

Report on Government Services 2013 – Indigenous Compendium

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The performance of mainstream services provided to Indigenous Australians is a particular focus of the annual Report on Government Services. This factsheet summarises key information from the 2013 Report about the provision of mainstream services to Indigenous Australians – drawn from the Indigenous Compendium to the Report, released on Friday, 19 April 2013.

Several improvements in Indigenous reporting were made in the 2013 Report:

- early childhood education and care – a new measure, the proportion of Indigenous children enrolled and attending preschool, under the indicator ‘Indigenous preschool enrolment and attendance’
- aged care – inclusion of additional data for the ‘elapsed times for aged care services’ indicator, by remoteness areas, socio-economic index for areas (SEIFA) and Indigenous status
- housing – new data for the ‘dwelling condition’ indicator for public housing, State owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH) and community housing.

The Steering Committee recommends caution in interpreting data on services to Indigenous people. Indigenous people are not always identified in data collections, and surveys designed to report on the 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.

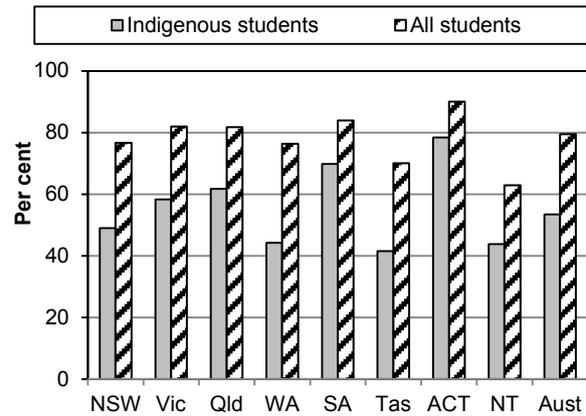
Footnote: Data and caveats for the following figures are available electronically from the Review of Government Service Provision website (<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/rogs/2013>). Data may be subject to revision. The most recent data will be available on the Review website.

Selection of results

School education: The national apparent retention rate for all schools from year 10 to year 12 for Indigenous students was 53.5 per cent, compared with 79.5 per cent for all students, in 2011. However, Indigenous students' apparent retention rates from year 10 to year 12 for all schools has risen from 45.7 per cent in 2003 to 53.5 per cent in 2011, with the gap between Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students decreasing from 32.0 percentage points in 2003 to 27.1 percentage points in 2011. (2013 Report, pp. 4.28–30; 2013 IC, pp. 4.9-13). Other school education data such as learning outcomes (2013 Report, pp. 4.45–77; 2013 IC pp. 4.13–43) are also reported by Indigenous status.

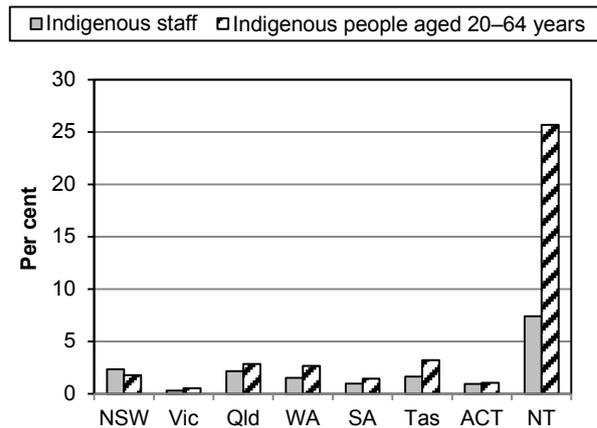
Police services: The proportion of police staff who self-reported as Indigenous in 2011-12 was similar to the representation of Indigenous people in the population aged 20–64 years for all jurisdictions except the NT. In the NT, Indigenous staff accounted for 7.4 per cent of total staff, compared with Indigenous representation in the working age population of 25.6 per cent (2013 Report, pp. 6.12-13; 2013 IC, pp. 6.3–5 and table 6A.17).

Apparent rates of retention from year 10 to year 12, full time secondary students, 2011^a



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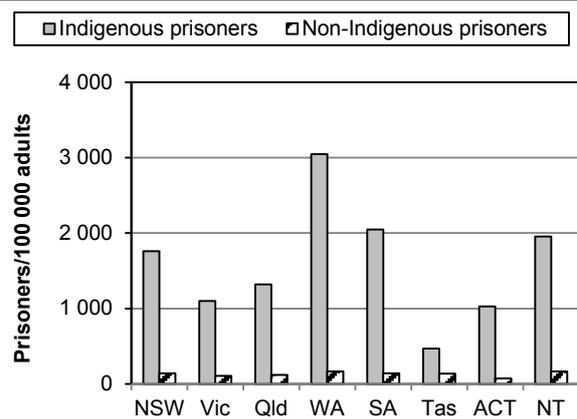
Proportion of Indigenous police staff in 2011-12 and Indigenous population aged 20–64 years^a



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Corrective services: In 2011-12 the national imprisonment rate per 100 000 Indigenous adults was 1749.7 compared with a rate of 129.1 for non-Indigenous adults (age standardised rates) (2013 Report, p. 8.7-8; 2013 IC, p. 8.4). While imprisonment rates for Indigenous people are higher than those for non-Indigenous people, the majority of prisoners are non-Indigenous (72.4 per cent of all prisoners were non-Indigenous in 2011-12) (2013 Report, p. 8.8; 2013 IC, p. 8.5). Prisoner death rates from apparent unnatural causes in 2011-12 (2013 Report, p. 8.16; 2013 IC, p. 8.8-10) and community corrections offender rates (2013 Report, pp. 8.8-11; 2013 IC, pp. 8.5-7) are also reported by Indigenous status.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous age standardised imprisonment rates, 2011-12^a



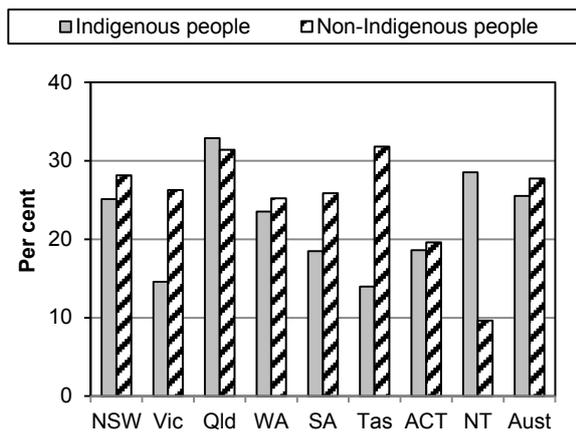
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Health sector: For NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined, the overall rates of mortality for Indigenous Australians were nearly twice as high as mortality rates for non-Indigenous Australians, based on data for 2007-2011 (2013 Report, pp. E.30-31; 2013 IC, pp. E.19-20). Similarly, in 2007-2011, in those jurisdictions for which data are of acceptable quality for reporting, the average mortality rate for Indigenous infants was higher than for non-Indigenous infants (2013 Report, p. E.30; 2013 IC, p. E.19). The Health sector overview also includes data such as rates of obesity for Indigenous adults and children (2013 Report, p. E.14; 2013 IC, p. E.10-11), age standardised mortality rates of potentially avoidable deaths for Indigenous Australians aged under 75 years (2013 Report, pp. E.22-24; 2013 IC, pp. E.14-15) and life expectancy (2013 Report, pp. E.26-27; 2013 IC, pp. E.16).

Public hospitals: The number and proportion of Indigenous patients treated within national benchmarks for emergency department waiting times are reported for 2011-12 (2013 Report, p. 10.19; 2013 IC, p. 10.7, table 10A.19). Waiting times for elective surgery in public hospitals at the 90th percentile, reported by procedure, were 259 days for Indigenous people, in comparison to 250 days for non-Indigenous people, nationally in 2011-12 (2013 Report, p. 10.24; 2013 IC, p. 10.9, table 10A.23). Other public hospitals data such as unplanned hospital readmissions rates (2013 Report, p. 10.32; 2013 IC, 10A.44) and perinatal death rates (2013 Report pp. 10.72-77; 2013 IC, pp. 10.14-15) are reported by Indigenous status.

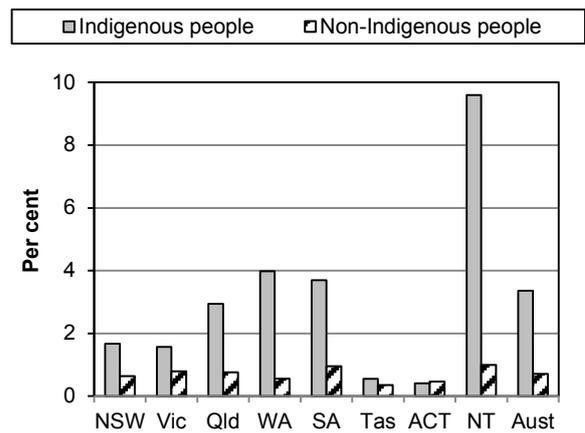
Primary and community health: The proportion of Indigenous older Australians who received an annual health assessment under Medicare was lower than for all older Australians in 2011-12 in most states and territories (2013 Report, pp. 11.24–29; 2013 IC, pp. 11.9–11). The age standardised hospital separation rate for vaccine preventable conditions was higher for Indigenous people than for non-Indigenous people in 2010-11, in most jurisdictions (2013 Report, pp. 11.76–79; 2013 IC, pp. 11.26–28).

Older people who received an annual health assessment by Indigenous status, 2011-12^a



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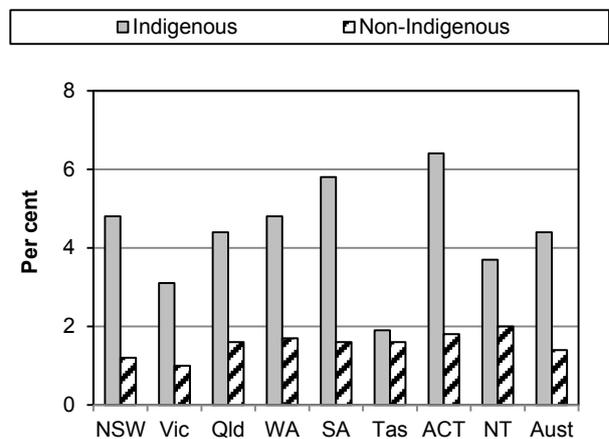
Separations for vaccine preventable conditions by Indigenous status, 2010-11^a



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Mental health management: Nationally, in 2010-11, the proportion of the Indigenous Australians using State and Territory specialised public mental health services (4.4 per cent) was higher than for the proportion of the non-Indigenous population (1.4 per cent) (2013 Report, 12.21–24; 2013 IC, pp. 12.10-11, table 12A.26).

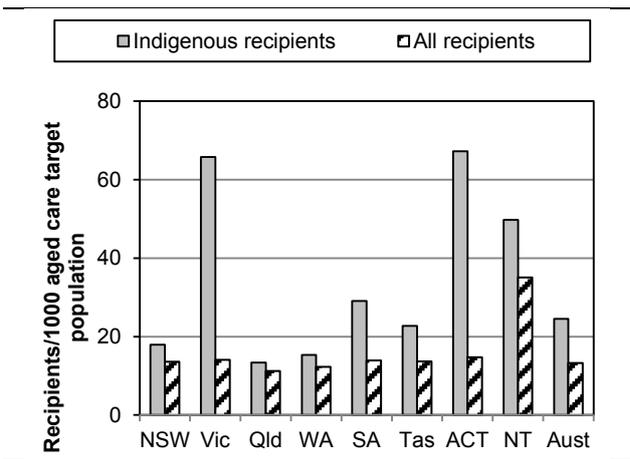
Population using State and Territory specialised public mental health services, by Indigenous status, 2010-11^a



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Aged care services: Nationally, at 30 June 2012, Indigenous Australians aged 50 years or over had a lower rate of residential aged care use than the total target population for residential aged care (Indigenous people aged 50–64 years and all people aged 65 years or over) (2013 Report, pp. 13.39-40; 2013 IC, pp. 13.12). For Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), Indigenous people had a higher rate of use than did the total population (2013 Report, pp. 13.40-41; 2013 IC, pp. 13.12-13). Nationally, the number of Indigenous Home and Community Care (HACC) recipients per 1000 Indigenous Australians aged 50 years or over was 219.1, compared to a total of 225.3 per 1000 of the aged care target population (people aged 65 years or over and Indigenous Australians aged 50–64 years) (2013 Report, pp. 13.41-42; 2013 IC, pp. 13.13–15).

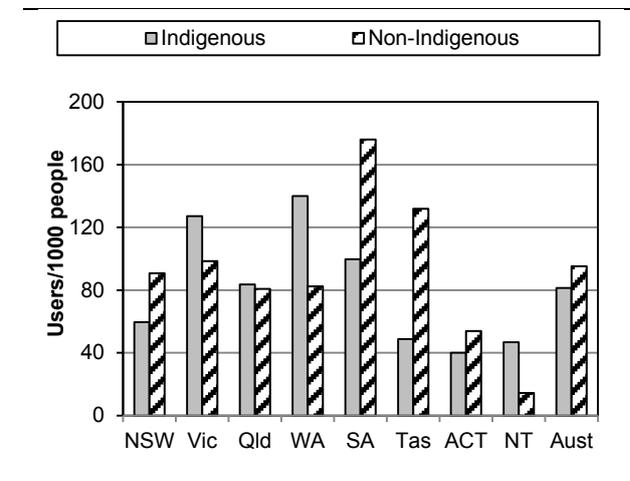
CACP recipients per 1000 target population, 30 June 2012^a



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Services for people with disability: Nationally, the proportion of the Indigenous potential population who used NDA funded community access services (81.4 service users per 1000 potential population) was lower than the proportion of the non-Indigenous potential population who used these services (95.2 service users per 1000 potential population). However, nationally for accommodation support services users per 1000 potential population were similar for Indigenous and non-Indigenous (2013 Report, pp. 14.38–42; 2013 IC, p. 14.8–12). Other disability services data such as employment (2013 Report, p. 14.42; 2013 IC p. 14.13) are reported by Indigenous status.

Users of community access services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2010-11^a



See first page for footnote.

Child protection services: The child protection substantiation rate for Indigenous children was 41.9 per 1000 children aged 0–17 years, compared with 5.4 for non-Indigenous children in 2011-12 (2013 Report, p. 15.14; 2013 IC, p. 15.12, table 15A.8). Data on the placement of Indigenous children in out-of-home care, placed in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle are also reported. Nationally, at 30 June 2012, 52.4 per cent of Indigenous children in out-of-home care were placed with relatives/kin (38.2 per cent with Indigenous relatives/kin and 14.1 per cent with non-Indigenous relatives/kin). A further 16.4 per cent of Indigenous children in out-of-home care were placed with other Indigenous carers or in Indigenous residential care (2013 Report, pp. 15.35–39; 2013 IC, pp. 15.19–21).

Housing services: The proportion of overcrowded households varied across social housing programs. Nationally, 9.8 per cent of SOMIH households were overcrowded, at 30 June 2012. By contrast, in public housing and community housing, the rates of overcrowding were 4.3 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively (2013 Report, p. 16.45; 2013 IC, p. 16.35-36).

Data on other services to Indigenous people: The Report also contains data on Indigenous people in relation to service areas not covered in this factsheet, including:

- Early childhood education and care
- Vocational education and training
- Youth justice services
- Homelessness services.

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before 12.15 am on 19 April 2013.

The Report can be accessed via the Review's website at www.pc.gov.au/gsp.

Tables with a 'number A' prefix (eg. table 3A.1) are in the attachments to the 2013 Report on Government Services and the 2013 Indigenous Compendium on the Review website.

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