

F a c t s h e e t

Government services and Indigenous people

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

Under embargo until 1.00am on Friday, 28 January 2011

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GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has identified the performance of mainstream services in relation to Indigenous Australians as a particular focus of the Report. This factsheet summarises key data from the 2011 Report about the provision of mainstream services to Indigenous Australians.

Improvements in the 2011 Report include further alignment with National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) indicators for the outcome indicators 'reading performance', 'writing performance' and 'numeracy performance' in the School education chapter. Reporting on vocational education and training (VET) has been enhanced by co-location of data for the Indigenous cohort of students and graduates with those for the general cohort to make comparisons easier, expanded time series analysis of VET participation by Indigenous status under the 'VET participation by target group' equity indicator and reporting the new measure of Qualification Equivalents (by Indigenous status) under the 'skill profile' outcome indicator. The Police services chapter has been enhanced by reporting data from all jurisdictions for the first time for the access indicator 'Indigenous staffing', enabling its status to change from incomplete to complete. Major improvements in reporting in the Health preface and chapters include alignment with NIRA indicators. The Protection and support services chapter has been enhanced by some child protection, out-of-home care and intensive family support services data reporting, disaggregated by the categories 'Indigenous', 'non-Indigenous', 'unknown Indigenous status' and 'total children'. Housing has been enhanced by adopting the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for reporting the 'match of household to dwelling size' outcome indicator for State owned and managed Indigenous housing (SOMIH).

As always, readers should exercise caution in interpreting data on services to Indigenous people. Indigenous people are not always identified in some data collections, and 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 2011 Report is scheduled for publication in April 2011.

In April 2002, COAG commissioned the Review to produce a separate regular report on key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage. The Review released the fourth edition of this Report, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, in July 2009.

Footnote: Data and caveats for the following figures are available electronically from the Review of Government Service Provision website (www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2011). Data may be subject to revision. The most recent data will be available on the Review website.

[MORE]

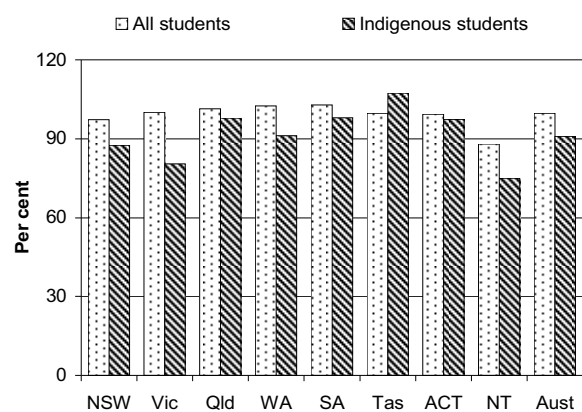
Selection of results

School education: the proportion of Indigenous students achieving national minimum standard in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 reading, writing and numeracy was lower than for all students almost without exception in 2009 (tables 4A.31–40, 4A.54–63, 4A.77–86). 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 90.9 per cent, compared with 99.8 per cent for all students, in 2009 (pp. 4.26–27).

Police services: The proportion of police staff who self-reported as Indigenous in 2009-10 was similar to the representation of Indigenous people in the population aged 20–64 years for most jurisdictions. The largest differences were in the NT, where Indigenous staff accounted for 8.4 per cent of total staff compared with Indigenous representation in the working age population of 24.8 per cent, and Tasmania, where Indigenous staff accounted for 1.8 per cent of total staff compared with Indigenous representation in the working age population of 4.6 per cent, (pp. 6.15-16, table 6A.19).

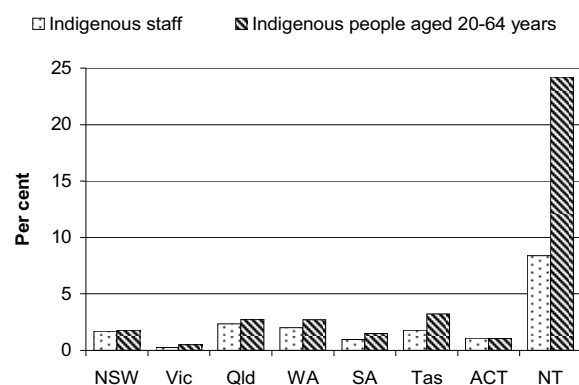
Corrective services: Indigenous people were far more likely to be in prison custody in 2009-10 than non-Indigenous people. The non-age standardised national imprisonment rate per 100 000 Indigenous adults was 2325.3 compared with a rate of 123.5 for non-Indigenous adults (p. 8.6). While imprisonment rates for Indigenous people are higher than those for non-Indigenous people, the majority of prisoners are non-Indigenous (71.7 per cent of all prisoners were non-Indigenous in 2009-10) (p. 8.8). Prisoner death rates from apparent unnatural causes in 2009-10 (p. 8.15) and community corrections offender rates (pp. 8.8–10) are also reported by Indigenous status.

Apparent rates of retention from year 7 or 8 to year 10, full time secondary students, all schools, 2009^a

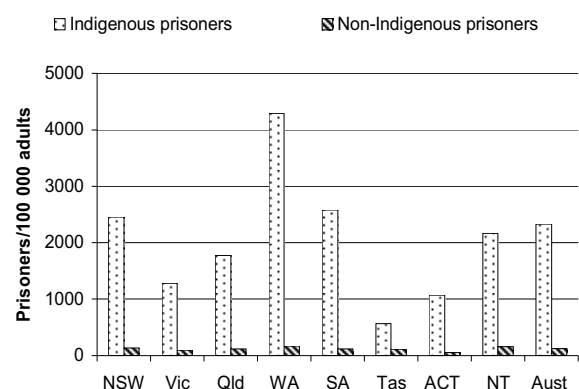


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Proportion of Indigenous police staff in 2009-10 and Indigenous population aged 20–64 years^a



Indigenous and non-Indigenous non-aged standardised imprisonment rates, 2009-10^a



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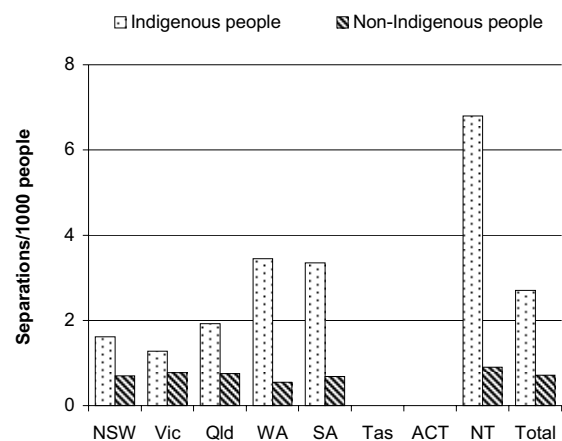
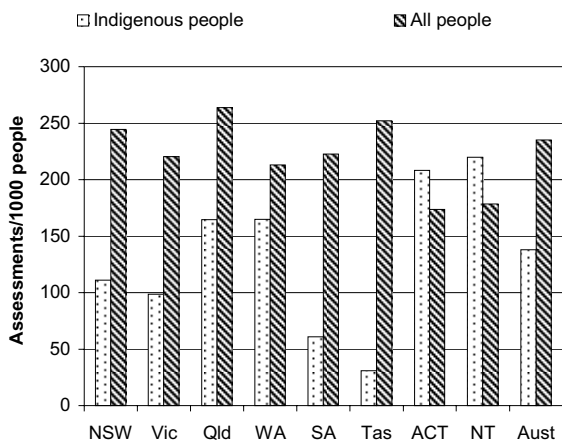
Health preface: For NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined, the overall rates of mortality for Indigenous people were almost twice as high as mortality rates for non-Indigenous people in 2004–2008 (pp. E.39-40). Similarly, in 2005–2009, in those jurisdictions for which data are available, the average infant mortality rate for Indigenous children was higher (8.9 deaths per 1000 live births) than for non-Indigenous children (4.2 deaths per 1000 live births) (p. E.41). The Health preface also includes data on Indigenous health workforce, proportion of Indigenous people who accessed health services by health status, rates of obesity for Indigenous adults and children, proportion of Indigenous adults who are daily smokers, proportion of Indigenous adults at risk of long term harm from alcohol, incidence of selected cancers for Indigenous population, all causes Indigenous infant and child mortality rates, age standardised mortality rates and rate ratios by major cause of death, life expectancy, median age at death, age standardised mortality rates of potentially avoidable deaths, for Indigenous population aged under 75 years, and birth weight.

Public hospitals: The total number and proportion of Indigenous patients treated within national benchmarks for emergency department waiting time were reported for 2008-09 (table 10A.22). Waiting times for elective surgery in public hospitals at the 90th percentile, reported by procedure, were 232 days for Indigenous people, in comparison to 217 days for non-Indigenous people, nationally (table 10A.26).

Primary and community health: The proportion of Indigenous older people who received a voluntary annual health assessment under Medicare was considerably lower than for all older people in 2009-10 in most states and territories (pp. 11.23-25). The age standardised hospital separation rate for vaccine preventable conditions was higher for Indigenous people than for non-Indigenous people in 2008-09 in all jurisdictions for which data were published (pp. 11.71).

Older people who received an annual health assessment by Indigenous status, 2009-10^a

Separations for vaccine preventable conditions by Indigenous status, 2008-09^a



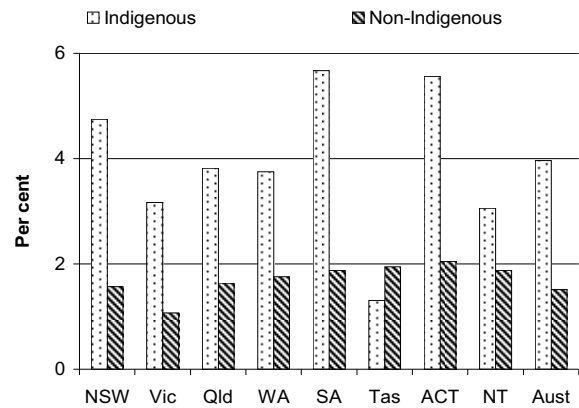
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Health management issues: The national age standardised participation rate for Indigenous women aged 50–69 in BreastScreen Australia screening programs (36.5 per cent) was below the total participation rate in that age group (55.2 per cent) in the 24 month period 2008 and 2009, although this may be influenced by problems with the identification of Indigenous status (p. 12.17). Nationally, in 2008-09, the proportion of the Indigenous population using State and Territory mental health services (4.0 per cent) was higher than the proportion of the non-Indigenous population (1.5 per cent) (p. 12.61).

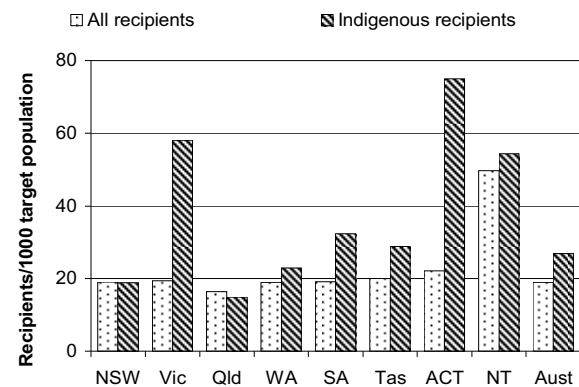
Aged care services: Nationally, at 30 June 2010, Indigenous people aged 50 years or over had a lower rate of residential aged care use than the total target population for residential aged care (Indigenous people aged 50–69 years and all people aged 70 years or over). For Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), Indigenous people had a higher rate of use than the total population (pp. 13.38-39). Of those aged 50 years or over, Indigenous clients represent 2.1 per cent of all Home and Community Care clients, but in this age group Indigenous people represent 1.0 per cent of the Australian population (table 13A.61).

Population using State and Territory mental health services, by Indigenous status, 2008-09^a



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CACP recipients per 1000 target population, 30 June 2010^a

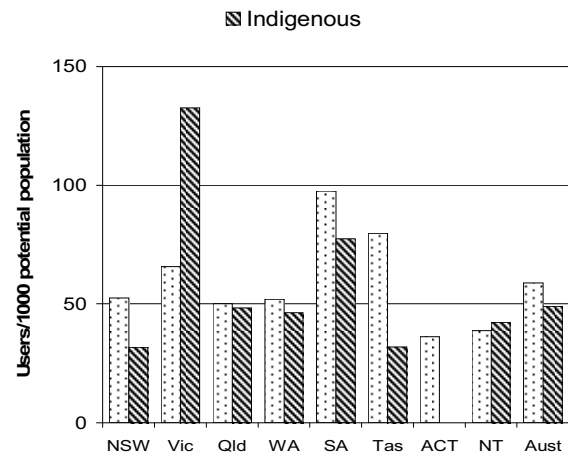
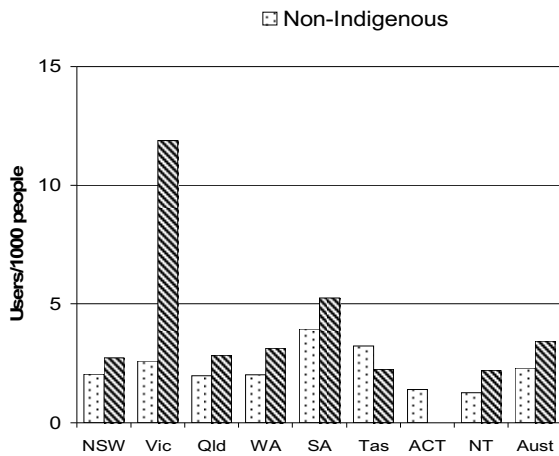


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Services for people with disability: Nationally, in 2008-09, the proportion of the Indigenous population who used CSTDA/NDA funded community access services was 3.4 service users per 1000 population, higher than the proportion of the non-Indigenous population who used these services (2.3 service users per 1000 population). The proportion of the Indigenous potential population (unrevised method) who used CSTDA/NDA funded community access services (49.0 service users per 1000 potential population (unrevised method)) was lower than the proportion of the non-Indigenous potential population (unrevised method) who used these services (58.9 service users per 1000 potential population (unrevised method)) (p. 14.37).

Users of community access services per 1000 people, by Indigenous status, 2008-09^a

Users of community access services per 1000 potential population, by Indigenous status, 2008-09^a



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Protection and support services: The rate of children who were the subject of child protection substantiations per 1000 children aged 0–17 years was 35.3 for Indigenous children and 4.6 for non-Indigenous children in 2009-10 (p. 15.12). The Report also includes data on the placement of Indigenous children in out-of-home care, placed in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (pp. 15.34-35). Nationally, at 30 June 2010, 53.0 per cent of Indigenous children in out-of-home care were placed with relatives/kin (40.6 per cent with Indigenous relatives/kin and 12.4 per cent with non-Indigenous relatives/kin). A further 17.5 per cent of Indigenous children in out-of-home care were placed with other Indigenous carers or in Indigenous residential care (p. 15.35).

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

[END]

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Friday 28 January 2011.

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 02 6240 3239.

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Tables with an 'A' suffix (eg table 3A.5) are in the attachments on the Review website.