

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

In May 1997, the Prime Minister, with the support of the Premiers and Chief Ministers, requested that the Review give particular attention to the performance of mainstream services in relation to Indigenous Australians. This request was reinforced by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) at its 3 November 2000 meeting.

This fact sheet summarises key data from the Report in relation to the provision of mainstream services to Indigenous Australians in the areas of education, justice, health, community services and housing.

Improvements in information in the 2007 Report include data in the Primary and community health chapter on 'hospitalisations for vaccine preventable conditions', 'potentially preventable acute conditions' and 'potentially preventable chronic conditions' for Indigenous people. Data for Indigenous aged care recipients are reported in the Aged care services chapter. The Services for people with a disability chapter includes data on disability prevalence rates among Indigenous people and on community support and respite service use by Indigenous people. In the Housing chapter, data on customer satisfaction with State owned and managed Indigenous housing are reported at the jurisdictional level.

Despite these improvements, significant gaps in reporting remain. The availability of hospital separations data for Indigenous people is significantly reduced in the 2007 Report compared to previous Reports. Indigenous hospital separations data are only available for Queensland, WA, SA and the NT. Data from NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT were considered to be of insufficient quality. Although some jurisdictions have made efforts to improve the quality of Indigenous hospital separations data, the Steering Committee considers that the lack of progress and ongoing evaluation of data quality is disappointing and supports the work of the AIHW and the jurisdictions to assess and improve the quality of their data.

As always, readers should exercise caution in interpreting data on services to Indigenous people. Indigenous people are not always identified in some data collections. Surveys designed to report on the whole Australian population may not include sufficient numbers of Indigenous people to provide reliable data. The likelihood of Indigenous people being identified as Indigenous in both surveys and administrative data collections can vary in different situations and over time.

In April 2004, the Review published for the first time a compendium of data on services to Indigenous people, drawn from the *Report on Government Services 2004*. A compendium with data from the 2007 Report will be published shortly.

In April 2002, COAG commissioned the Review to produce a separate regular report on key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. The Review published the first edition of *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators* in November 2003 and a second edition in July 2005. The third edition of the Report is scheduled to be released in June 2007.

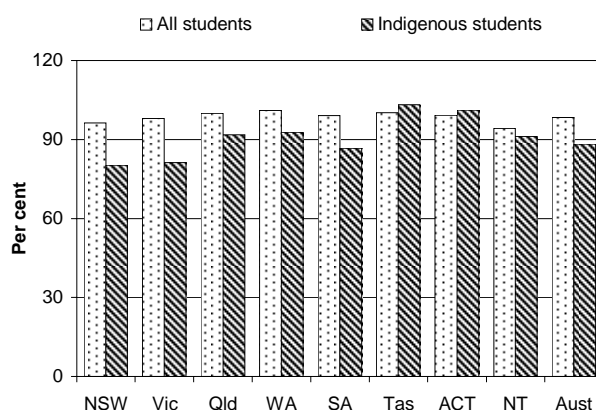
Selection of results

School education: the proportion of Indigenous students achieving national benchmarks in years 3, 5 and 7 reading, writing and numeracy was lower than for non-Indigenous students almost without exception in 2004 (tables 3A.74 to 3A.91). Indigenous students are, on average, less likely to stay at school through secondary education. The national apparent retention rate from the commencement of secondary school until year 10 for Indigenous students was 88.3 per cent, compared with 98.3 per cent for all students, in 2005 (pp. 3.21–22). Retention rates do not account for students who did not commence secondary schooling and are based on enrolment, not attendance. The Steering Committee has identified school attendance as an important area for future reporting.

Police services: In 2005-06, the proportion of police staff who self-reported as Indigenous generally reflected the proportion of working aged Indigenous people in the general population, except in the NT where Indigenous staff accounted for 5.8 per cent of total staff compared with Indigenous representation in the working age population of 23 per cent (pp. 5.16–17, table 5A.22). Data for Indigenous staff were not available for NSW, Victoria and Queensland for 2005-06.

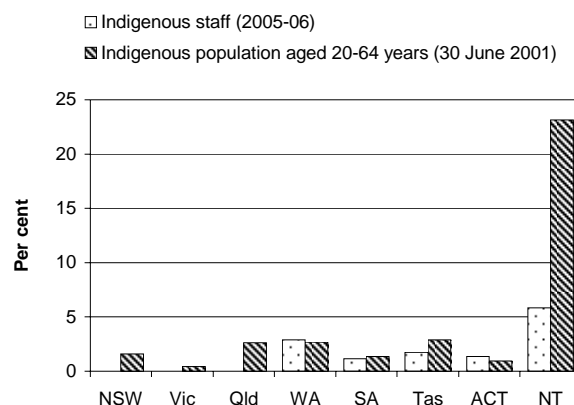
Corrective services: Indigenous people were far more likely to be in prison custody in 2005-06 than non-Indigenous people. The non-age-standardised national imprisonment rate per 100 000 Indigenous adults was 2030.6 compared with a rate of 118.7 for non-Indigenous adults. While imprisonment rates for Indigenous people are far higher than those for non-Indigenous people, the majority of prisoners are non-Indigenous (74.5 per cent of all prisoners were non-Indigenous in 2005-06) (p. 7.5). Prisoner death rates from apparent unnatural causes in 2005-06 (p. 7.13) and community corrections offender rates (pp. 7.6–9) are also reported by Indigenous status.

Apparent rates of retention from year 7 or 8 to year 10, full time secondary students, all schools, 2005^{a, b}



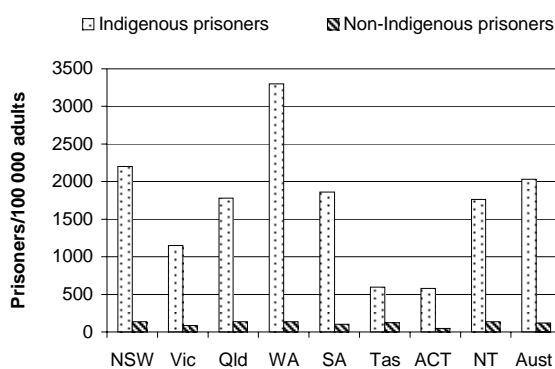
See fifth page for data and footnotes.

Proportion of Indigenous police staff (sworn and unsworn) and proportion of the Indigenous population aged 20–64 years, 2005-2006^{a, b, c}



See fifth page for data and footnotes.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, 2005-06^{a, b, c}



See fifth page for data and footnotes.

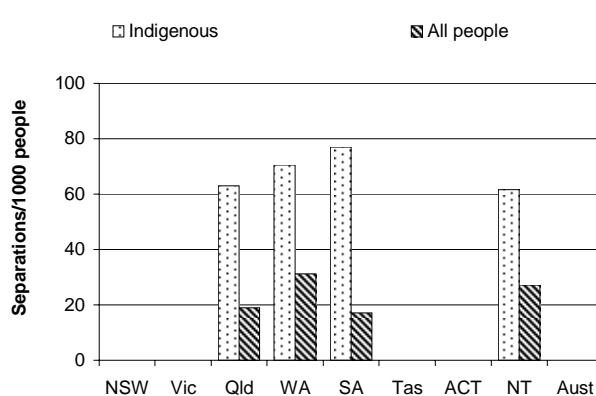
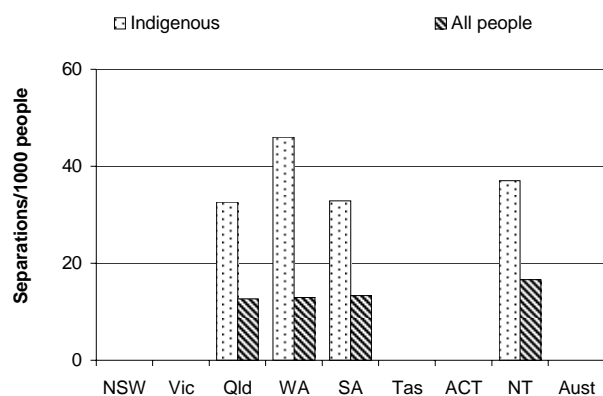
[MORE]

Health preface: For Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined, the overall rates of mortality for Indigenous people were around twice as high as mortality rates for non-Indigenous people in 2000–2004 (pp. E.25–26). Similarly, in 2002–2004, in those jurisdictions for which data are available, the Indigenous infant mortality rate was higher than for all Australian infants (p. E.27). The Health preface also includes data on Indigenous causes of death, life expectancy, median age at death, and birth weight.

Primary and community health: The age standardised hospital separation rate of Indigenous people for potentially preventable acute and chronic conditions in 2004-05 was 36.8 and 65.7 per 1000 Indigenous people respectively for Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined. The quality of Indigenous identification is considered acceptable for the purposes of analysis for these jurisdictions only. In all these jurisdictions, the rates for Indigenous people were higher than the rates for all people (pp. 10.49–54).

Standardised hospital separations for potentially preventable acute conditions, 2004-05a, b, c

Standardised hospital separations for potentially preventable chronic conditions, 2004-05a, b, c



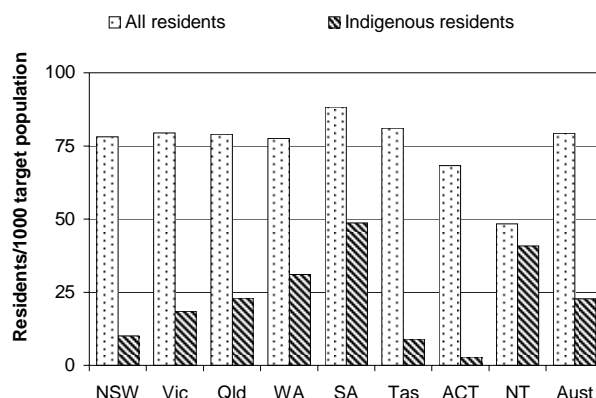
See sixth page for data and footnotes.

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Health management issues: The national age standardised breast cancer screening participation rate for Indigenous women aged 50–69 years has tended to increase in recent years, but remains below the non-Indigenous participation rate in that age group (36.1 per cent compared to 55.7 per cent), although this may be influenced by problems with the identification of Indigenous status (table 11.4, pp. 11.15–16).

Aged care services: Nationally, at 30 June 2006, the target population of Indigenous people had a lower rate of use of aged care residential services (22.8 per 1000) than the total Australian target population (79.3 per 1000). Indigenous people had lower rates of use of aged care residential services than the total population, across all jurisdictions (p. 12.28).

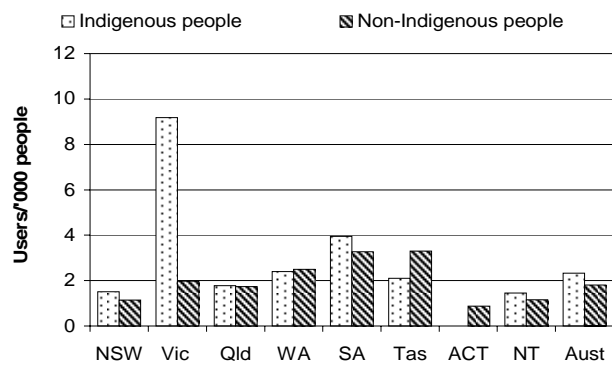
Aged Care residents per 1000 target population, 30 June 2006a, b



See sixth page for data and footnotes.

Services for people with a disability: the proportion of the Indigenous population using community access services in 2004-05 (2.3 Indigenous service users per 1000 Indigenous people aged under 65 years) was higher than the proportion of the non-Indigenous population using these services (1.8 service users per 1000 non-Indigenous people aged under 65 years) (pp. 13.32–33). Nationally, the proportions of the Indigenous population who used accommodation support, employment, community support and respite services were higher than the proportions of the non-Indigenous population who used these services (pp. 13.30–35).

Users of community access services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2004-05a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j



See seventh page for data and footnotes.

Protection and support services: The number of children who were the subject of child protection substantiations per 1000 children aged 0–16 years was 29.5 for Indigenous children compared with 6.5 for non-Indigenous children (p. 15.9). The Report also includes data on the proportion of Indigenous children in out-of-home care placed in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (pp. 15.26–27) and data on access to Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services. Nationally, Indigenous people made up 21.4 per cent of accommodated SAAP clients in 2004-05 and the same proportion (21.4 per cent) of all people whose valid requests for accommodation did not result in accommodation assistance (pp. 15.53).

Housing: Results from the 2005 National Social Housing Survey of State owned and managed Indigenous housing indicate that, of 897 respondents, 63.3 per cent were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall service provided by their State housing authority. For those tenants for whom location was important 86.5 per cent felt that their needs were met and of those tenants for whom amenity was important 74.0 per cent felt that their needs were met (p. 16.40, table 16A.22).

Data on other services to Indigenous people: The Report also contains data on Indigenous people in relation to vocational education and training, hospital separations, fetal, neonatal and perinatal death rates, hospitalisations for vaccine preventable conditions, potentially preventable acute conditions and potentially preventable chronic conditions, hospitalisations for diabetes, juvenile detention and children’s services.

Data for charts on previous pages

Apparent retention rates of full time secondary students, year 7/8 to year 10, all schools, 2005^{a, b}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
All students	96.3	98.0	99.9	101.0	99.1	100.2	99.2	94.2	98.3
Indigenous students	80.2	81.2	91.8	92.8	86.7	103.2	101.2	91.2	88.3

^a The apparent retention rate is the percentage of full time students who continued to years 10–12 from respective cohort groups at the commencement of their secondary schooling. ^b The exclusion of part time students from standard apparent retention rate calculations has particular implications for the interpretation of results for SA, Tasmania and the NT.

Source: ABS 2006, *Schools Australia* 2005, Cat. no. 4221.0; ABS *Schools Australia* (unpublished); table 3A.117.

Proportion of Indigenous police staff (sworn and unsworn) and proportion of the Indigenous population aged 20–64 years^{a, b, c}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Indigenous staff (2005-06)	na	na	na	2.9	1.2	1.7	1.3	5.8
Indigenous population aged 20–64 years (30 June 2001)	1.6	0.4	2.5	2.6	1.4	2.9	1.0	23.0

^a Indigenous staff numbers relate to those staff who self-identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. ^b Information on Indigenous status is collected only at time of recruitment. ^c Victoria and Queensland were unable to separate Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff. Indigenous staff are reported as the sum of both the operational and non-operational categories. Where data for the non-operational category are not available, such as in NSW, the sum of both categories is also shown as not available.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, Cat. no. 3201.0, (unpublished), table 5A.22.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates, prisoners per 100 000 adults, 2005-06^{a, b, c, d}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Indigenous prisoners	2199.7	1151.0	1779.7	3300.3	1862.0	594.0	580.3	1763.0	2030.6
Non-Indigenous prisoners	134.9	86.6	134.1	138.0	102.6	122.2	45.3	136.7	118.7

^a Non-age standardised rates are based on the daily average prisoner populations supplied by states and territories. The population figures used to calculate rates are people at December 2005 aged 17 or over for Victoria and Queensland, and people aged 18 or over in the other jurisdictions, reflecting the age at which people are remanded or sentenced to adult custody. (Source: ABS National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics). ^b Interjurisdictional comparisons should be treated with care. Small changes in numbers in those jurisdictions with relatively low Indigenous populations can have a disproportionate effect on the respective rates. ^c NSW rates exclude ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons. ACT rates are based on total ACT prisoner numbers regardless of whether a prisoner is held in NSW or the ACT. ^d Includes offenders on inactive orders, although not all offenders on inactive orders are included in all jurisdictions (see tables 7A.30, 7A.36, 7A.74).

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished), table 7A.4.

[MORE]

Standardised hospital separations for potentially preventable acute and chronic conditions, 2004-05^{a, b, c}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Acute conditions</i>									
Indigenous people	np	np	32.6	46.0	32.9	np	np	37.0	np
All people	np	np	12.7	13.0	13.4	np	np	16.7	np
<i>Chronic conditions</i>									
Indigenous people	np	np	63.0	70.5	77.0	np	np	61.6	np
All people	np	np	19.0	31.2	17.2	np	np	27.2	np

^a Indigenous separation rates are per 1000 of the Indigenous population and are directly age standardised to the Indigenous population at 30 June 2001. All people separation rates are per 1000 people and are directly age standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 2001. ^b Includes data only for Queensland, WA, SA, and the NT (public hospitals only), for which the quality of Indigenous identification is considered acceptable for the purposes of analysis. Caution should be used in the interpretation of these data because of jurisdictional differences in data quality. It should be noted that data for the four states and territories are not necessarily representative of the other jurisdictions. A total for Australia is not available. ^c Indigenous separation rates are based on state of hospitalisation while all person rates are based on state of usual residence. Care should be taken when comparing the two.

Source: AIHW (unpublished).

Aged Care residents per 1000 target population, 30 June 2006^{a, b}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Indigenous residents	10.1	18.5	23.0	31.1	48.7	9.0	2.8	40.8	22.8
All residents	78.1	79.4	79.0	77.6	88.3	81.1	68.3	48.4	79.3

^a All residents data are per 1000 people aged 70 years or over plus Indigenous people aged 50–69 years.
^b Indigenous residents data are per 1000 Indigenous people aged 50 years or over.

Source: DoHA (unpublished); tables 12A.12 and 12A.16.

Users of CSTDA community access services, per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2004-05^{a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Indigenous people	1.5	9.2	1.8	2.4	4.0	2.1	np	1.5	2.3
Non-Indigenous people	1.1	2.0	1.7	2.5	3.3	3.3	0.9	1.2	1.8

^a Data for users per 1000 people were derived by dividing the number of service users by the number of people aged under 65 years, multiplied by 1000. ^b Where Indigenous status was inconsistently recorded for the same user, the user was counted as an Indigenous Australian. ^c Data for all service users exclude 5222 service users whose Indigenous status was not reported, so community access service users per 1000 total population aged under 65 years may differ from other figures. Due to the relatively high rate of missing data, care should be taken when interpreting this indicator. ^d Service users who accessed the service type 'recreation/holiday programs' (service type 3.02) were not required to complete the item on Indigenous status; however, those who did provide a response are included in the data. ^e Data for users of CSTDA funded community access services exclude specialist psychiatric disability services specifically identified by the jurisdiction. ^f Individuals might have accessed services from more than one State or Territory during 2004-05. ^g Data quality continues to improve following the implementation of the CSTDA NMDS. However, this indicator needs to be interpreted with care due to a number of factors impacting on data quality. Differences in service type outlet response rates between jurisdictions, for example, should be considered when comparing jurisdictional data. ^h Comparisons of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations' access to services should be undertaken with care. The need for services is likely to be greater for Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people due to the higher prevalence of disability. The AIHW estimated that the proportion of Indigenous people aged over 18 years who had a profound or severe core activity limitation is approximately 2.4 times that of non-Indigenous people. ⁱ NSW experienced low data response rates. This led to the significant underreporting of service user numbers. ^j ACT data for service users per 1000 Indigenous people are not published as they are based on a small number of service users.

Source: ABS, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Cat. no. 3101.0, Canberra; ABS 2004, *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population 30 June 2001 to 30 June 2009*, Cat. no. 3238.0, Canberra; AIHW (unpublished); table 13A.25.

[END]