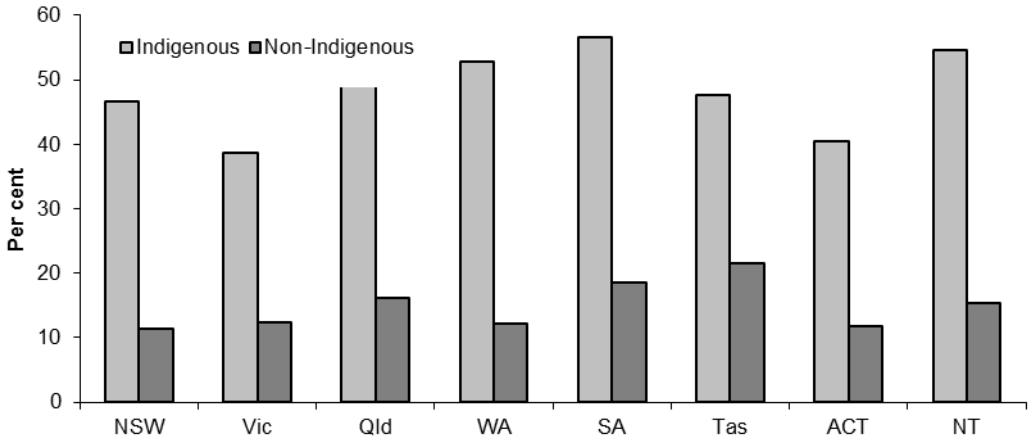
	No.	Per cent
Did not smoke/ chew tobacco during pregnancy	**24,781**	**57.9**
Did smoke/chew tobacco during pregnancy:	**17,990**	**42.1**
Used more or about the same during pregnancy	7,726	18.1
Used less during pregnancy	10,264	24.0
Total[(a)]	**42,771**	**100.0**

(a) Excludes not stated/not collected.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Smoking during pregnancy by state/territory

- In 2009, South Australia had the highest proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers who smoked during pregnancy (58% and 19% respectively). The largest rate ratio occurred in Western Australia, where Indigenous mothers smoked at 4.3 times the rate for non-Indigenous mothers (Table 2.21.1 and Figure 2.21.1).
- The 2008 NATSISS found the highest proportion of the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0 to 3 years who smoked or chewed tobacco during pregnancy was in South Australia, where 52% of mothers of Indigenous children aged 0 to 3 years smoked or chewed tobacco during pregnancy. The lowest proportion, which was 30%, was in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.21.3).



Source: AIHW analysis of National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Figure 2.21.1: Proportion of mothers who smoked during pregnancy, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2009

Table 2.21.3: Smoking during pregnancy, Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by state/territory 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Aust	
Selected health issue	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Did not smoke/ chew tobacco during pregnancy	7,313	54.2	1,293	52.5	8,961	66.8	3,125	58.6	1,096	48.5	743	48.0	223	70.4	2,026	51.6	24,781	57.9
Did smoke/chew tobacco during pregnancy	6,189	45.8	1,172	47.5	4,459	33.2	2,212	41.4	1,162	51.5	805	52.0	94	29.6	1,898	48.4	17,990	42.1
Total[(a)]	**13,502**	**100.0**	**2,464**	**100.0**	**13,420**	**100.0**	**5,337**	**100.0**	**2,258**	**100.0**	**1,548**	**100.0**	**318**	**100.0**	**3,924**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**

(a) Excludes not stated/not collected.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Smoking during pregnancy by remoteness

- In 2009, the proportion of Indigenous mothers who smoked during pregnancy increased with the increasing of remoteness, from 46.4% in major cities to 57.2% in very remote areas. For non-Indigenous mothers, the highest proportion (20%) occurred in outer regional areas. The highest rate ratio was in major cities, where Indigenous mothers were 3.7 times as likely as non-Indigenous mothers to smoke during pregnancy, followed by very remote areas where the rate ratio was 3.5. In inner regional, outer regional and remote areas Indigenous mothers were around three times as likely to smoke during pregnancy as non-Indigenous mothers (Table 2.21.4).
- The 2008 NATSISS found that 47% of mothers of Indigenous children aged 0 to 3 years in remote areas, and 41% in non-remote areas smoked or chewed tobacco during pregnancy (Table 2.21.5).

Smoking during pregnancy by maternal characteristics

- In 2009, a higher proportion of Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy than non-Indigenous mothers across all age groups. The rate of smoking by Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers decreased with increasing age, however this decline was more pronounced for non-Indigenous mothers. Indigenous mothers aged 20–24 years were most likely to smoke during pregnancy (55%), followed by those aged 25–29 years (53%). The lowest percentage was for those aged 40 years and over (46%). For non-Indigenous mothers, the highest proportion occurred for mothers less than 20 years (35%), the lowest proportion (9%) was for mothers in 30–34 and 35–39 age groups (Table 2.21.4).
- In general, the rate of smoking by Indigenous or non-Indigenous mothers decreased with increasing of number of antenatal sessions attended. More than two thirds of Indigenous mothers who only attended one antenatal session smoked during pregnancy; the proportion for mothers having attended at least five sessions was 50.5%. For non-Indigenous mothers, 52% who only attended one antenatal session smoked during pregnancy and 16% who attended at least five sessions smoked during pregnancy (Table 2.21.4).

Table 2.21.4: Smoking during pregnancy by Indigenous status and maternal characteristics, 2009[a]

	Indigenous crude proportion (%)		Non-Indigenous crude proportion (%)		Indigenous age std. proportion (%)[b]				Non-Indigenous age std. proportion (%)[b]				Indigenous/non-Indigenous smoked	
	Smoked	Did not smoke	Smoked	Did not smoke	Smoked	Did not smoke	Rate ratio[c]	Rate difference	Smoked	Did not smoke	Rate ratio[d]	Rate difference	Rate ratio[e]	Rate difference
Remoteness														
Major cities	46.4	53.6	10.8	89.2	43.5	56.5	0.8	–13.0	11.6	88.4	0.1	–76.8	3.7	31.9
Inner regional	51.7	48.3	19.0	81.0	49.9	50.1	1.0	–0.1	17.9	82.1	0.2	–64.2	2.8	32.0
Outer regional	54.0	46.0	19.9	80.1	52.6	47.4	1.1	5.2	18.8	81.2	0.2	–62.3	2.8	33.8
Remote	54.5	45.5	18.5	81.5	54.1	45.9	1.2	8.2	17.7	82.3	0.2	–64.7	3.1	36.4
Very remote	57.2	42.8	16.5	83.5	56.8	43.2	1.3	13.7	16.2	83.8	0.2	–67.6	3.5	40.7
Total[f]	**51.8**	**48.2**	**13.2**	**86.8**	**50.0**	**50.0**	**1.0**	**0.0**	**13.5**	**86.5**	**0.2**	**–73.1**	**3.7**	**36.5**
Age of mother														
<20	51.3	48.7	34.8	65.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
20–24	55.0	45.0	25.3	74.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
25–29	52.9	47.1	13.4	86.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
30–34	46.5	53.5	8.7	91.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
35–39	48.4	51.6	8.7	91.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
40+	45.7	54.3	10.0	90.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total[g]	**51.8**	**48.2**	**13.2**	**86.8**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**
Attended at least one antenatal session[h][i]	53.6	46.4	17.2	82.8	53.3	46.7	1.1	6.7	17.6	82.4	0.2	–64.8	3.0	35.7
Attended no antenatal sessions[h][i]	61.3	38.7	50.4	49.6	61.2	38.8	1.6	22.5	51.0	49.0	1.0	2.1	1.2	10.2

(continued)

Table 2.21.4 (continued): Smoking during pregnancy by Indigenous status and maternal characteristics, 2009[a]

	Indigenous crude proportion (%)		Non-Indigenous crude proportion (%)		Indigenous age std. proportion (%)[b]				Non-Indigenous age std. proportion (%)[b]				Indigenous/non-Indigenous smoked	
	Smoked	Did not smoke	Smoked	Did not smoke	Smoked	Did not smoke	Rate ratio[c]	Rate difference	Smoked	Did not smoke	Rate ratio[d]	Rate difference	Rate ratio[e]	Rate difference
Number of sessions attended[h][i]														
0	61.3	38.7	50.4	49.6	61.2	38.8	1.6	22.5	51.0	49.0	1.0	2.1	1.2	10.2
1	67.6	32.4	51.8	48.2	70.2	29.8	2.4	40.5	50.7	49.3	1.0	1.3	1.4	19.6
2–4	66.1	33.9	36.5	63.5	68.0	32.0	2.1	36.1	34.4	65.6	0.5	–31.2	2.0	33.7
5+	50.5	49.5	16.2	83.8	49.7	50.3	1.0	–0.6	16.7	83.3	0.2	–66.6	3.0	33.0
Not stated	67.9	32.1	17.9	82.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit[j][k]														
First trimester (<14 weeks)	47.5	52.5	10.9	89.1	44.1	55.9	0.8	–11.9	11.7	88.3	0.1	–76.6	3.8	32.3
Second trimester (14 to < 20 weeks)	54.3	45.7	16.4	83.6	51.0	49.0	1.0	2.1	16.1	83.9	0.2	–67.7	3.2	34.9
Third trimester (20 or more weeks)	60.3	39.7	23.7	76.3	63.5	36.5	1.7	26.9	22.4	77.6	0.3	–55.2	2.8	41.1
Gestation not stated	55.0	45.0	17.6	82.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(continued)

Table 2.21.4 (continued): Smoking during pregnancy by Indigenous status and maternal characteristics, 2009 [(a)]

(a) Women who gave birth in the period, whether resulting in a live or stillbirth, if the birthweight is at least 400 grams or the gestational age is 20 weeks or more.
(b) Data are directly age-standardised using the Australian female population who gave birth in 2009.
(c) Rate ratio: proportion for Indigenous smoked divided by proportion for Indigenous did not smoke.
(d) Rate ratio: proportion for non-Indigenous smoked divided by proportion for non-Indigenous did not smoke.
(e) Rate ratio: proportion for Indigenous divided by proportion for non-Indigenous.
(f) Total includes non-resident mothers.
(g) Include mothers for whom maternal age was not stated.
(h) Data for Qld, SA and NT only. Women who gave birth in Queensland, SA or the NT but reside in another jurisdiction are not reported due to small numbers. Data not collected in NSW. These data are not generalisable to Australia.
(i) Number of antenatal visits is not part of the Perinatal NMDS. The current question is not consistent across jurisdictions, therefore, caution should be used when interpreting these numbers.
(j) Data for NSW, Qld, SA and NT only. Women who gave birth in NSW, Qld, SA or the NT but reside in another jurisdiction are not reported due to small numbers. These data are not generalisable to Australia.
(k) Gestation at first antenatal visit is not part of the Perinatal NMDS. The current question is not consistent across jurisdictions, therefore, caution should be used when interpreting these numbers.

Notes

1. Because of differences in definitions and methods used for data collection, care must be taken when comparing across jurisdictions. Mother's tobacco smoking status during pregnancy is self-reported.
2. Percentages calculated after excluding records with missing or null values.

Source: AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Table 2.21.5: Smoking during pregnancy, Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by remoteness, 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		*Total non-remote*		Remote		Very remote		*Total remote*		Australia	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Did not smoke/ chew tobacco during pregnancy	8,891	62.8	5,522	53.4	5,736	60.1	20,148	59.2	2,061	55.8	2,572	51.1	4,633	53.1	24,781	57.9
Did smoke/chew tobacco during pregnancy:	5,266	37.2	4,826	46.6	3,806	39.9	13,899	40.8	1,630	44.2	2,462	48.9	4,092	46.9	17,990	42.1
Used more or about the same during pregnancy	2,526	17.8	1,551	15.0	1,720*	18.0	5,797	17.0	707*	19.2*	1,223	24.3	1,930	22.1	7,726	18.1
Used less during pregnancy	2,740	19.4	3,275	31.6	2,087	21.9	8,102	23.8	923*	25.0	1,239	24.6	2,162	24.8	10,264	24.0
Total[(a)]	**14,157**	**100.0**	**10,348**	**100.0**	**9,542**	**100.0**	**34,047**	**100.0**	**3,691**	**100.0**	**5,034**	**100.0**	**8,724**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Excludes not stated/not collected.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Smoking during pregnancy by average number of cigarettes smoked per day

- In 2009, of Indigenous mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy in the six jurisdictions combined, over one third (36.5%) smoked an average of more than 10 cigarettes per day (Table 2.21.6).

Table 2.21.6: Indigenous mothers who smoked during pregnancy, by average number of cigarettes per day during second half of pregnancy, by state/territory, 2009[(a)]

Average number of cigarettes smoked per day	NSW	Vic	Qld[(b)]	SA[(c)]	Tas[(d)]	ACT	Total
				Number			
None	78	n.p.	n.p.	38	0	0	144
10 or less	677	94	519	189	87	22	1,588
More than 10	621	n.p.	n.p.	92	60	6	994
Total	**1,376**	**94**	**519**	**319**	**147**	**28**	**2,726**
				Proportion			
None	5.7	n.p.	n.p.	11.9	0.0	0.0	5.3
10 or less	49.2	100.0	100.0	59.2	59.2	78.6	58.3
More than 10	45.1	n.p.	n.p.	28.8	40.8	21.4	36.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) Data are by place of usual residence of the mother. Women who gave birth in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, SA, Tasmania, or ACT but reside in another jurisdiction are not reported for this reason. Table excludes non-residents, external territories and not stated state/territory of residence.

(b) For Queensland, Average number of cigarettes smoked per day data were collected from 1 July 2009, therefore, these figures include the July-December period for Queensland only.

(c) For SA, 'Smoked' includes women who quit before the first antenatal visit.

(d) For Tas, smoking data includes all of pregnancy, not just the 2nd half of pregnancy.

Notes

1. Provisional data were provided by Victoria.
2. Because of differences in definitions and methods used for data collection, care must be taken when comparing across jurisdictions. Mother's tobacco smoking status during pregnancy is self-reported.
3. n.p. Data not published to maintain confidentiality of small number.

Source: AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Smoking during pregnancy by baby outcomes

- In 2009, 15% of live-born babies born to Indigenous mothers who smoked during pregnancy were of low birthweight compared with 8% of babies born to Indigenous mothers who did not smoke during pregnancy. For non-Indigenous babies, 10% born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy were of low birthweight compared with 4.5% born to mothers who did not smoke during pregnancy (Table 2.21.7).
- The proportions of babies whose Apgar score was less than 7 at 5 minutes after birth were the same among babies born to Indigenous mothers who smoked during pregnancy and babies born to Indigenous mothers who did not smoke during pregnancy (2.7%) (Table 2.21.7).
- The perinatal death rate for babies born to Indigenous mothers who smoked during pregnancy was higher than the rate for babies born to Indigenous mothers who did not smoke during pregnancy (16 per 1,000 births compared with 14 per 1,000 births).
- During the period 2006–08, 33% of all low birthweight babies born to Indigenous mothers were attributable to smoking during pregnancy, compared with 13% for other Australian mothers. If the smoking rate during pregnancy among Indigenous mothers was the same as it was for other Australian mothers, the proportion of babies with low birthweight among the Indigenous population could be reduced by 24% (Table 2.21.8).
- After adjusting for age differences and all other factors, including pre-term delivery, socioeconomic status, remoteness areas and baby gender, 26% of all low birthweight babies born to Indigenous mothers were attributable to smoking during pregnancy, compared with 9% for other Australian mothers. If the smoking rate during pregnancy among Indigenous mothers was the same as it was for other Australian mothers, after accounting for other factors, the proportion of babies with low birthweight among the Indigenous population could be reduced by 19% (Table 2.21.9).

Table 2.21.7: Smoking during pregnancy by Indigenous status and baby outcomes, 2009

	Indigenous no.		Indigenous crude proportion		Indigenous age std. proportion[a]				Non-Indigenous no.		Non-Indigenous age std. proportion[a]				Indigenous/non-Indigenous smoked	
	Smoked	Did not smoke	Smoked	Did not smoke	Smoked	Did not smoke	Rate ratio[b]	Rate difference	Smoked	Did not smoke	Smoked	Did not smoke	Rate ratio[c]	Rate difference	Rate ratio[d]	Rate difference
Pre-term birth	755	527	13.5	10.1	14.3	10.7	1.3	3.6	3,711	16,191	10.2	6.7	1.5	3.5	1.4	4.1
Low birthweight[e]	779	393	14.1	7.6	14.9	7.8	1.9	7.0	3,457	10,725	9.7	4.5	2.2	5.2	1.5	5.2
Apgar score[e]																
0–3	45	26	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.5	1.6	0.3	135	665	0.4	0.3	1.4	0.1	2.1	0.4
4–6	79	100	1.4	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.0	0.0	521	2,644	1.4	1.1	1.3	0.3	1.1	0.2
7+	5,384	5,009	97.3	97.3	97.0	97.6	1.0	–0.6	35,713	236,921	97.9	98.5	1.0	–0.5	1.0	–0.9
Perinatal deaths per 1,000 births[f]	86	68	16.4	14.2	17.4	15.5	1.1	1.9	324	1,486	11.2	8.3	1.4	2.9	1.6	6.2

(a) Data are directly age-standardised using the Australian female population who gave birth in 2009.

(b) Rate ratio: proportion for Indigenous smoked divided by proportion for Indigenous did not smoke.

(c) Rate ratio: proportion for non-Indigenous smoked divided by proportion for non-Indigenous did not smoke.

(d) Rate ratio: proportion for Indigenous divided by proportion for non-Indigenous.

(e) Data relate to live births only.

(f) 2009 Victorian data not received at the time of publication.

Note: Because of differences in definitions and methods used for data collection, care must be taken when comparing across jurisdictions. Mother's tobacco smoking status during pregnancy is self-reported.

Source: AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Table 2.21.8: Unadjusted burden and gap analysis of low birthweight among live born babies by selected maternal characteristics and Indigenous status, 2006–2008

	Unadjusted RR (95% CI)		Unadjusted PAF[(a)]		Unadjusted PIF[(b)]
	Indigenous	Other[(c)]	Indigenous	Other[(c)]	
Age of mother					
<20	1.01(0.92,1.10)	1.29(1.24,1.34)*			
20–24	0.96(0.88,1.05)	1.10(1.07,1.14)*			
25–29	REF	REF	1.2	5.7	n.a
30–34	1.01(0.91,1.12)	0.99(0.96,1.01)			
35+	1.22(1.08,1.36)*	1.16(1.13,1.19)*			
Smoking during pregnancy[(d)]					
Yes	1.94(1.81,2.08)*	1.98(1.93,2.02)*	33.2	12.8	23.8
No	REF	REF			
Pre-term delivery					
Yes	13.56(12.70,14.48)*	29.99(29.42,30.58)*	61.5	68.3	25.5
No	REF	REF			
Parity					
Primiparas	0.99(0.93,1.06)	1.38(1.36,1.41)*	–0.2	13.8	0.1
Multiparas	REF	REF			
Multiple births					
Singletons	REF	REF	9.6	25.1	–2.7
Multiple births	5.21(4.73,5.73)*	11.47(11.24,11.69)*			
Socioeconomic status[(e)]					
Quintile 1 (least disadvantaged)	REF	REF			
Quintile 2	0.92(0.75,1.14)	1.06(1.03,1.09)*			
Quintile 3	1.02(0.83,1.24)	1.11(1.08,1.15)*	2.9	10.7	n.a
Quintile 4	1.01(0.83,1.22)	1.19(1.15,1.22)*			
Quintile 5 (most disadvantaged)	1.07(0.89,1.28)	1.23(1.20,1.27)*			
Remoteness					
Major cities and inner/outer regions	REF	REF	3.8	–0.2	n.a
Remote and very remote regions	1.14(1.07,1.22)*	0.88(0.82,0.94)*			

(continued)

Table 2.21.8 (continued): Unadjusted burden and gap analysis of low birthweight among live born babies by selected maternal characteristics and Indigenous status, 2006–2008

	Unadjusted RR (95% CI)		Unadjusted PAF[(a)]		Unadjusted PIF[(b)]
	Indigenous	Other[(c)]	Indigenous	Other[(c)]	
State[(f)]					
NSW	REF	REF			
Vic	1.08(0.94,1.25)	1.09(1.06,1.11)*			
Qld	0.89(0.82,0.97)*	1.07(1.04,1.09)*			
WA	1.27(1.16,1.39)*	1.00(0.97,1.03)	3.7	3.8	n.a
SA	1.17(1.02,1.34)*	1.04(1.00,1.08)*			
Tas	0.78(0.61,1.00)*	1.14(1.07,1.21)*			
ACT	1.03(0.70,1.51)	0.97(0.90,1.04)			
NT	1.15(1.04,1.28)*	0.99(0.90,1.09)			
Baby Gender					
Male	REF	REF	7.0	8.0	n.a
Female	1.15(1.08,1.23)*	1.18(1.16,1.20)*			

* significant at $p < 0.05$ level.

(a) Population Attributable Fraction (PAF) = Burden (%).

(b) Potential Impact Fraction (PIF) = Gap (%).

(c) Include non-Indigenous mothers and mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

(d) Smoking during pregnancy data were not available in Victoria.

(e) Based on SEIFA Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage 2006, population-based, using Australian cut-offs.

(f) Data are by place of usual residence of the mother. Table excludes Australian non-residents, residents of external territories and not stated State/Territory of residence.

Source: NPESU analysis of National Perinatal Data Collection.

Table 2.21.9: Adjusted burden and gap analysis of low birthweight among live born babies by selected maternal characteristics and Indigenous status, 2006–2008

	Adjusted[(a)] RR (95% CI)		Adjusted PAF[(a)(b)]		Adjusted PIF[(a)(c)]
	Indigenous	Other[(d)]	Indigenous	Other[(d)]	
Age of mother					
<20	0.98(0.89,1.08)	1.06(1.02,1.11)*			
20–24	0.98(0.89,1.07)	1.05(1.02,1.08)*			
25–29	REF	REF	–0.8	2.3	n.a
30–34	0.97(0.87,1.07)	0.99(0.97,1.02)			
35+	1.09(0.97,1.23)	1.07(1.05,1.10)*			
Smoking during pregnancy[(e)]					
Yes	1.66(1.54,1.78)*	1.67(1.63,1.71)*	25.9	9.1	18.5
No	REF	REF			
Pre-term delivery					
Yes	12.17(11.36,13.03)*	24.01(23.51,24.51)*	58.7	63.1	24.3
No	REF	REF			
Parity					
Primiparas	1.15(1.06,1.24)*	1.26(1.23,1.28)*	4.4	9.9	–1.6
Multiparas	REF	REF			
Multiple births					
Singletons	REF	REF	1.5	3.0	–0.4
Multiple births	1.62(1.46,1.79)*	1.97(1.93,2.01)*			
Socioeconomic status[(f)]					
Quintile 1 (least disadvantaged)	REF	REF			
Quintile 2	1.03(0.83,1.27)	1.03(1.00,1.06)*			
Quintile 3	1.05(0.86,1.29)	1.07(1.04,1.11)*	5.9	6.6	n.a
Quintile 4	1.07(0.88,1.30)	1.11(1.08,1.15)*			
Quintile 5 (most disadvantaged)	1.07(0.89,1.30)	1.13(1.10,1.17)*			
Remoteness					
Major cities and inner/outer regions	REF	REF	2.2	0.2	n.a
Remote and very remote regions	1.08(0.99,1.18)	1.09(1.02,1.17)*			

(continued)

Table 2.21.9 (continued): Adjusted burden and gap analysis of low birthweight among live born babies by selected maternal characteristics and Indigenous status, 2006–2008

	Adjusted[(a)] RR (95% CI)		Adjusted PAF[(a)(b)]		Adjusted PIF[(a)(c)]
	Indigenous	Other[(d)]	Indigenous	Other[(d)]	
State[(g)]					
NSW	REF	REF			
Vic	1.06(0.87,1.30)	0.87(0.81,0.93)*			
Qld	0.91(0.83,0.99)*	0.93(0.91,0.96)*			
WA	1.10(1.00,1.22)	0.94(0.91,0.97)*	–1.4	–6.2	n.a
SA	0.99(0.86,1.14)	0.93(0.90,0.97)*			
Tas	0.88(0.69,1.12)	0.94(0.88,1.00)*			
ACT	0.92(0.62,1.37)	1.02(0.94,1.10)			
NT	0.99(0.87,1.12)	0.95(0.86,1.06)			
Baby Gender					
Male	REF	REF	8.5	10.4	n.a
Female	1.19(1.12,1.27)*	1.24(1.22,1.26)*			

* significant at $p < 0.05$ level.

(a) Adjusted for age and all other factors in table.

(b) Population Attributable Fraction (PAF) = Burden (%).

(c) Potential Impact Fraction (PIF) = Gap (%).

(d) Include non-Indigenous mothers and mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

(e) Smoking during pregnancy data were not available in Victoria.

(f) Based on SEIFA Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage 2006, population-based, using Australian cut-offs.

(g) Data are by place of usual residence of the mother. Table excludes Australian non-residents, residents of external territories and not stated State/Territory of residence.

Source: NPESU analysis of National Perinatal Data Collection.

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy

- According to the NATSISS, in 2008, 3.3% of mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years drank more or the same amount of alcohol during pregnancy, 16% drank less and 80% did not drink at all during their pregnancy (Table 2.21.10).
- The proportion of mothers who did not drink alcohol during pregnancy was greatest in the Northern Territory (85%), and lowest in Victoria and Queensland (77%). The proportion of mothers who drank more or the same amount of alcohol during pregnancy was greatest in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory combined (6%) and lowest in South Australia and Queensland (2%) (Table 2.21.10).

Table 2.21.10: Alcohol consumption by child's mother during pregnancy, Indigenous children aged 0–3 years, by state/territory, 2008

Alcohol consumption	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas/ ACT	NT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Drank more or the same amount of alcohol during pregnancy	3.4	5.4	2.3	5.0	1.8	6.0	3.0	3.3
Drank less alcohol during pregnancy	14.1	17.6	20.5	15.7	15.2	13.1	11.9	16.3
Did not drink alcohol during pregnancy	82.6	77.0	77.3	79.3	83.1	80.9	85.1	80.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**13,261**	**2,474**	**13,334**	**5,444**	**2,240**	**1,856**	**4,144**	**42,753**

Note: Excludes not stated & not collected.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Substance use during pregnancy

- According to NATSISS 2008, 5% of the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years used illicit drugs or substances during pregnancy (Tables 2.21.11, 2.21.12).
- The rate of use of illicit drugs or substances during pregnancy by the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years was highest in Victoria (9.3%), followed by Western Australia (8.5%). The lowest rate was in New South Wales and Queensland (3.9%) (Table 2.21.11).
- In 2008, the rate use of illicit drugs or substances during pregnancy by the mothers of Indigenous children aged 0–3 years was similar in remote (4.9%) and non-remote areas (5%) (Table 2.21.12).

Table 2.21.11: Illicit drug or substance use by child's mother during pregnancy, Indigenous children aged 0–3 years, by state/territory, 2008

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas/ACT	NT	Aust.
				Per cent				
Used illicit drugs/ substances during pregnancy	3.9	9.3	3.9	8.5	6.1	4.2	4.2	5.0
Did not use illicit drugs/ substances during pregnancy	96.1	90.7	96.1	91.5	93.9	95.8	95.8	95.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**16,132**	**3,336**	**16,523**	**6,767**	**2,730**	**2,444**	**5,948**	**53,880**

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.21.12: Illicit drug or substance use, by child's mother during pregnancy, by remoteness, Indigenous children aged 0–3 years, 2008

	Remote		Non-Remote		Australia	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Used illicit substances during pregnancy	429	4.9	1,693	5.0	2,122	5.0
Did not use illicit substances during pregnancy	8,295	95.1	32,354	95.0	40,649	95.0
Total	**8,724**	**100.0**	**34,047**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**
Not collected	3,256	27.2	7,853	18.7	11,109	20.6

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Health issues of Indigenous mothers during pregnancy

Information about selected health issues of Indigenous mothers during pregnancy is available from the 2008 NATSISS.

- In 2008, 9% of Indigenous mothers in Australia had diabetes or sugar problem during pregnancy; 14% had high blood pressure and 44% took medications or supplements during pregnancy (Table 2.21.13)
- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous mothers having high blood pressure and took medication or supplements during pregnancy was the highest in Western Australia (20% and 55% respectively) (Table 2.21.13).
- In 2008, about 55% of all Indigenous mothers did not seek advice/information about pregnancy or child birth. The proportion was the highest in the Northern Territory (67%) (Table 2.21.13).
- Indigenous mothers in non-remote areas were less likely to have high blood pressure during pregnancy (14%) in comparison to those in remote areas (16%) (Table 2.21.15). Indigenous mothers in non-remote areas were also less likely to take medications or supplements during pregnancy (41%) in comparison with Indigenous mothers who lived in remote area (54%) (Table 2.21.14).
- Indigenous mothers who sought advice during pregnancy were less likely to smoke during pregnancy than those who did not seek advice (64% compared with 53%), and were more likely to take folate than those who did not (Table 2.21.15).

Table 2.21.13: Selected health issues of Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by state/territory, 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Aust	
Selected health issue	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Whether child's mother had diabetes or sugar problems during pregnancy																		
Had diabetes or sugar problems	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8.5
Did not have diabetes or sugar problems	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	91.5
Total[(a)]	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**100.0**
Whether child's mother had high blood pressure during pregnancy																		
Did have high blood pressure	2,702	17.4	486	14.8	1,337	8.4	1,268	20.1	425	16.0	302	16.7	88*	21*	688	13.5	7,295	14.3
Did not have high blood pressure	12,832	82.6	2,792	85.2	14,640	91.6	5,044	79.9	2,234	84.0	1,510	83.3	332	79.0	4,422	86.5	43,806	85.7
Total[(a)]	**15,534**	**100.0**	**3,278**	**100.0**	**15,977**	**100.0**	**6,312**	**100.0**	**2,658**	**100.0**	**1,811**	**100.0**	**420**	**100.0**	**5,111**	**100.0**	**51,102**	**100.0**
Whether child's mother took folate prior to or during pregnancy																		
Took folate prior to and/or during pregnancy	9,103	59.5	1,981	61.4	7,719	48.7	2,930	47.0	1,342	50.6	1,238	68.3	245	58.3	1,735	34.1	26,293	52.0
Did not take folate	6,197	40.5	1,245	38.6	8,140	51.3	3,300	53.0	1,310	49.4	574	31.7	176*	41.7*	3,357	65.9	24,298	48.0
Total[(a)]	**15,300**	**100.0**	**3,226**	**100.0**	**15,859**	**100.0**	**6,230**	**100.0**	**2,652**	**100.0**	**1,811**	**100.0**	**420**	**100.0**	**5,092**	**100.0**	**50,591**	**100.0**
Whether child's mother took other medications or supplements during pregnancy																		
Took medications or supplements during pregnancy	5,851	38.2	1,201	36.7	7,230	45.2	3,459	54.7	1,267	47.8	634	35.0	141*	35.4*	2,597	50.6	22,381	44.0
Did not take medications or supplements during pregnancy	9,449	61.8	2,072	63.3	8,767	54.8	2,864	45.3	1,386	52.2	1,178	65.0	258	64.6	2,536	49.4	28,509	56.0
Total[(a)]	**15,300**	**100.0**	**3,274**	**100.0**	**15,997**	**100.0**	**6,324**	**100.0**	**2,652**	**100.0**	**1,811**	**100.0**	**399**	**100.0**	**5,133**	**100.0**	**50,890**	**100.0**

(continued)

Table 2.21.13 (continued): Selected health issues of Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by state/territory, 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Aust	
Selected health issue	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Whether child's mother sought advice or information about pregnancy or child birth																		
Sought advice/ information about pregnancy or child birth	5,590	41.4	1,501	60.9	6,419	47.8	2,685	50.3	943	41.8	522	33.7	122*	38.3*	1,348	34.3	19,129	44.7
Did not seek advice/ information about pregnancy or child birth	7,912	58.6	964	39.1	7,000	52.2	2,652	49.7	1,315	58.2	1,026	66.3	196	61.7	2,577	65.7	23,642	55.3
Total[(a)]	**13,502**	**100.0**	**2,464**	**100.0**	**13,420**	**100.0**	**5,337**	**100.0**	**2,258**	**100.0**	**1,548**	**100.0**	**318**	**100.0**	**3,924**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**
Where child's mother sought advice or information about pregnancy or child birth																		
Discussion/ advice from family or friends	2,516	18.6	923	37.5	3,701	27.6	1,234	23.1	431	19.1	254*	16.4	72*	22.8	774	19.7	9,905	23.2
Other	5,053	37.4	1,450	58.9	5,433	40.5	2,424	45.4	863	38.2	465	30.1	107*	33.5*	978	24.9	16,773	39.2
No advice sought	7,912	58.6	964	39.1	7,000	52.2	2,652	49.7	1,315	58.2	1,026	66.3	196	61.7	2,577	65.7	23,642	55.3
Total[(a)(b)]	**13,502**	**100.0**	**2,464**	**100.0**	**13,420**	**100.0**	**5,337**	**100.0**	**2,258**	**100.0**	**1,548**	**100.0**	**318**	**100.0**	**3,924**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Excludes not stated/not collected.

(b) Total will not add as respondents may have sought advice from family or friends as well as from other sources of advice.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.21.14: Selected health issues of Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by remoteness, 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		*Total non-remote*		Remote		Very remote		*Total remote*		Australia	
Selected health issue	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Whether child's mother had diabetes or sugar problems during pregnancy																
Had diabetes or sugar problems	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,438	8.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	923	8.4	4,361	8.5
Did not have diabetes or sugar problems	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	37,082	91.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10,066	91.6	47,149	91.5
Total[(a)]	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**40,520**	**100.0**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**10,990**	**100.0**	**51,510**	**100.0**
Whether child's mother had high blood pressure during pregnancy																
Did have high blood pressure	1,956	11.7	2,177	17.5	1,459	13.1	5,593	13.9	735	17.3	968	14.7	1,702	15.7	7,295	14.3
Did not have high blood pressure	14,733	88.3	10,242	82.5	9,709	86.9	34,684	86.1	3,520	82.7	5,602	85.3	9,122	84.3	43,806	85.7
Total[(a)]	**16,690**	**100.0**	**12,419**	**100.0**	**11,168**	**100.0**	**40,277**	**100.0**	**4,254**	**100.0**	**6,570**	**100.0**	**10,824**	**100.0**	**51,102**	**100.0**
Whether child's mother took folate prior to or during pregnancy																
Took folate prior to and/or during pregnancy	9,525	57.7	7,367	59.5	5,181	47.1	22,074	55.3	2,093	50.6	2,126	32.4	4,219	39.4	26,293	52.0
Did not take folate	6,978	42.3	5,014	40.5	5,819	52.9	17,811	44.7	2,043	49.4	4,444	67.6	6,487	60.6	24,298	48.0
Total[(a)]	**16,504**	**100.0**	**12,382**	**100.0**	**10,999**	**100.0**	**39,885**	**100.0**	**4,135**	**100.0**	**6,571**	**100.0**	**10,706**	**100.0**	**50,591**	**100.0**
Whether child's mother took other medications or supplements during pregnancy																
Took medications or supplements during pregnancy	7,092	43.0	4,767	38.4	4,662	41.9	16,521	41.3	2,081	49.4	3,779	56.9	5,860	54.0	22,381	44.0
Did not take medications or supplements during pregnancy	9,401	57.0	7,651	61.6	6,460	58.1	23,512	58.7	2,135	50.6	2,862	43.1	4,997	46.0	28,509	56.0
Total[(a)]	**16,493**	**100.0**	**12,419**	**100.0**	**11,122**	**100.0**	**40,033**	**100.0**	**4,217**	**100.0**	**6,640**	**100.0**	**10,857**	**100.0**	**50,890**	**100.0**

(continued)

Table 2.21.14 (continued): Selected health issues of Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by remoteness, 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		*Total non-remote*		Remote		Very remote		*Total remote*		Australia	
Selected health issue	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Whether child's mother sought advice or information about pregnancy or child birth																
Sought advice/ information about pregnancy or child birth	6,650	47.0	4,709	45.5	4,349	45.6	15,707	46.1	1,335	36.2	2,088	41.5	3,423	39.2	19,129	44.7
Did not seek advice/ information about pregnancy or child birth	7,507	53.0	5,639	54.5	5,194	54.4	18,340	53.9	2,356	63.8	2,946	58.5	5,302	60.8	23,642	55.3
Total[(a)]	**14,157**	**100.0**	**10,348**	**100.0**	**9,542**	**100.0**	**34,047**	**100.0**	**3,691**	**100.0**	**5,034**	**100.0**	**8,724**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**
Where child's mother sought advice or information about pregnancy or child birth																
Discussion/ advice from family or friends	3,738	26.4	2,295	22.2	2,730	28.6	8,763	25.7	381*	10.3*	761	15.1	1,142	13.1	9,905	23.2
Other	5,849	41.3	4,071	39.3	3,926	41.1	13,845	40.7	1,209	32.7	1,719	34.2	2,928	33.6	16,773	39.2
No advice sought	7,507	53.0	5,639	54.5	5,194	54.4	18,340	53.9	2,356	63.8	2,946	58.5	5,302	60.8	23,642	55.3
Total[(a)(b)]	**14,157**	**100.0**	**10,348**	**100.0**	**9,542**	**100.0**	**34,047**	**100.0**	**3,691**	**100.0**	**5,034**	**100.0**	**8,724**	**100.0**	**42,771**	**100.0**

* Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 and data should be used with caution.

(a) Excludes not stated/not collected.

(b) Total will not add as respondents may have sought advice from family or friends as well as from other sources of advice.

Source: ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.21.15: Selected pregnancy behavioural risk factors of Indigenous mothers, children aged 0–3 years, by advice sought, 2008

	Sought advice		Did not seek advice	
	No.	%	No.	%
Took folate prior to or during pregnancy	12,095	63.2	10,564	44.7
Did not smoke or chew tobacco during pregnancy	12,225	63.9	12,556	53.1

Source: 2008 NATSISS (ABS 2010b).

Healthy for Life data

Data from the period July 2009 to June 2010 on the risk factor status of pregnant women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, gave birth to an Indigenous baby and attended an antenatal visit are presented below. Risk factor data was collected on smoking status, alcohol consumption and illicit drug use.

- Of mothers who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service and attended antenatal care in the first trimester, 55% reported smoking, 30% reported low/high-risk alcohol consumption and 15% reported using illicit drugs in 2009–10 (Table 2.21.16).

Risk factor status by age

- The proportion of women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, attended antenatal care in the first trimester and who reported smoking during pregnancy was similar across all age groups (Table 2.21.10). For those who attended antenatal care in the third trimester, the rate who reported smoking during pregnancy was lowest in the less than 20 years age group (53%) and highest in the 35 years and over age group (57%) (Table 2.21.17).
- The proportion of women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, attended antenatal care in the first trimester and who reported low/high-risk alcohol consumption was lowest in the less than 20 years age group (23%) and similar across the other age groups (31%). (Table 2.21.10). For those who attended antenatal care in the third trimester, the proportion who reported low/high-risk alcohol consumption was lowest in the less than 20 years age group (11%) and highest in the 35 years and over age group (29%) (Table 2.21.17).
- The rate of illicit drug use during pregnancy among women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, and attended antenatal care in the first trimester was highest for women aged 35 years and over (22%). The rates were around 15% for those aged less than 20 years and 20 to 34 years (Table 2.21.16). A similar pattern was observed for women who attended an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy (Table 2.21.17).

Table 2.21.16: Risk factors status of women[a] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[b] who attended an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy, by mother's age group, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

Risk factors	<20 years %	20–34 years %	35 years and over %	Total
Smoking				
Smoker[c]	59.7	53.9	57.9	55.3
Other[d]	40.3	46.1	42.1	44.7
Total number	**134**	**512**	**57**	**703**
Alcohol consumption				
Low/high risk alcohol consumption[e]	22.8*	31.2*	31.4	29.6
No alcohol consumption[f]	77.2	68.8	68.6	70.4
Total number	**123**	**474**	**51**	**648**
Illicit drug use status				
Used illicit drugs[g]	15.7*	14.7*	22.0	15.4
Other[h]	84.3	85.3	78.0	84.6
Total number	**108**	**408**	**41**	**557**

(continued)

Table 2.21.16 (continued): Risk factors status of women[(a)] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[(b)] who attended an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy, by mother's age group, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

* Represents results with statistically significant differences at the p<0.05 level between <20 years age group and other age groups percentages.

(a) Women who were regular clients of the HfL service.

(b) Women who gave birth to an Indigenous baby in the current reporting period.

(c) Smoker includes daily smokers, weekly smokers and irregular smokers (people who smoke tobacco less than weekly).

(d) Other includes ex-smokers and non-smokers.

(e) Low risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has less than 7 standard drinks, or on any one day, has no more than 2 standard drinks (spread over at least two hours). High-risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has more than 7 standard drinks, AND on any one day, more than 2 standard drinks.

(f) A person who does not drink at all during pregnancy.

(g) Used illicit drugs include daily, weekly and irregular users (a person who uses less than weekly).

(h) Other includes ex-users and non-users).

Notes

1. This table refers to data provided by a subset of 64 services that provided data by age group and sex.
2. Services used their own definition of regular client.
3. Women whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use status was not recorded were not included the corresponding parts of this table.
4. Numerator is the number of women by smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use before 13 weeks of pregnancy and Denominator is the total number of women who had an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug was recorded.

Source: AIHW, Healthy for Life data collection.

Table 2.21.17: Risk factors status of women[a] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[b] who attended an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy, by mother's age group, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

Risk factors	<20 years %	20–34 years %	35 years and over %	Total %
Smoking				
Smoker[c]	53.2*	54.6*	57.4	54.6
Other[d]	46.8	45.4	42.6	45.4
Total	**252**	**796**	**94**	**1,142**
Alcohol consumption				
Low/high risk alcohol consumption[e]	11.1*	16.9*	29.2	16.7
No alcohol consumption[f]	88.9	83.1	70.8	83.3
Total	**226**	**732**	**89**	**1,047**
Illicit drug use status				
Used illicit drugs [g]	10.7*	12.1*	16.7	12.2
Other[h]	89.3	87.9	83.3	87.8
Total	**214**	**679**	**78**	**971**

(continued)

Table 2.21.17 (continued): Risk factors status of women[(a)] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[(b)] who attended an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy, by mother's age group, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

* Represents results with statistically significant differences at the p<0.05 level between <20 years age group and other age groups percentages.

(a) Women who were regular clients of the HfL service.

(b) Women who gave birth to an Indigenous baby in the current reporting period.

(c) Smoker includes daily smokers, weekly smokers and irregular smokers (people who smoke tobacco less than weekly).

(d) Other includes ex-smokers and non-smokers.

(e) Low risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has less than 7 standard drinks, AND on any one day, has no more than 2 standard drinks (spread over at least two hours). High-risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has more than 7 standard drinks, OR on any one day, more than 2 standard drinks.

(f) A person who does not drink at all during pregnancy.

(g) Used illicit drugs include daily, weekly and irregular users (a person who uses less than weekly).

(h) Other includes ex-users and non-users (a person who does not use now and has not used in the last 12 months).

Notes

1. This table refers to data provided by a subset of 63 services that provided data by age group and sex.
2. Services used their own definition of regular client.
3. Women whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use status was not recorded were not included in the corresponding parts of this table.
4. Numerator is the number of women by smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use in the third trimester of pregnancy and Denominator is the total number of women who had an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug was recorded.

Source: AIHW, Healthy for Life data collection.

Risk factor status by state/territory

- In July 2009 to June 2010, the proportion of women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, attended antenatal care in the first trimester and reported smoking during pregnancy was similar across all jurisdictions (Table 2.21.18). For women who attended antenatal care in the third trimester, South Australia had the highest proportion who reported smoking during pregnancy (68%) (Table 2.21.19).
- The proportion of women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester and reported consuming alcohol at low/high levels of risk during pregnancy was not significantly different between jurisdictions (Table 2.21.18). For women who attended antenatal care in the third trimester, Victoria/Tasmania had the highest proportion who reported consuming alcohol at low/high levels of risk during pregnancy (21%), and the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion (12%) (Table 2.21.19).
- In July 2009 to June 2010, South Australia had the highest rate (48%) of reported illicit drug use during pregnancy by women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service and attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester; the lowest reported rate was in the Northern Territory (7%) (Table 2.21.18).

Table 2.21.18: Risk factors status of women[(a)] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[(b)] who attended an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy, by state/territory, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

Risk factors	NSW/ACT %	Vic/Tas %	Qld %	WA %	SA %	NT %	Total %
Smoking status							
Smoker[(c)]	48.5	56.5	58.3	50.0	69.1	62.4	56.0
Other[(d)]	51.5	43.5	41.7	50.0	30.9	37.6	44.0
Total Number	**165**	**62**	**127**	**148**	**55**	**170**	**727**
Alcohol consumption							
Low/high risk alcohol consumption[(e)]	22.0	35.0	20.2	43.9	46.2	20.1	28.6
No alcohol consumption[(f)]	78.0	65.0	79.8	56.1	53.8	79.9	71.4
Total Number	**132**	**60**	**124**	**148**	**39**	**169**	**672**
Illicit drug use status							
Used drugs[(g)]	17.9*	14.8	12.3	15.1	48.4	7.1*	14.8
Other[(h)]	82.1	85.2	87.7	84.9	51.6	92.9	85.2
Total Number	**117**	**61**	**57**	**146**	**31**	**169**	**581**

* Represents results with statistically significant differences at the p<0.05 level between NSW/ACT and VIC/TAS, QLD, WA, SA, NT percentages.

(a) Women who were regular clients of the HfL service.

(b) Women who gave birth to an Indigenous baby in the current reporting period.

(c) Smoker includes daily smokers, weekly smokers and irregular smokers (people who smoke tobacco less than weekly).

(d) Other includes ex-smokers and non-smokers.

(e) Low risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has less than 7 standard drinks, AND on any one day, has no more than 2 standard drinks (spread over at least two hours). High-risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has more than 7 standard drinks, OR on any one day, more than 2 standard drinks.

(f) A person who does not drink at all during pregnancy.

(g) Used illicit drugs include daily, weekly and irregular users (a person who uses less than weekly).

(h) Other includes ex-users and non-users.

Notes

1. Valid data for this indicator were provided by 65 services (NSW/ACT 12, Vic/Tas 14, Qld 9, WA 8, SA 12 and NT 10).
2. Services used their own definition of regular client.
3. Numerator is the number of women by smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use before 13 weeks of pregnancy and Denominator is the total number of women who had an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug was recorded.

Source: AIHW, Healthy for Life data collection.

Table 2.21.19: Risk factors status of women[a] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[b] who attended an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy, by state/territory, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

Risk factors	NSW/ACT %	Vic/Tas %	Qld %	WA %	SA %	NT %	Total %
Smoking status							
Smoker[c]	52.4*	64.6	52.9	49.1*	67.6	55.5*	54.5
Other[d]	47.6	35.4	47.1	50.9	32.4	44.5	45.5
Total	**231**	**99**	**187**	**275**	**74**	**310**	**1,176**
Alcohol consumption							
Low/high risk alcohol consumption[e]	15.3*	21.3	15.8*	19.6*	15.9	12.4*	16.2
No alcohol consumption[f]	84.7	78.7	84.2	80.4	84.1	87.6	83.8
Total	**209**	**89**	**152**	**270**	**63**	**298**	**1,081**
Illicit drug use status							
Used drugs[g]	15.1*	20.5	5.1*	15*	16.7	5.1*	11.7
Other[h]	84.9	79.5	94.9	85.0	83.3	94.9	88.3
Total	**205**	**88**	**98**	**266**	**54**	**294**	**1,005**

* Represents results with statistically significant differences p<0.05 level between NSW/ACT and VIC/TAS, QLD, WA, SA, NT percentages.

(a) Women who were regular clients of the HfL service.

(b) Women who gave birth to an Indigenous baby in the current reporting period.

(c) Smoker includes daily smokers, weekly smokers and irregular smokers (people who smoke tobacco less than weekly).

(d) Other includes ex-smokers and non-smokers.

(e) Low risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has less than 7 standard drinks, AND on any one day, has no more than 2 standard drinks (spread over at least two hours). High-risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has more than 7 standard drinks, OR on any one day, more than 2 standard drinks.

(f) A person who does not drink at all during pregnancy.

(g) Used illicit drugs include daily, weekly and irregular users (a person who uses less than weekly).

(h) Other includes ex-users and non-users.

Notes

1. Valid data for this indicator were provided by 64 services (NSW/ACT 12, Vic/Tas 14, Qld 8, WA 8, SA 12 and NT 10).
2. Services used their own definition of regular client.
3. Numerator is the number of women by smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use in the third trimester of pregnancy and Denominator is the total number of women who had an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug was recorded.

Source: AIHW, Healthy for Life data collection.

Risk factor status by remoteness

- From July 2009 to June 2010, the proportion of women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester and reported smoking during pregnancy was similar across all remoteness areas (Table 2.21.20). A similar pattern was observed for women who attended antenatal care in the third trimester (Table 2.21.21).
- The rate of reported low/high risk alcohol consumption of women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service and attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester was similar across all remoteness areas (Table 2.21.20). For women who attended antenatal care in the third trimester, the rate reported low/high risk alcohol consumption was highest in *Remote* areas (21%) and lowest in *Major cities* (10%) (Table 2.21.21).
- The proportion of women who were regular clients of a Healthy for Life Indigenous primary health-care service, attended an antenatal visit in the first trimester and who reported using illicit drugs during pregnancy was not significantly different across all remoteness areas (Table 2.21.20). For women who attended antenatal care in the third trimester, the rate of reported illicit drug use during pregnancy was highest in *Major cities* (17%) and lowest in *Remote* areas (7%) (Table 2.21.21).

Table 2.21.20: Risk factor status of women[a] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[b] who attended an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy, by remoteness, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

Risk factors	Major cities %	Inner regional %	Outer regional %	Remote %	Very remote %	Total
Smoking						
Smoker[c]	63.6	50.3	53.1	56.6	63.5	56.0
Other[d]	36.4	49.7	46.9	43.4	36.5	44.0
Total number	**77**	**165**	**211**	**159**	**115**	**727**
Alcohol consumption						
Low/high risk alcohol consumption[e]	33.3	21.2	24.6	35.3	31.6	28.6
No alcohol consumption[f]	66.7	78.8	75.4	64.7	68.4	71.4
Total number	**75**	**132**	**195**	**156**	**114**	**672**
Illicit drug use status						
Used illicit drugs[g]	33.3	15.4	13.1	8.0	13.2	14.8
Other[h]	66.7	84.6	86.9	92.0	86.8	85.2
Total number	**69**	**123**	**137**	**138**	**114**	**581**

(continued)

Table 2.21.20 (continued): Risk factor status of women[(a)] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[(b)] who attended an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy, by remoteness, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

* Represents results with statistically significant differences at the p<0.05 level between major cities and other remoteness categories percentages.

(a) Women who were regular clients of the HfL service.

(b) Women who gave birth to an Indigenous baby in the current reporting period.

(c) Smoker includes daily smokers, weekly smokers and irregular smokers (people who smoke tobacco less than weekly).

(d) Other includes ex-smokers and non-smokers.

(e) Low risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has less than 7 standard drinks, and on any one day, has no more than 2 standard drinks (spread over at least two hours). High-risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has more than 7 standard drinks, or on any one day, more than 2 standard drinks.

(f) A person who does not drink at all during pregnancy.

(g) Used illicit drugs include daily, weekly and irregular users (a person who uses less than weekly).

(h) Other includes ex-users and non-users.

Notes

1. Valid data for this indicator were provided by 65 services (7 in major cities of Australia, 13 in inner regional Australia, 22 in outer regional Australia, 12 in remote Australia and 11 in very remote Australia).
2. Services used their own definition of regular client.
3. Women whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use status was not recorded were not included in the corresponding parts of this table.
4. Numerator is the number of women by smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use before 13 weeks of pregnancy and Denominator is the total number of women who had an antenatal visit before 13 weeks of pregnancy whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug was recorded.

Source: AIHW, Healthy for Life data collection.

Table 2.21.21: Risk factors status of women[a] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[b] who attended an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy, by remoteness, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

Risk factors	Major cities %	Inner regional %	Outer regional %	Remote %	Very remote %	Total %
Smoking						
Smoker[c]	53.7	55.5	54.1	52.3	57.3	54.5
Other[d]	46.3	44.5	45.9	47.7	42.7	45.5
Total number	**147**	**218**	**342**	**258**	**211**	**1,176**
Alcohol consumption						
Low/high risk alcohol consumption[e]	9.5*	17.6*	14.9*	20.7*	15.4*	16.2
No alcohol consumption[f]	90.5	82.4	85.1	79.3	84.6	83.8
Total number	**116**	**193**	**322**	**242**	**208**	**1,081**
Illicit drug use status						
Used illicit drugs [g]	16.5*	16.6	14.3*	6.5*	6.8*	11.7
Other[h]	83.5	83.4	85.7	93.5	93.2	88.3
Total Number	**97**	**187**	**301**	**214**	**206**	**1,005**

(continued)

Table 2.21.21 (continued): Risk factors status of women[(a)] who gave birth to an Indigenous baby[(b)] who attended an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy, by remoteness, 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

* Represents results with statistically significant differences at the p<0.05 level between major cities and other remoteness categories percentages.

(a) Women who were regular clients of the HfL service.

(b) Women who gave birth to an Indigenous baby in the current reporting period.

(c) Smoker includes daily smokers, weekly smokers and irregular smokers (people who smoke tobacco less than weekly).

(d) Other includes ex-smokers and non-smokers.

(e) Low risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has less than 7 standard drinks, AND on any one day, has no more than 2 standard drinks (spread over at least two hours). High-risk alcohol consumption: a person who over a week has more than 7 standard drinks, OR on any one day, more than 2 standard drinks.

(f) A person who does not drink at all during pregnancy.

(g) Used illicit drugs include daily, weekly and irregular users (a person who uses less than weekly).

(h) Other includes ex-users and non-users.

Notes

1. Valid data for this indicator were provided by 64 services (6 in major cities of Australia, 13 in inner regional Australia, 22 in outer regional Australia, 12 in remote Australia and 11 in very remote Australia).
2. Services used their own definition of regular client.
3. Women whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use status was not recorded were not included in the corresponding parts of this table
4. Numerator is the number of women by smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug use in the third trimester of pregnancy and Denominator is the total number of women who had an antenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy whose smoking status, alcohol consumption or illicit drug was recorded.

Source: AIHW, Healthy for Life data collection.

Data quality issues

National Perinatal Data Collection

Births

Birth notification forms are completed for all births of 20 weeks or more gestation, or a birthweight of 400 grams or more. The Perinatal National Minimum Data Set includes all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community.

Indigenous status question

A standard data item for Indigenous status is specified in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set. While each jurisdiction has a unique perinatal form for collecting data on which the format of the Indigenous status question and recording categories varies slightly, all systems include the NMDS item on Indigenous status.

Since 2005, all jurisdictions collect information on Indigenous status of the mother in accordance with the NMDS. A data item on Indigenous status of the baby was added to the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set from 1 July 2012.

Under-identification

Data presented by Indigenous status are influenced by the quality and completeness of Indigenous identification of mothers which is likely to differ among jurisdictions and comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution. No formal national assessment has been undertaken to determine completeness of the coverage of Indigenous mothers in the Perinatal NMDS. However, the proportion of Indigenous mothers for the period 2001–2010 has been consistent, at 3.6–3.9% of women who gave birth. Approximately 0.3% of mothers who gave birth in 2009 had missing Indigenous status information. Mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated have been excluded from analyses. No adjustments have been made for under-identification or missing information.

In 2007, the NPESU, in collaboration with the AIHW's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Unit, released a report on Indigenous mothers and their babies in each state and territory. This report was based on a survey which was sent to the midwifery managers across Australia to determine how many hospitals in each jurisdiction obtain Indigenous status information of mothers giving birth from admission records and how many collect this information independently. The assessment also involved analysis of the variability in the number and proportion of mothers recorded as Indigenous in the perinatal data collection over time and across jurisdictions for the period 1991–2004. The outcomes of this assessment showed that Indigenous status data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory are suitable for trends analysis. Perinatal data from the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, although improving, were deemed to be of insufficient quality. This project included an assessment of Indigenous status data quality (Leeds et al. 2007).

All jurisdictions are working towards improving the quality of Indigenous status data in their perinatal data collections.

State/territory data

Analysis by state/territory is based on the usual residence of the mother unless otherwise stated. Data excludes Australian non-residents of external territories and where the state/territory of residence was not stated.

Data on Indigenous status are not reported for Tasmania before 2005 because the 'not stated' category for Indigenous status was included with the non-Indigenous category.

Smoking during pregnancy data

There is currently no data element in the Perinatal National Minimum Data Set for smoking during pregnancy, however some information is obtained as part of the NPDC. A program for national data development was completed in 2009 to add nationally agreed data items on smoking during pregnancy to the Perinatal NMDS from July 2010.

For 2009, data on smoking during pregnancy was available from all states and territories.

Definitions used for smoking during pregnancy differ among the jurisdictions. All states and territories currently collect at least one smoking question as part of their routine perinatal data collections. Data for the Northern Territory and South Australia relate to smoking status at the first antenatal visit. For South Australia, smoked includes women who quit before the first antenatal visit. This may result in higher rates of smoking being reported for these jurisdictions because often the first antenatal visit will precede pregnancy-related harm minimisation interventions designed to stop smoking during pregnancy. Given the different timing of data collection on smoking during pregnancy in the different jurisdictions, comparisons between states and territories should be interpreted with caution.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. However, some factor may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some

data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010a).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010a).

Healthy for Life data

For the July 2009 to June 2010 reporting period, 79 services submitted data as part of the Healthy for Life (HfL) Program.

Services started submitting their data through an electronic interface (OSCAR) for the February 2008 reporting period. This has improved the quality of data submitted.

Not all of the services were able to provide data for all of the essential indicators and service profile questions included in the HfL data collection. The number of services that were able to provide data varies across the qualitative and quantitative indicators.

There has been an upward trend in the proportion of services that reported on each of the indicators over time, particularly compared with the first reporting period ending June 2007. All of the services reporting provided data for all of the EIs in the period ending December 2009. This proportion decreased slightly in the current reporting period ending June 2010. This may be because services need to report against fewer Essential Indicators (EI) and do not need to provide most qualitative data in periods ending in December, unlike in annual reporting periods ending in June. The current period had higher proportions of services that reported against most EIs than the previous annual collection period ending June 2009.

In general, the data quality improved noticeably between the period ending June 2008 and the period ending June 2009. The overall level of data quality remained similar in the current period, though there was a different pattern of data quality issues.

The current period ending June 2010 had a different distribution of data quality issues than the previous period. No services had inconsistencies between related indicators, however the number of services with missing data and data out of the expected range increased. The latter might be due to more stringent data checking procedures employed by the AIHW during the current period.

List of symbols used in tables

n.a.	not available
–	rounded to zero (including null cells)
0	zero
. .	not applicable
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.f.d.	not further defined

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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2.22 Overweight and obesity

The prevalence of overweight and obesity among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children

Data sources

Data on the prevalence of overweight and obesity among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS).

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. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next survey to be conducted during 2012–13 as part of the Australian Health Survey (will be called the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ATSIHS)).

Data for this measure are based on information collected on self-reported height and weight. These measures were used to calculate body mass index (BMI) and categorise respondents into categories of underweight, acceptable weight, overweight and obese. Note that, for approximately 16% of Indigenous Australians and 8% of non-Indigenous Australians, self-reported height and weight were not known or not stated.

Based on the *National health data dictionary*, BMI cut-offs for adults are as follows:

- overweight is a BMI of at least 25 kg/m^2 and less than 30 kg/m^2
- obese is a BMI of at least 30 kg/m^2.

For children, overweight and obesity are defined using the same BMI cut-offs as for adults after adjusting for age and sex.

Data analyses

No data are currently available on the prevalence of overweight and obesity among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, to be conducted as part of the Australian Health Survey 2012–13, will collect information on the physical measures of height and weight that will be used to calculate the body mass of children.

Prevalence of overweight and obesity

- In 2004–05, of those with a known body mass index, approximately 4% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were underweight, 36% were of acceptable weight, 29% were overweight and 31% were obese (Table 2.22.1).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, in 2004–05, Indigenous adults were slightly more likely than non-Indigenous adults to be underweight (4% compared with 3%); less likely to be of acceptable weight (32% compared with 44%); less likely to be overweight (31% compared with 36%) and much more likely to be obese (34% compared with 18%) (Table 2.22.1).

Prevalence of overweight and obesity by age and sex

- Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults were most likely to be overweight or obese at ages 45–54 years and 55 years and over. In these age groups, between 69% and 74% of Indigenous people, and between 61% and 59% of non-Indigenous people, were overweight or obese.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males were overweight (34%) compared with Indigenous females (24%). However, Indigenous females were more likely to be obese than Indigenous males (34% compared with 28%), and also more likely to be underweight than Indigenous males (6% compared with 3%) (Table 2.22.1).

Table 2.22.1: Proportion of adults who are underweight, of acceptable weight, overweight or obese, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004–05

	Age group (years)										Totals			
	18–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Non age-standardised	Age-standardised[a]		
BMI groupings	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
							Per cent							
							Males							
Underweight	4.9[b]	3.1	2.8[b]	0.6[c]	1.3[b]	0.6[b]	3.0[b]	0.3[c]	1.5[b]	1.1	2.8*	2.4*	1.0*	2.4
Normal weight	47.9*	61.5*	36.7	39.4	32.1	29.3	26.7	29.0	24.2*	35.0*	35.0*	31.7*	36.9*	0.9
Overweight	30.0	28.3	36.9	42.6	30.9*	47.3*	37.9*	45.9*	38.6*	44.9*	34.4*	35.5*	43.0*	0.8
Obese	17.2*	7.1*	23.6	17.5	35.7*	22.9*	32.4	24.7	35.6*	19.1*	27.8*	30.4*	19.1*	1.6
Grand total (%)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total number ('000)	**23.7**	**872.9**	**30.3**	**1,319.7**	**24.8**	**1,349.3**	**17.1**	**1,263.6**	**13.0**	**2,065.0**	**108.8**	**108.8**	**6,870.5**	**. .**
							Females							
Underweight	10.0	10.2	5.0[b]	4.9	6.8[b]	3.5	3.5[b]	2.0	3.1[b]	3.3	6.0	5.2	4.3	1.2
Normal weight	51.0*	62.4*	38.4*	56.8*	30.0*	54.1*	29.2*	47.6*	24.0*	43.1*	35.9*	32.4*	51.3*	0.6
Overweight	20.0	19.4	22.0	24.5	25.3	26.1	26.4	30.2	30	33.2	24.0*	25.6*	27.8*	0.9
Obese	18.9*	8.0*	34.7*	13.9*	37.8*	16.3*	40.9*	20.2*	42.9*	20.4*	34.1*	36.8*	16.7*	2.2
Grand total (%)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total number ('000)	**23.2**	**821.5**	**30.5**	**1,274.6**	**25.2**	**1,321.9**	**17.2**	**1,216.9**	**13.8**	**2,072.7**	**109.9**	**109.9**	**6,707.6**	**. .**

(continued)

Table 2.22.1 (continued): Proportion of adults who are underweight, of acceptable weight, overweight or obese, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004–05

	Age group (years)										Totals			
	18–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Non age-standardised	Age-standardised[a]		
BMI groupings	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
							Per cent							
							Persons							
Underweight	7.4	6.5	3.9	2.7	4.1[b]	2.0	3.2[b]*	1.2*	2.3	2.2	4.4*	3.8*	2.6*	1.5
Normal weight	49.4*	61.9*	37.6*	47.9*	31.0*	41.6*	28.0*	38.1*	24.1*	39.0*	35.5*	32.1*	44.0*	0.7
Overweight	25.1	24.0	29.4*	33.7*	28.1*	36.8*	32.1*	38.2*	34.2*	39.1*	29.2*	30.5*	35.5*	0.9
Obese	18.0*	7.5*	29.1*	15.7*	36.8*	19.6*	36.7*	22.5*	39.4*	19.8*	30.9*	33.6*	17.9*	1.9
Grand total (%)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
Total number ('000)	**46.9**	**1,694.4**	**60.8**	**2,594.3**	**50.0**	**2,671.1**	**34.3**	**2,480.5**	**26.7**	**4,137.7**	**218.7**	**218.7**	**13,578.1**	**. .**
% not known	*17.3*	*8.8*	*12.9*	*6.1*	*15.3*	*7.9*	*13.4*	*8.3*	*19.4*	*8.7*	*15.3*	*15.9*	*7.9*	*. .*

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

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

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

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

Note: Proportions exclude those for whom BMI was unknown (39,583 or 15% for Indigenous and 1,175,132 or 8% for non-Indigenous).

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Prevalence by selected population and health characteristics

- In 2004–05, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to be overweight/obese if they had a self-assessed health status of fair/poor rather than excellent/very good (68% compared with 55%); reported three or more long-term health conditions rather than no long term-health conditions (65% compared with 56%); reported circulatory problems (72% compared with 57% with no circulatory problems); had diabetes (83% compared with 57%); or did not have cancer (60% compared with 42%) (Table 2.22.2).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous adults in the highest (5th) household income quintile were overweight/obese compared with the lowest (1st) (61% compared with 59%). Those in the lowest income quintile were more likely to be underweight (7%) than those in the highest (3%).
- There was little difference between the proportions of overweight/obese Indigenous adults in the lowest (1st) socioeconomic (SEIFA) quintile (61%) and those in the highest (5th) (60%).
- Indigenous adults whose highest year of school completed was Year 12 were more likely to be overweight/obese than those whose highest year of school completed was Year 9 or below (64% compared with 57%).
- In 2004–05, Indigenous adults who were employed were slightly more likely to be overweight/obese (61%) than those who were unemployed (59%) or not in the labour force (60%).
- Indigenous adults who reported being current smokers were more likely to be underweight (6%) and less likely to be overweight/obese (54%) than those who reported never smoking (3% and 65%, respectively) or being an ex-smoker (2% and 69% respectively).
- Indigenous adults who reported no daily vegetable intake were more likely to be underweight (8%) and less likely to be overweight/obese (49%) than those who reported eating vegetables daily (4% and 61%, respectively).

Table 2.22.2: Proportion of Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over who are underweight, of acceptable weight, overweight or obese, by selected health outcomes, population characteristics and risk factors, 2004–05

	Underweight	Acceptable weight	Overweight	Obese	*Overweight or obese*	Total
			Per cent			
Self-assessed health status						
Excellent/very good	4.9	40.6	29.9	24.6	*54.5*	100.0
Good	4.0	34.4	28.1	33.4	*61.6*	100.0
Fair/poor	4.1	27.9	29.7	38.3	*68.0*	100.0
Number of long-term health conditions						
None	6.1	38.1	31.4	24.3	*55.7*	100.0
One	4.3	38.6	30.9	26.1	*57.0*	100.0
Two	5.7	39.2	30.4	24.7	*55.1*	100.0
Three or more	3.2	31.6	27.1	38.0	*65.2*	100.0
Circulatory problems						
Yes	3.4	25.0	27.7	43.9	*71.6*	100.0
No	4.7	38.5	29.6	27.1	*56.8*	100.0
Has Diabetes						
Yes	0.8	16.0	35.1	48.1	*83.2*	100.0
No	4.8	37.9	28.5	28.8	*57.3*	100.0
Has Cancer						
Yes	0.6	57.9	18.5	23.1	*41.6*	100.0
No	4.4	35.2	29.3	31.0	*60.3*	100.0
Household income						
1st quintile	6.6	34.3	28.3	30.8	*59.1*	100.0
5th quintile	3.3	35.3	29.5	31.9	*61.4*	100.0
SEIFA[(a)]						
1st quintile	5.2	33.4	30.3	31.1	*61.3*	100.0
5th quintile	3.7	36.0	28.2	32.1	*60.3*	100.0
Highest year of school completed						
Year 12	5.0	31.3	29.7	34.1	*63.7*	100.0
Year 9 or below	3.4	39.9	28.9	27.8	*56.8*	100.0
Has non-school qualification						
Yes	2.1	34.9	30.4	32.6	*63.0*	100.0
No	5.7	35.6	28.6	30.1	*58.7*	100.0
Employment						
Employed	3.3	36.1	30.6	30.0	*60.6*	100.0
Unemployed	4.9	35.8	24.2	35.1	*59.3*	100.0
Not in the labour force	6.0	34.4	28.0	31.6	*59.6*	100.0

(continued)

Table 2.22.2 (continued): Proportion of Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over who are underweight, of acceptable weight, overweight or obese, by selected health outcomes, population characteristics and risk factors, 2004–05

	Underweight	Acceptable weight	Overweight	Obese	*Overweight or obese*	Total
			Per cent			
Long term risky/high risk alcohol consumption						
Yes	3.3	39.0	33.2	24.5	*57.7*	100.0
No	4.6	34.8	28.4	32.2	*60.6*	100.0
Short term risky/high risk alcohol consumption						
Yes	3.1	37.4	31.6	27.9	*59.5*	100.0
No	4.1	36.7	30.1	29.1	*59.3*	100.0
Smoking Status						
Current smoker	6.0	39.8	28.3	26.0	*54.2*	100.0
Ex-smoker	1.9	29.2	33.2	35.7	*68.9*	100.0
Never smoked	3.2	32.1	28.1	36.6	*64.7*	100.0
Physical activity[(b)]						
Low/sedentary	3.2	36.0	28.6	32.3	*60.8*	100.0
Moderate	3.4	42.5	28.3	25.9	*54.1*	100.0
High	0.7	31.2	36.5	31.7	*68.1*	100.0
Eats fruit daily						
Yes	4.1	35.6	29.1	31.2	*60.4*	100.0
No	6.2	35.0	29.6	29.3	*58.8*	100.0
Eats vegetables daily						
Yes	4.1	35.0	29.5	31.3	*60.8*	100.0
No	8.3	42.3	24.9	24.5	*49.4*	100.0
Total	**4.4**	**35.5**	**29.2**	**30.9**	***60.1***	**100.0**
Total number	**9,618**	**77,568**	**63,872**	**67,655**	***131,527***	**218,714**

(a) SEIFA refers to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas developed by the ABS. The SEIFA Indexes allow ranking of regions/areas which provide a method of determining the level of socioeconomic wellbeing in that region.

(b) Non-remote areas only.

Note: Excludes those with an unknown BMI (39,583 or 15%).

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Time series analyses

- There has been no significant change in the prevalence of overweight and obesity among Indigenous Australians between 2001 and 2004–05 (59% and 60%, respectively, among those with a known BMI).
- In non-remote areas of Australia, approximately 51% of Indigenous Australians were overweight or obese in 1995, which was lower than the proportions reported in 2001 (56%) and 2004–05 (60%) (Table 2.22.3).
- For non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, there was a slight increase in the proportion who were overweight or obese between 2001 and 2004–05 (48% and 53%, respectively, among those with a known BMI) (ABS 2006b).

Table 2.22.3: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over who are overweight/obese, by remoteness, 1995, 2001 and 2004–05

	1995	2001	2004–05
		Per cent	
Remote	n.a.	61	60
Non-remote	51	56	60
Total	**n.a.**	**59**	**60**
Total number who reported a BMI	**116,340**	**195,191**	**218,714**

Note: Excludes those with a BMI not known or not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of the 1995 and 2001 NHS (Indigenous supplement) and 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Additional information

Studies of the links between obesity, poverty and nutrition in the Indigenous population

A number of studies have investigated the links between obesity and factors such as poverty and diet in the Indigenous population.

Available data show that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived a traditional lifestyle, they generally had a low body mass index compared with what is considered normal for European Australians, and their weight did not tend to increase with age (O'Dea 2008; MIMS Consumer Health Group 2003). Poverty and food insecurity have been recognised as important factors in the poor-quality diet of many Indigenous people, especially those living in remote communities. Food prices are generally higher in remote areas for many types of food. The price of basic healthy foods is at least 50% higher in remote locations than in *Major cities* (NHMRC 2003). Foods of better nutritional choice, including fresh fruits and vegetables, are often expensive because of transport and overhead costs, or only minimally available (Shannon 2002). Remote stores on average sell half the fruit and one-quarter of the vegetable intake per capita of that of the overall Australian community overall (Lee et al. 1994). In comparison, takeaway and convenience food items, which are often energy-dense and high in fat or sugar, are less affected by issues of cost and availability.

There is evidence to suggest that people living in poverty tend to maximise calories per dollar spent on food. Energy-dense foods rich in fats, refined starches and sugars represent the lowest cost options, whereas healthy diets based on lean meats, whole grains and fresh

vegetables and fruits are more costly (Drewnowski & Spencer 2004). A study that analysed the store turnover of food supplies at six remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory found a very high consumption of energy, fat and sugar, with fatty meats making the largest contribution to fat intake. In comparison to national consumption data, intake of sweetened carbonated beverages and sugar was much higher in these communities. The proportion of energy derived from refined sugars was approximately four times the recommended intake. The diets of people living in these communities had high levels of animal fat (mainly from poor-quality meat) and very low levels of fruit and vegetables (Lee et al. 1994).

Several studies have looked at the effect of traditional and non-traditional diets on BMI and weight gain in the Indigenous population. A study which looked at the therapeutic potential of a traditional lifestyle and diet involved a trial of a group of 10 middle-aged Indigenous people with diabetes who were overweight or obese in the West Kimberly region of Western Australia. The group reverted to a traditional hunter-gatherer diet for 7 weeks. After this short time living off their traditional lands, the people involved in the study lost an average of 7 kg. In addition, the metabolic abnormalities of diabetes and risk factors for heart disease (blood pressure, blood cholesterol, triglycerides) all improved markedly (O'Dea 1984). The Indigenous people involved in the trial also became more confident and assertive while they were in the bush and became proud of their local knowledge and skills. These were deemed important factors in improving the BMI and physical health of Indigenous people (O'Dea 1984). Successful prevention of obesity in some Indigenous outstations has been associated with greater physical activity, consumption of bush foods and ownership of, and access to, traditional homelands (Rowley et al. 2000, cited in O'Dea et al. 2007).

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

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 has 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 and very 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 2006a).

Overweight and obesity data

The quality of BMI as a measure of overweight and obesity has a number of issues: the reliability of self-reported height and weight; under-reporting; mixed methods of collection of weight and height; and interpretation of BMI cut-offs in children.

Self-reported height and weight has been found to over-estimate height and under-estimate weight, thus under-estimating the resultant BMI. An analysis of the 1995 National Health Survey and 1995 National Nutrition Survey (ABS 1998), in which both self-reported and measured height and weight data were collected, found that 27% of males and 28% of females would have been classified to a different, predominately heavier, BMI category. This analysis did not explore data from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents; however, there was little difference between different ethnic and socioeconomic groups. The report concludes:

Based on the findings from this study, there may be grounds for questioning the reliability, and hence the use and interpretation, of BMI results based on self-reported height and weight.

In the 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey, height and weight information could not be obtained for approximately 16% of Indigenous Australians and 8% of non-Indigenous Australians. With a large non-response rate there may be issues with bias. In the 1994 NATSIHS an assessment of potential bias due to non-measurement concluded that there would have been only small differences if the whole population was measured; however, this assessment was based on an imputation method that assumed that

people with similar characteristics had similar weight and height (Cunningham & Mackerras 1998).

Height and weight were self-reported in the 2004–05 National Health Survey except in remote areas where respondents to the Indigenous survey were offered the opportunity to be weighed or measured if they were unsure of their weight or height (ABS 2006a). Given the known problems with self-reporting of height and weight, care needs to be exercised in interpretation of results given the mixed methods used, especially when the analysis is split by remoteness.

List of symbols used in tables

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

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