

This fact sheet includes selected measures from the strategic framework of indicators in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report.



WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

The young Indigenous population

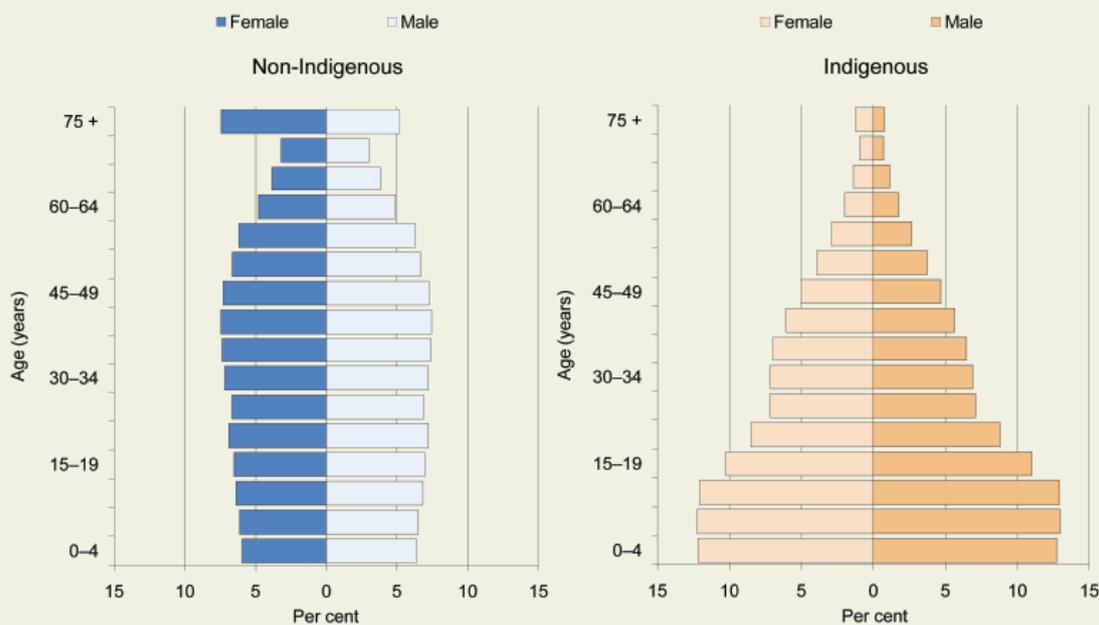
The Indigenous population is relatively young ...

In 2006, children (0–14 years) and young people (15–24 years) comprised 57 per cent of the total Indigenous population.

... much younger than the non-Indigenous population.

In 2006, 38 per cent of Indigenous people were aged 14 years and under, compared with 19 per cent of the non-Indigenous population.

In 2006, the median age of Indigenous people was 21 years, compared with 37 years in the non-Indigenous population.



Many young Indigenous people live in cities and regional areas ...

In 2006, 32 per cent of Indigenous children (0–14 years) and young people (15–24 years) lived in major cities and 44 per cent lived in regional Australia.

... but a large number live in remote areas.

In 2006, 24 per cent of Indigenous children (0–14 years) and young people (15–24 years) lived in remote and very remote areas.

Information in this fact sheet is from *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011*, published by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. The report can be found on the Review website: www.pc.gov.au/gsp. Printed copies of the report are available from Canprint Communications (ph: 1300 889 873 or email: sales@infoservices.com.au). For further information contact the Secretariat: (03) 9653 2100, gsp@pc.gov.au.

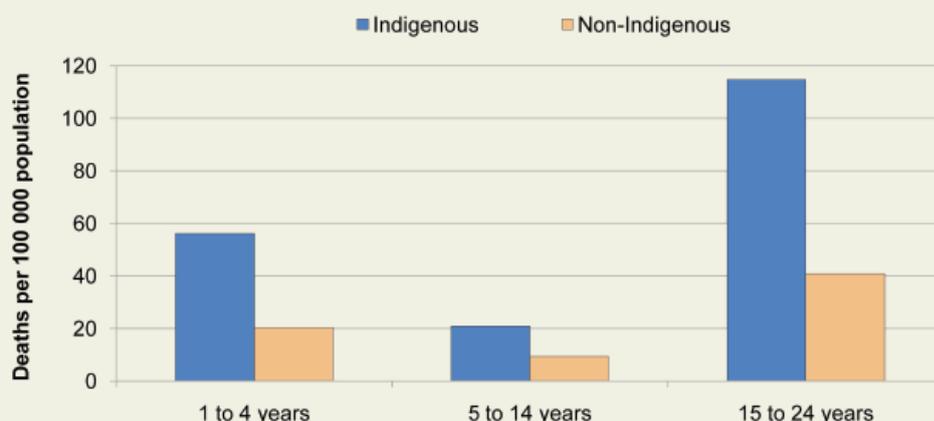
Photos courtesy of Reconciliation Australia and Wayne Quilliam (Indigenous Governance Awards 2010).
CAUTION: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain images of deceased people. No inference is intended that the people or communities shown are the subject of any issue raised in the report.

LIFE FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Healthy lives

Average mortality (death) rates for Indigenous children and young people are 2 to 3 times those for young non-Indigenous people.

Age-specific death rates, 2005–2009



However, infant (0–12 months) mortality has declined.

Indigenous infant mortality rates declined from 14 to 8 per 1000 live births between 1998–2000 and 2007–09. However, they remain twice as high as non-Indigenous infant mortality rates.

Early childhood hospitalisations are much higher for Indigenous children ...

Between 2004–05 and 2008–09, the hospitalisation rate for Indigenous 0–4 year olds was 1.2 to 1.4 times the rate for other children, and the difference was higher in remote areas.

... including hospitalisations for diseases associated with poor environmental health.

Between 2004–05 and 2008–09, on average, Indigenous children aged 0–4 years were hospitalised for infectious and parasitic diseases, and diseases of the respiratory system at around twice the rate for other children.

Programs are improving access to primary health care.

Indigenous-focused health programs are improving access to primary health care.

Education and training

On average, Indigenous children have lower rates of school attendance ...

On average, attendance rates for Indigenous students at government schools were lower than for non-Indigenous students for years 1–10 in all states and territories in 2010.

... and poorer average learning outcomes.

Lower proportions of Indigenous students achieved national minimum standards for reading, writing and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in 2010. Outcomes declined as remoteness increased.

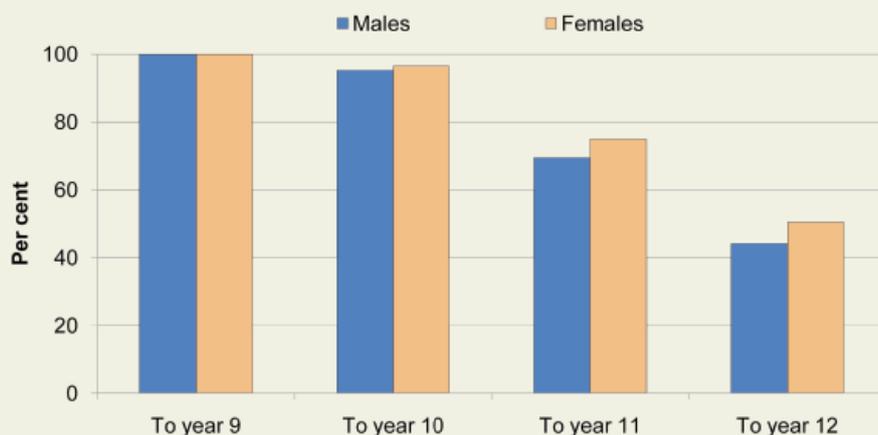
LIFE FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Education and training (continued)

Retention to year 12 is much lower for Indigenous students.

Apparent retention rates estimate the percentage of full time students who progress through secondary school. In 2010, 47 per cent of Indigenous students progressed to year 12, compared with 79 per cent of non-Indigenous students.

Retention rates of full time Indigenous students



Indigenous students, on average, complete year 12 at half the rate of non-Indigenous students.

In 2008, around 45 per cent of Indigenous 20–24 year olds had completed year 12 or equivalent, compared with 88 per cent of non-Indigenous 20–24 year olds.

Some programs are improving school attendance and attainment.

Scholarship programs and ongoing, individual student support have increased secondary school participation and attainment for some young Indigenous people.

Safe and supportive communities

Indigenous juveniles have higher average rates of detention ...

Indigenous juveniles were detained at 23 times the rate of non-Indigenous juveniles in June 2009. The number of Indigenous juveniles in detention increased between 2001 and 2008, but declined significantly in 2009.

... and lower rates of diversion from the formal criminal justice system.

Indigenous juvenile offenders have lower rates of diversion from the criminal justice system than non-Indigenous juvenile offenders, in all jurisdictions for which there are data.

Some programs are increasing Indigenous access to youth diversionary measures.

Some programs aim to increase access to diversionary measures for Indigenous youth. Others encourage family and local community involvement to reduce reoffending.

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Economic participation

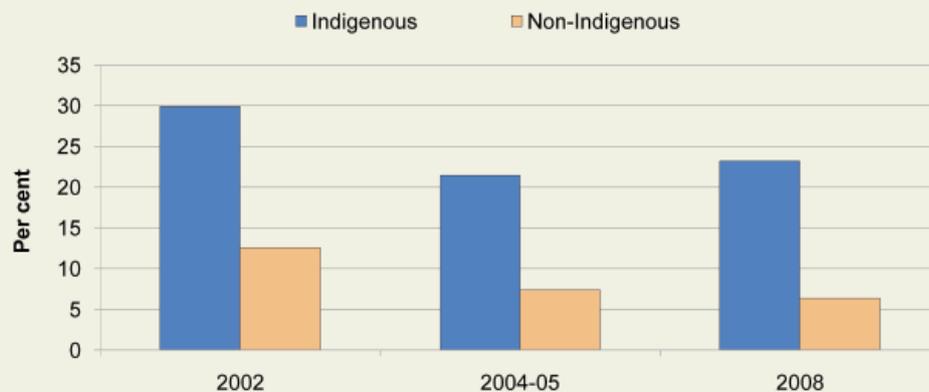
Unemployment tends to be highest among young people ...

Young people typically have less developed work-related skills and are more likely to be entering the labour force for the first time. However, unemployment rates for young Indigenous people are higher than those for young non-Indigenous people.

... but unemployment for young Indigenous people fell between 1994 and 2008.

Between 1994 and 2008, unemployment for Indigenous 18–24 year olds decreased from 40 per cent to 23 per cent.

Unemployment rates for people aged 18–24 years



In 2008, 23 per cent of young Indigenous people were unemployed, compared with 6 per cent of non-Indigenous young people.

Many young Indigenous people are not studying and not working.

In 2008, 40 per cent of Indigenous 18–24 year olds were not employed and not studying, compared with 10 per cent of non-Indigenous 18–24 year olds.

Some programs are helping young Indigenous people gain employment.

Programs are working to:

- improve literacy skills
- provide mentoring support
- encourage participation in traineeship programs
- create specific short-term and long-term employment opportunities across a variety of occupations.