

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



### WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN MAJOR CITIES?

#### Overall outcomes in major cities

**Indigenous people in major cities are disadvantaged in education, employment and incomes.**

Indigenous people in major cities, are less likely to have completed year 12, are more likely to be unemployed and have significantly lower incomes than non-Indigenous people in major cities. However, Indigenous people in major cities have better outcomes than Indigenous people in remote areas for some housing, economic and education indicators.

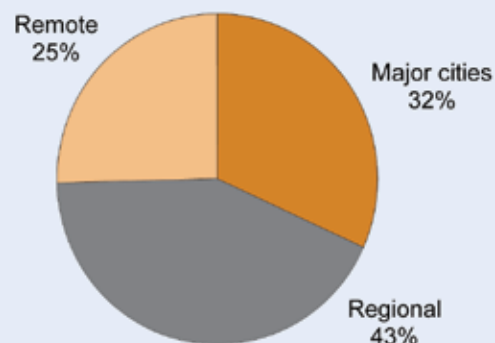
**They are also disadvantaged in aspects of justice and health but data are very limited.**

Indigenous people in major cities suffer more violence, were more likely to be daily smokers and had higher distress levels than non-Indigenous people.

#### Where do Indigenous people live?

**32 per cent of Indigenous people live in major cities ... and 25 per cent live in remote areas.**

**Nearly 70 per cent of non-Indigenous people live in major cities — and only 2 per cent live in remote areas.**



#### What is remoteness?

Remoteness reflects the distance people have to travel to obtain services. In this fact sheet:

**Remote** includes both remote and very remote areas  
— *Remote* includes places like Alice Springs and Esperance  
— *Very remote* includes places like Tennant Creek and Coober Pedy.

**Regional** includes both inner and outer regional areas  
— *Inner regional* includes places like Hobart, Noosa and Tamworth  
— *Outer regional* includes places like Darwin, Cairns and Whyalla.

**Major cities** includes most capital cities and many other large cities  
— *Major cities* includes places like Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

# WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN MAJOR CITIES?

## Education and training in major cities

**In major cities learning outcomes for Indigenous students are lower than for all students.**

78 per cent of year 9 Indigenous students in major cities, in 2008, achieved the national minimum standard for reading compared to 94 per cent of non-Indigenous year 9 students.

**In major cities Indigenous people are less likely than non-Indigenous people to have completed school ...**

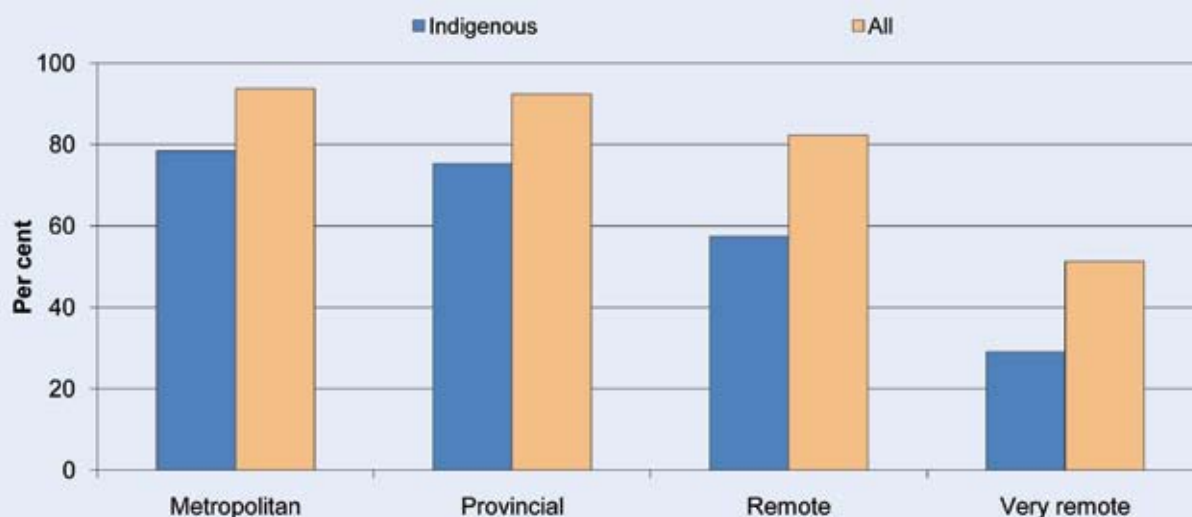
44 per cent of Indigenous 19 year olds in major cities had completed year 12 compared to 77 per cent of non-Indigenous 19 year olds, in 2006.

**... and are less likely to have tertiary qualifications.**

27 per cent of Indigenous people aged 20 to 64 years in major cities had a qualification of certificate III or higher compared with 49 per cent of non-Indigenous people, in 2006.

The proportion of Indigenous people with a certificate level III or higher increased between 2001 and 2006.

## Year 9 students who achieved the national minimum standard for reading, 2008



**Some schools are helping Indigenous students stay at school, and increasing numbers are obtaining tertiary qualifications.**

School programs are encouraging Indigenous secondary students to remain at school longer. Other programs are providing opportunities for Indigenous people to attain trade skills.

**A quarter of Indigenous young people in major cities were not working and not studying ...**

In 2006, a quarter of Indigenous people aged 15 to 24 years in major cities were not working and not studying, compared to 8 per cent of non-Indigenous people of the same age.

**... but targeted programs can help with job skills and employment.**

Training and employment programs that focus on year 12 completion and progression to tertiary or vocational education and employment can improve employment outcomes.

# 2009

Information in this fact sheet is from *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, 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](http://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](mailto:sales@infoservices.com.au)). For further information contact the Secretariat: (03) 9653 2100, [gsp@pc.gov.au](mailto:gsp@pc.gov.au).

# WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN MAJOR CITIES?

## Healthy people and safe communities in major cities

**Indigenous children in major cities have more tooth decay than non-Indigenous children.**

In both metropolitan and rural areas, Indigenous children had more teeth with decay than non-Indigenous children.

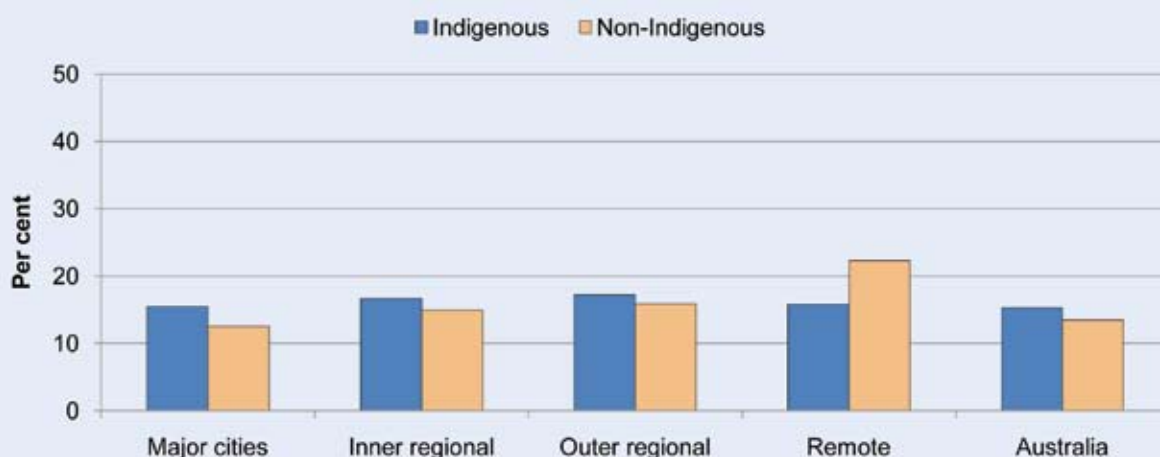
**Indigenous people in major cities were more distressed than non-Indigenous people ...**

In 2004-05, 26 per cent of Indigenous adults in major cities reported high or very high distress levels compared to 13 per cent of non-Indigenous adults.

**... however, many were also happy most or all of the time.**

In the same period, half of Indigenous adults in major cities reported being calm or peaceful and full of life most of the time.

### Adults drinking at risky/high risk levels, 2004-05



**Indigenous people in major cities were less likely than non-Indigenous people to have drunk alcohol ...**

47 per cent of Indigenous adults in major cities had not consumed alcohol in the week before being asked, compared to 37 per cent of non-Indigenous adults in 2004-05.

The proportion of adults who had consumed alcohol at risky or high risk levels was similar for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in major cities in 2004-05.

**... but were more likely to be daily smokers.**

45 per cent of Indigenous adults in major cities were current daily smokers compared with 20 per cent of non-Indigenous adults, in 2004-05.

**Indigenous people in major cities are more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Indigenous people.**

Indigenous people in major cities were victims of homicide at three times the rate for non-Indigenous people between 2002-03 and 2006-07.

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# FACT SHEET

## WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN MAJOR CITIES?

### Employment and income

**Fewer Indigenous than non-Indigenous people in major cities were working ...**

In 2006, 52 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 years in major cities were working, compared to 72 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

**... and their unemployment rate was higher.**

The unemployment rate for Indigenous people in major cities was 15 per cent compared with 5 per cent for non-Indigenous people.

Between 2001 and 2006, the unemployment rate decreased for Indigenous people.

**Employed Indigenous people in major cities were as likely as non-Indigenous people to work full time ...**

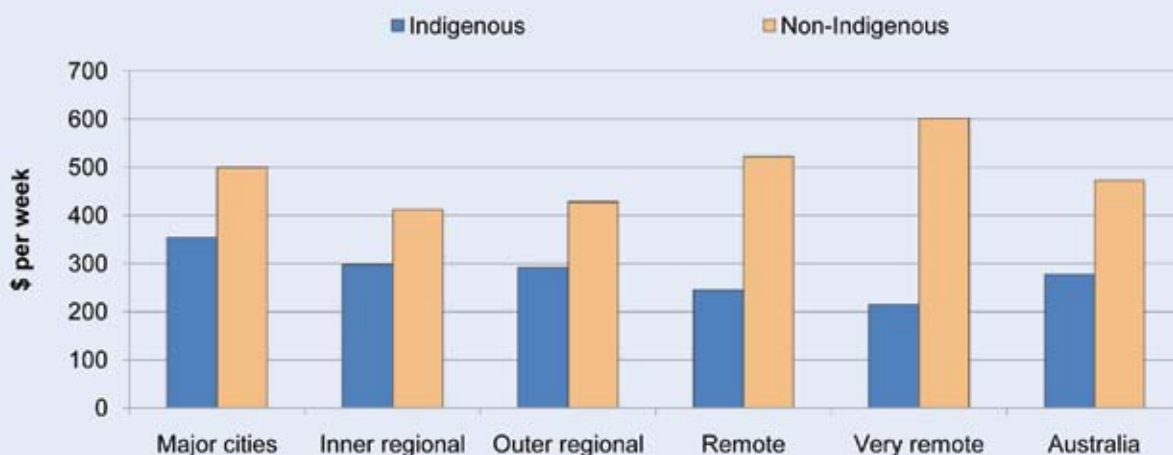
67 per cent of employed Indigenous people in major cities worked full time and 70 per cent of employed non-Indigenous people worked full time, in 2006.

**... and, the level of job skills needed was similar for Indigenous and non-Indigenous workers.**

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in major cities had a similar mix of jobs with high and low skill levels.

Indigenous people, in 2006, had much lower rates of self employment than non-Indigenous people in major cities.

### Individual weekly income, 2006



**Indigenous people in major cities had lower incomes than non-Indigenous people ...**

In 2006, the median individual income for Indigenous adults in major cities was \$354 per week compared with \$499 for non-Indigenous people.

**... and were three times as likely to have a government pension or allowance as their main source of income.**

Government pensions and allowances were the main source of income for 49 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 years in major cities compared with 15 per cent for non-Indigenous people in 2004-05.

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