

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 REGIONAL AREAS?

Overall outcomes in regional areas

Indigenous people in regional areas are disadvantaged in education, employment and incomes.

Indigenous people in regional areas had lower rates of post-school qualifications, higher unemployment and lower incomes than non-Indigenous people in regional areas. However, Indigenous people in regional areas have better outcomes than Indigenous people in remote areas for some housing, economic and education indicators.

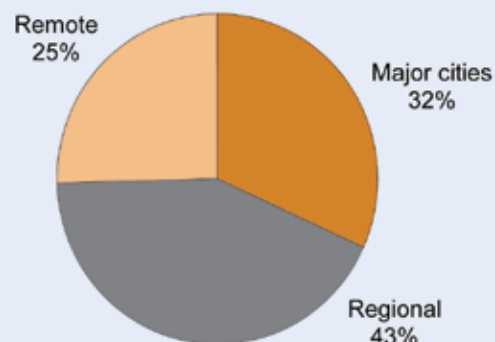
They are also disadvantaged in aspects of justice and health but data are very limited.

Indigenous people in regional areas were more likely to be daily smokers and suffered more violence and distress than non-Indigenous people.

Where do Indigenous people live?

43 per cent of Indigenous people live in regional areas ... and 32 per cent live in major cities.

29 per cent of non-Indigenous people live in regional areas — 20 per cent (inner regional) and 9 per cent (outer regional)



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 REGIONAL AREAS?

Education and training

Learning outcomes for Indigenous students in regional areas are lower than for all students.

75 per cent of year 9 Indigenous students in regional areas achieved the national minimum standard for reading, in 2008, compared to 92 per cent of non-Indigenous year 9 students.

Indigenous people in regional areas are less likely than non-Indigenous people to have completed year 12 ...

In 2006, 36 per cent of Indigenous 19 year olds in regional areas had completed year 12, compared to 63 per cent of non-Indigenous 19 year olds.

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

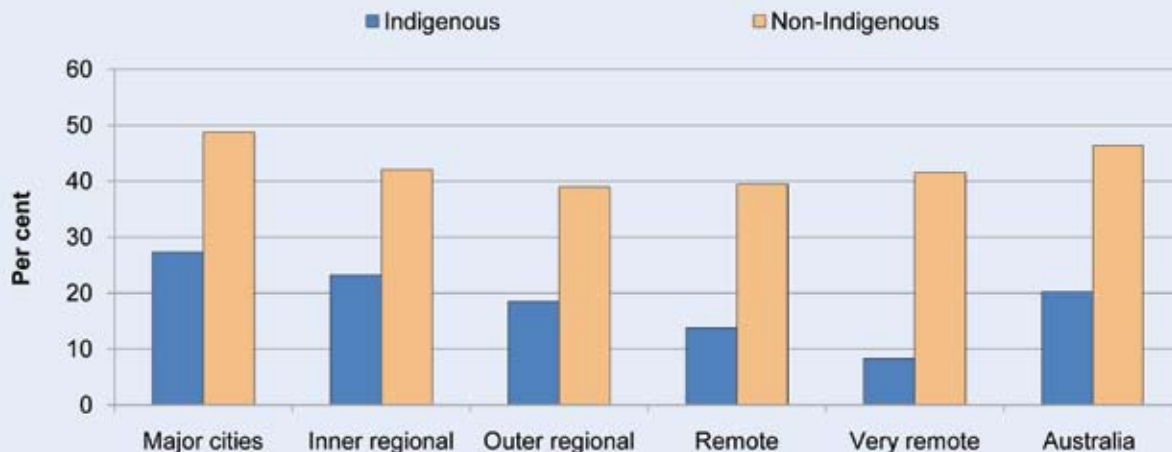
21 per cent of Indigenous people aged 20–64 years in regional areas had a qualification of certificate III or higher, compared to 41 per cent of non-Indigenous 20–64 year olds.

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

However, some schools are helping Indigenous students stay at school, with increasing numbers obtaining tertiary qualifications.

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

Proportion of people aged 20–64 years with a certificate III or higher, 2006



More than a quarter of Indigenous young people in regional areas were not working and not studying ...

In 2006, 28 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15 to 24 years in regional areas were not working and not studying, compared to 11 per cent of non-Indigenous people of the same age.

... but targeted programs can help with learning job skills and getting into jobs.

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

WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN REGIONAL AREAS?

Healthy people and safe communities

Indigenous children in regional areas 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.

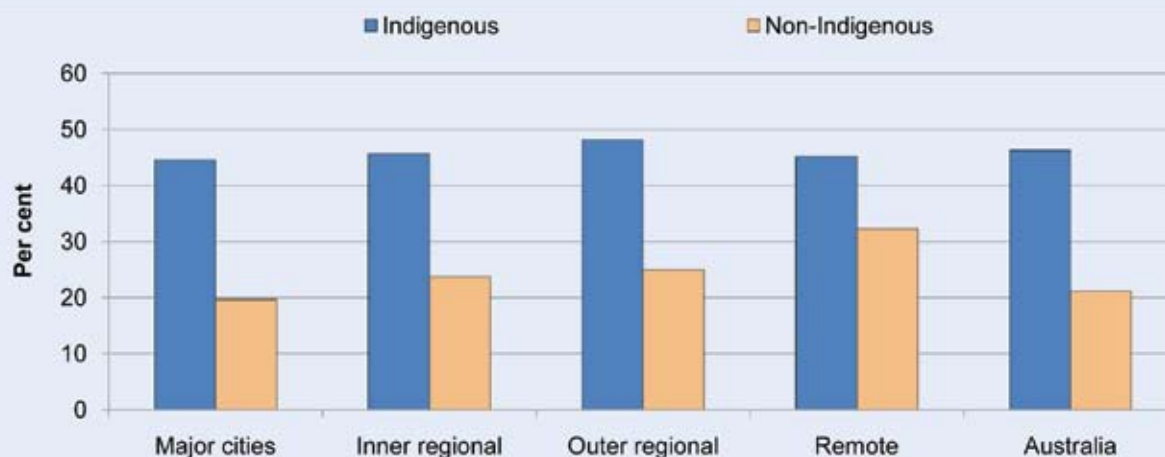
Indigenous people in regional areas were more distressed than non-Indigenous people ...

In 2004-05, 28 per cent of Indigenous adults in regional areas reported high or very high distress levels, compared to 14 per cent of non-Indigenous adults.

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

In the same period, more than half of Indigenous adults in regional areas reported being calm or peaceful and full of life most of the time.

Current daily smokers, people aged 18 years or over, age standardised, 2004-05



Indigenous people in regional areas were less likely than non-Indigenous people to have drunk alcohol ...

Half of Indigenous adults in regional areas had not consumed alcohol in the week before being asked, compared to a third of non-Indigenous people.

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 regional areas.

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

Nearly half of Indigenous adults in regional areas were daily smokers, compared to around a quarter of non-Indigenous people.

Indigenous people in regional areas are more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Indigenous people.

Indigenous people in regional areas were victims of homicide at three times (inner regional) to 12 times (outer regional) the rate for non-Indigenous people between 2002-03 and 2006-07.

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Employment and income

Fewer Indigenous than non-Indigenous people in regional areas were working ...

In 2006, 46 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15–64 years in regional areas were working, compared to 70 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

... and their unemployment rate was higher.

The unemployment rate for Indigenous people in regional areas was 18 per cent, compared to 5 per cent for non-Indigenous people.

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

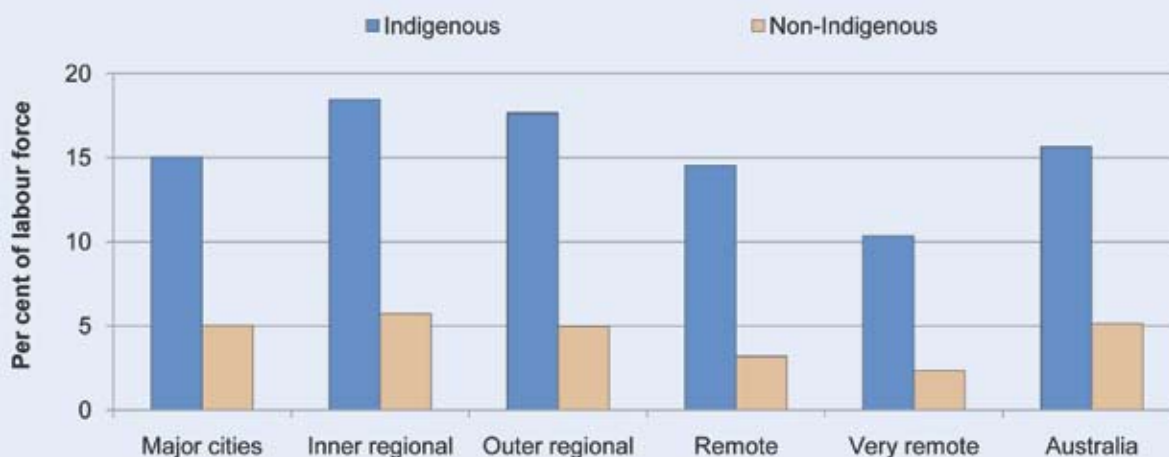
Indigenous people in regional areas were less likely than non-Indigenous to work full time ...

60 per cent of employed Indigenous people in regional areas worked full time, compared to 68 per cent of employed non-Indigenous people.

... and often need lower level job skills in their work.

Indigenous people in regional areas were more likely to have jobs with lower skill levels than non-Indigenous people, and were much less likely to be self employed.

Unemployment, people aged 15 to 64 years, by remoteness, 2006



Indigenous people in regional areas had lower incomes than non-Indigenous people ...

In regional areas in 2006, the median (middle) individual income for Indigenous adults was \$295 per week, compared to \$420 for non-Indigenous people.

... and were more 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 50 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15–64 years in regional areas in 2004–05 compared to 22 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

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