



# Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: seventh national report 2022 (data update)

Web report | Last updated: 09 Jun 2023 | Topic: [First Nations people](#)

## About

This is a data update for the 21 Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with updated data available for 9 measures. The level of access for cardiac-related health services is improving for Indigenous Australians. While the mortality rate from cardiac conditions is falling among the Indigenous population, it is still higher than among non-Indigenous Australians.

Cat. no: IHW 274

### Findings from this report:

- The level of access for cardiac-related health services is improving among Indigenous Australians
  - Indigenous Australians are less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to receive treatment after a heart attack
  - Between 2006 and 2020, the mortality rate from cardiac conditions for Indigenous Australians fell by 26%
  - Mortality rate from cardiac conditions for Indigenous Australians is 1.8 times that for non-Indigenous Australians
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## Summary

The Better Cardiac Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People project is an initiative of the former Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. It aims to reduce deaths and ill health from cardiac conditions among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Five priority areas comprising 21 measures were developed to monitor the progress of the project. Based on data availability, the previous annual reports covered 15 measures. This data update - the seventh in the series - updates data in the supplementary tables for 9 previously reported measures.

Updated data are available from the:

- AIHW June 2020 national Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care data collection for **Measure 1.2** on cardiovascular disease risk assessment
- 2019-20 National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD) for **Measure 3.1** on ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) events treated by percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI); **Measure 3.3** on acute coronary syndrome (ACS) events that included diagnostic angiography or revascularisation; **Measure 3.5** on acute myocardial infarction (AMI) in-hospital mortality rates
- 2020 National Rheumatic Heart Disease data collection for **Measure 5.1** for the annual incidence of acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD); **Measure 5.2** for recurrent ARF; **Measure 5.3** for preventive treatment with benzathine benzylpenicillin G (BPG doses)
- 2019-20 NHMD for **Measure 6.1** on the rates of hospitalisation for cardiac conditions
- 2019-20 NHMD and 2020 National Mortality Database (NMD) for **Measure 6.2** on mortality from cardiac conditions.

Five measures that use the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) - Measures 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 4.3 and 4.4 - could not be updated due to the unavailability of the updated Medicare Weighted Voluntary Indigenous Identifier database. For Measure 1.3, newer data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health survey are not available. Measure 5.4 has not been reported since the 2018-19 report due to issues with data quality. Data for the remaining 5 measures are under development and expected to be included in future reports.

## Key findings

Some progress has been made toward better cardiac care for Indigenous Australians. The level of access for cardiac-related health services has improved. The proportion of Indigenous Australians who received the recommended intervention following hospitalisation for a severe heart attack has been increasing over time. The mortality rate from cardiac conditions is falling.

But challenges remain in some areas.

- Indigenous Australians are less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to receive the recommended intervention following hospitalisation for a severe heart attack.
- While the mortality rate from cardiovascular disease is falling, it is still much higher than non-Indigenous Australians.

### Guideline-based therapy for acute coronary syndrome

Indigenous Australians hospitalised for severe heart attack who received PCI.



- 66% in 2019-20



- 28% in 2006-07

In 2019-20, Indigenous Australians were about 20% less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to receive PCI.

### Strengthening the diagnosis, notification and follow-up of rheumatic heart disease

ARF recurrences per 100 patient-years among Indigenous Australians who should be receiving BPG.

ARF

- 3.7 recurrences per 100 patient-years in 2016



- 3.1 recurrences per 100 patient-years in 2020

### Hospitalisation and mortality

Mortality rate due to cardiac conditions for Indigenous Australians fell by 26%.



- 205 per 100,000 population in 2006



- 151 per 100,000 population in 2020

In 2020, the mortality rate for Indigenous Australians was 1.8 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians





# Data

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## Report editions

### This release

Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: seventh national report 2022 (data update) | 09 Jun 2023

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### Previous releases

- Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: sixth national report 2021 | **Publication** | 30 Nov 2021
- Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: fifth national report 2020 | **Publication** | 30 Mar 2021
- Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: fourth national report 2018-19 | **Publication** | 31 Oct 2019
- Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: third national report 2017 | **Publication** | 06 Jul 2018
- Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: second national report 2016 | **Publication** | 23 Nov 2016
- Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: first national report 2015 | **Publication** | 04 Aug 2015





## Related material

### Related topics

- [Heart, stroke & vascular diseases](#)
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