
9 Fire and ambulance services

CONTENTS

Indigenous data in the Fire and ambulance services chapter	9.1
References	9.2

Attachment tables

There are no Fire and ambulance attachment tables in the Indigenous Compendium.

The Fire and ambulance services chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2014* (2014 Report) reports on government services for emergency fire events and emergency ambulance events (pre-hospital care, treatment and transport).

Emergency management aims to reduce the level of risk to the community of emergencies occurring, reduce the adverse effects of emergency events, and improve the level and perception of safety in the community (sector overview D).

Information regarding the policy context, scope, profile, social and economic factors, and objectives of the emergency management sector (and related data) are included in the Emergency management sector overview (sector overview D).

Indigenous data in the Fire and ambulance services chapter

The Fire and ambulance services chapter in the 2014 Report currently provides data on services provided in remote locations, but not for other special needs groups — including items for Indigenous Australians.

Some jurisdictions have particular arrangements for the provision of fire services in Indigenous communities. (For more information on fire services in Indigenous communities see SCRGSP 2009, p. 11.35.)

Fire injury rate

‘Fire injury rate’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to minimise the adverse effects of fire events on the community and enhance public safety and is measured by the annual fire hospitalisation rate (2014 Report, box 9.10).

Analysis of the trends in hospitalised accidental burn injury from the years 2001-02 to 2010-11 reveals that the following vulnerable groups were at risk of suffering accidental burns injuries (AIHW 2013).

- *Young children* — Burn injury rates are highest for young children aged 0–4. The national incidence rate is higher for boys than girls aged 0–4.
- *Adolescent/young adult males* — Young adult males show consistently higher burn injury rates, with higher proportions of burn injuries from Exposure to ignition of highly flammable material (such as petrol) and Exposure to controlled fire, not in building or structure (such as campfire).
- *Remoteness of usual residence* — Burn injuries increased with remoteness. In 2010-11, the lowest national rate was in Major cities (22 per 100 000 population) and the highest in Very remote areas (97).
- *Indigenous Australians* — The age-standardised burn injury rates among Indigenous Australians are more than twice that of non-Indigenous people. Indigenous Australians are also more likely to sustain severe burns injuries (APH 2010).

References

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2013, *Trends in hospitalised injury, Australia: 1999-00 to 2010-11*, Injury research and statistics series 86, Cat. no. INJCAT 162, Canberra.

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2009, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

APH (Parliament of Australia) 2010, *Roundtable forum on Burns Prevention — Report*, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing, Canberra.