

Indigenous Status Comparison Social Health Atlas of Australia: Notes on the Data

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Notes on the Data: Contents

Notes on the Data: Contents	1
General information.....	2
Copyright	2
Geographical structures	2
Statistical information	2
Terminology	2
Notes on the Data: Indicators and Data sources	2
Age distribution, Usual Resident Population, 2016	2
Indigenous status, Usual Resident Population, 2016	2
Indigenous status by age, Usual Resident Population, 2016	2
Education	2
Early childhood development: Australian Early Development Census indicators, 2009, 2012 and 2015 – <i>data only available for Indigenous children</i>	4
Learning or Earning, 2016	5
Families, 2016	5
Housing, 2016	5
Internet access at home, 2016.....	6
Labour force, 2016.....	6
Mothers and babies, 2012 to 2014	6
Immunisation, 2017	7
Disability	7
Premature mortality by sex, 2011 to 2015	8
Premature mortality by selected cause, 2011 to 2015	8

General information

Copyright

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Geographical structures

For information regarding the geographies available, refer to the [geographical structure](#) information.

Statistical information

For information on the statistics presented, refer to the [statistical information](#) available from the PHIDU website.

Terminology

'Aboriginal' and 'Indigenous Australians' refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Notes on the Data: Indicators and Data sources

Age distribution, Usual Resident Population, 2016

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous male/ female/ total population by 5 year groups: 0-4 years to 65+ years, Usual Resident Population, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are the age/ sex group total as a per cent of the total Indigenous/ non-Indigenous male/ female/ total population in each age/sex group.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

Indigenous status, Usual Resident Population, 2016

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous population as a proportion of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous population, Usual Resident Population, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are the number of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous people as a proportion of the total Australian population.

Note that percentages may be more than 100% due to the ABS' randomisation of both the numerator and denominator for confidentiality purposes.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

Indigenous status by age, Usual Resident Population, 2016

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous population as a proportion of total population by 5 year groups: 0-4 years to 65+ years, Usual Resident Population, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are the number of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous people in each 5 year age group as a proportion of the total Australian population.

Note that percentages may be more than 100% due to the ABS' randomisation of both the numerator and denominator for confidentiality purposes.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

Education

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous early school leavers who left school at Year 10 or below, or did not go to school, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail:

The data are presented as an age-standardised rate, to adjust for the changing rates of educational opportunity and participation faced by subsequent generations of the population.

The data presented are the number of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous persons who left school at Year 10 or below, or did not go to school, expressed as an indirectly standardised rate per 100 people aged 15 years and over (usual resident population), based on the Australian standard.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016.

- [Indigenous/ non-Indigenous full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16, 2016](#)
- [by IARE](#)

Indicator detail:

As data covering all sectors (government, non-government, Catholic and independent) are not available at the small area level from State and Territory education authorities, the data used in this analysis are from the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Population Census. As such, they are not official estimates of participation at age 16 in full-time secondary education. However, they are useful in showing the extent of variations between areas, by socioeconomic status and by remoteness.

The data presented are the number of 16 year old Indigenous/ non-Indigenous young people in full-time secondary school education, as a proportion of all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous people 16 years of age.

Secondary school is either Government, Catholic or other Non Government schools.

Note that percentages may be more than 100% due to the ABS' randomisation of both the numerator and denominator for confidentiality purposes.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016.

- [Indigenous/ non-Indigenous participation in vocational education and training, 2015](#)
- [by IARE](#)

Indicator detail:

Inclusions

Vocational education and training (VET) data includes all VET activity delivered in Australia to Australian residents by government providers (TAFE institutes, Universities and other government providers), community education providers, enterprise providers, private training providers and schools.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd., 2015; and the Aboriginal estimated resident population (non-ABS) as at 30 June 2015, developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd, under a contract with the Australian Government Department of Health.

- [Load Pass Rate of vocational education and training subjects for Indigenous/ non-Indigenous students, 2015](#)
- [by IARE](#)

Indicator detail:

Inclusions

Vocational education and training (VET) data includes all VET activity delivered in Australia to Australian residents by government providers (TAFE institutes, Universities and other government providers), community education providers, enterprise providers, private training providers and schools.

Definitions

Funding source

Vet activity is reported as government-funded if the activity received Commonwealth and state funding, and privately-funded if domestic fee-for-service. Funding source is attributed irrespective of VET provider.

Load Pass Rate

The load pass rate (LPR) is the ratio of hours, or full-year training equivalents (FYTEs), attributed to students who gain competencies/passed assessment in an assessable module or unit of competency to all students who were assessed and either passed, failed or withdrew. The calculation is based on the annual hours (or FYTEs) for each assessable module or unit of competency and includes competencies achieved/units passed through recognition of prior learning (RPL).

The calculation for LPR is as follows:

Competency achieved passed + RPL granted, as a proportion of

Competency achieved passed + Competency not achieved failed + Withdrawn discontinued + RPL granted.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd., 2015; and the Aboriginal estimated resident population (non-ABS) as at 30 June 2015, developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd, under a contract with the Australian Government Department of Health.

- [Government-funded vocational education and training subjects undertaken by Indigenous/ non-Indigenous students, 2015](#)
- [by IARE](#)

Indicator detail:

Inclusions

Vocational education and training (VET) data includes all VET activity delivered in Australia to Australian residents by government providers (TAFE institutes, Universities and other government providers), community education providers, enterprise providers, private training providers and schools.

Definitions

Funding source

VET activity is reported as government-funded if the activity received Commonwealth and state funding, and privately-funded if domestic fee-for-service. Funding source is attributed irrespective of VET provider.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd., 2015; and the Aboriginal estimated resident population (non-ABS) as at 30 June 2015, developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd, under a contract with the Australian Government Department of Health.

Early childhood development: Australian Early Development Census indicators, 2009, 2012 and 2015 – data only available for Indigenous children

- Indigenous children assessed as developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains, 2015
- by IARE
- Indigenous children assessed as developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains, 2015
- by IARE
- Indigenous children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the physical health and wellbeing domain, 2015
- by IARE
- Indigenous children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the social competence domain, 2015
- by IARE
- Indigenous children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the emotional maturity domain, 2015
- by IARE
- Indigenous children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive (school based) domain, 2015
- by IARE
- Indigenous children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the communication skills and general knowledge domain, 2015
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The AEDC results report on the number of children scoring in the following percentile ranges: 0 to 10th percentile (developmentally vulnerable), 11th to 25th percentile (developmentally at risk) and above the 25th percentile (developmentally on track).

The PHIDU data are presented for children identified as being non-Indigenous who were:

- developmentally vulnerable (0 to 10th percentile) on one or more domains;
- developmentally vulnerable (0 to 10th percentile) on two or more domains;

and who were assessed as being developmentally vulnerable (0 to 10th percentile) in the following domains:

- Physical health and wellbeing domain
- Social competence domain
- Emotional maturity domain
- Language and cognitive skills (school-based) domain
- Communication skills and general knowledge domain

Data are not shown for areas where one or more of the following have been met:

- less than fifteen children had valid AEDC scores;
- less than two teachers had completed the AEDC instrument for children in that location;
- the AEDC instrument was completed for less than 80% of all non-special needs children;
- three or fewer Aboriginal children were assessed;
- 90 per cent or more of a population group is considered developmentally vulnerable in any domain or subdomain; or
- for New South Wales only, data are not shown where the number of developmentally vulnerable children number is between one and five inclusively.

Additional minor suppressions have also occurred where necessary to preserve confidentiality of related suppressed cells.

Notes:

1. The data supplied for Boulia - Diamantina - Winton and Carpentaria - Burke - Mornington were grouped communities, as were the raw data for Ceduna and Ceduna - West Coast. The data presented here are of these grouped communities.
2. In the raw data provided, where 90 per cent or more of a population group is considered developmentally vulnerable in any domain or subdomain, the number and percentage of children vulnerable was grouped to '90 per cent and over'. This applies to Domain Indicators (developmentally vulnerable category) and Vulnerability Summary Indicators (DV1 and DV2) and is to prevent the identification of individual children as developmentally vulnerable. In these instances, PHIDU have not shown data for these areas.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the 2015 Australian Early Development Censuses, provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Learning or Earning, 2016

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous 15 to 24 year olds engaged in school, work or further education/training, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are Indigenous/ non-Indigenous 15 to 24 year olds engaged in school, work or further education/training, as a proportion of all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous 15 to 24 year olds.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

Families, 2016

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous single parent families with children aged less than 15 years, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are one parent families (Indigenous/ non-Indigenous) with children under 15 years (may include families with dependent students and non-dependents), as a proportion of all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous families with children under 15 years.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous low income families, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are families (Indigenous/ non-Indigenous) with an income under \$26,000 p.a, as a proportion of all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous families.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

- Children aged less than 15 years in Indigenous/ non-Indigenous jobless families, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are children aged less than 15 years in families (Indigenous/ non-Indigenous) in which no parent is employed, as a proportion of all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous children under 15.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2016 data.

Housing, 2016

- Private dwellings rented by Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households from the government housing authority, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: A private dwelling can be a house, flat or even a room. It can also be a caravan, houseboat, tent, or a house attached to an office, or rooms above a shop.

An Indigenous household is any household where at least one usual resident at home on Census night was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

A non-Indigenous household is any household where there are no residing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons at home, as a usual resident, on Census night.

The data presented are of private dwellings rented by Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households from the government housing authority, as a proportion of all private dwellings with Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

- Private dwellings rented by Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households from a housing co-operative, community or church group, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: A private dwelling can be a house, flat or even a room. It can also be a caravan, houseboat, tent, or a house attached to an office, or rooms above a shop.

An Indigenous household is any household where at least one usual resident at home on Census night was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

A non-Indigenous household is any household where there are no residing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons at home, as a usual resident, on Census night.

The data presented are of private dwellings rented by Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households from a housing co-operative, community or church group, as a proportion of all private dwellings with Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

- Housing suitability, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The criteria used to derive the variable are based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness and are sensitive to both household size and composition. The measure assesses the bedroom requirements of a household by specifying that:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom

- children less than five years of age of different sexes may reasonably share a bedroom
- children less than 18 years of age and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom
- single household members 18 years and over should have a separate bedroom, as should parents or couples and
- a lone person household may reasonably occupy a bed-sitter.

A private dwelling can be a house, flat or even a room. It can also be a caravan, houseboat, tent, or a house attached to an office, or rooms above a shop.

An Indigenous household is any household where at least one usual resident at home on Census night was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

A non-Indigenous household is any household where there are no residing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons at home, as a usual resident, on Census night.

The data presented are of dwellings rented by Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households requiring extra bedrooms, as a proportion of all private dwellings with Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

Internet access at home, 2016

- Private dwellings with Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households, and Internet not accessed at dwelling, 2016
- by IARE
- Private dwellings with Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households, and Internet accessed at dwelling, 2016
- by IARE
- Private dwellings with Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households with children, and Internet not accessed at dwelling, 2016
- by IARE
- Private dwellings with Indigenous/ non-Indigenous households with children, and Internet accessed at dwelling, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data record whether any member of the household accesses the Internet from the dwelling. This includes accessing the internet through a desktop/laptop computer, mobile or smart phone, tablet, music or video player, gaming console, smart TV or any other device. It also includes accessing through any type of connection for example ADSL, fibre, cable, wireless, satellite and mobile broadband (3G/4G).

A private dwelling can be a house, flat or even a room. It can also be a caravan, houseboat, tent, or a house attached to an office, or rooms above a shop.

An Indigenous household is any household where at least one usual resident at home on Census night was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

A non-Indigenous household is any household where there are no residing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons at home, as a usual resident, on Census night.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

Labour force, 2016

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous unemployment, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous unemployed people aged 15 years and over as a proportion of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous people in the labour force aged 15 years and over

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2016 data.

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous female labour force participation, 2016
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous females aged 15 years and over in the labour force as a proportion of all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous females aged 15 years and over

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2016 data.

Mothers and babies, 2012 to 2014

Data quality: As is the case in most statistical collections in Australia, Indigenous status is under-reported in the midwives data collections from which these data are compiled. However, the level of completeness of coverage (the extent to which the identification of Indigenous Australians occurs in data collections) in these collections is generally higher than in the deaths or hospital inpatient data collections. It should also be noted that coverage is likely to vary between geographical areas.

- Indigenous/ non-Indigenous low birth weight babies, 2012 to 2014
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data comprise all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous babies (live born) weighing less than 2500 grams at birth, expressed as a proportion of all Indigenous/ non-Indigenous live births (data over 3 years).

Data are not shown for areas where there were fewer than 20 births.

Notes:

Data not available for Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from: NSW Department of Health; Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity, Department of Health and Ageing SA; WA Department of Health; Tasmanian Perinatal Database; and ACT Health.

- [Indigenous/ non-Indigenous smoking during pregnancy, 2012 to 2014](#)
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data comprise Indigenous/ non-Indigenous women who reported that they smoked during a pregnancy, expressed as a proportion of the number of pregnancies of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous women. Note that the data may include women who were pregnant more than once during the time period (3 years).

Notes:

Data not available for Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from: NSW Department of Health; Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity, Department of Health and Ageing SA; WA Department of Health; Tasmanian Perinatal Database; and ACT Health.

Immunisation, 2017

- [Indigenous/ non-Indigenous children fully immunised at 1 year of age, 2 years of age and 5 years of age, 2017](#)
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are of registered* Indigenous/ non-Indigenous children fully immunised at 1 year of age, 2 years of age and 5 years of age.

For the purposes of reporting the data, fully immunised means a child receives the vaccinations due at or immediately prior to the age at which the measurement occurs. It is assumed that all previous vaccinations were received.

The definitions of fully immunised are:

- **Children aged 1 year:** Fully immunised at 1 year means that a child aged 12 months to less than 15 months received three doses of a diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough-containing vaccine, three doses of polio vaccine, two or three doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine (dependent of the type of vaccine used), three doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and three doses pneumococcal vaccine, all prior to the age of 1 year.
- **Children aged 2 years:** Fully immunised at 2 years means that a child aged 24 to less than 27 months received three doses of a diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough-containing vaccine, three doses of polio vaccine, three or four doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine (dependent of the type of vaccine used), three doses of hepatitis B vaccine, one dose of a measles, mumps and rubella-containing vaccine, one dose of meningococcal C vaccine, and one dose of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine, all prior to the age of 2 years.
- **Children aged 5 years:** Fully immunised at 5 years means that a child aged 60 to less than 63 months received four doses of a diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough-containing vaccine, four doses of polio vaccine, and two doses of a measles, mumps and rubella-containing vaccine, all prior to the age of 5 years.

For further information, refer to [coverage information](#) produced by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases (NCIRS).

Data are not shown for areas where there were fewer than 10 registered non-Indigenous children or fewer than 10 non-Indigenous children immunised.

Note: In this edition the data for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Indigenous Area have been shown as 'n.a.' (not available), due to concerns as to the reliability of the data.

*Registered on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR). The ACIR is a national register that records vaccinations given to children under seven years old. It also provides immunisation history statements to parents or guardians.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, Medicare Australia, 2017 calendar year.

Disability

- [Unpaid assistance provided by Indigenous/ non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over to persons with a disability, 2016](#)
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The 'Assistance to persons with a disability (unpaid)' variable records people who, in the two weeks prior to Census Night, spent time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long-term illness (lasting six months or more) and/or problems related to older age.

The data presented are Indigenous/ non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who provided unpaid assistance to persons with a disability, as a proportion of the total Indigenous/ non-Indigenous population aged 15 years and over.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2011 data.

Premature mortality by sex, 2011 to 2015

- Deaths of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous males/ females/ persons aged 0 to 54 years, 2011 to 2015 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- by IARE
- Deaths of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous males/ females/ persons aged 0 to 64 years, 2011 to 2015 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- by IARE
- Deaths of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous males/ females/ persons aged 0 to 74 years, 2011 to 2015 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- by IARE

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised Indigenous/ non-Indigenous rates per 100,000 Indigenous/ non-Indigenous males/ females/ population (aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years /0 to 74 years, as appropriate); and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard.

Deaths data

For deaths data released since 2007, the ABS has applied a staged approach to the coding of cause of death which affects the number of records available for release at any date, with data being released as preliminary, revised, or final. This release is comprised of preliminary data for 2015, revised data for 2014 and final data for 2011, 2012 and 2013. For further information about the ABS revisions process, see the following and related sites:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3303.0Explanatory%20Notes12015?OpenDocument>.

Data quality

Almost all deaths in Australia are registered. However, Indigenous status is not always recorded, or recorded correctly. The incompleteness of Indigenous identification (referred to as completeness of coverage) means that the number of deaths registered as Indigenous is an underestimate of the actual number of deaths which occur in the Indigenous population. It should also be noted that completeness of coverage is likely to vary between geographical areas.

While there is incomplete coverage of Indigenous deaths in all state and territory registration systems, some jurisdictions have been assessed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as having a sufficient level of coverage to enable statistics on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality to be produced. Those jurisdictions are New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Source: Data compiled by PHIDU from deaths data based on the 2011 to 2015 Cause of Death Unit Record Files supplied by the Australian Coordinating Registry and the Victorian Department of Justice, on behalf of the Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the National Coronial Information System. The population is the estimated resident population (ERP) from the Australian Census 2011.

Premature mortality by selected cause, 2011 to 2015

- Deaths from cancer, Indigenous/ non-Indigenous persons aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 2011 to 2015 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- by IARE
ICD-10 codes: C00-D48
- Deaths from circulatory system diseases, Indigenous/ non-Indigenous persons aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 2011 to 2015 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- by IARE
ICD-10 codes: I00-I99
- Deaths from respiratory system diseases, Indigenous/ non-Indigenous persons aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 2011 to 2015 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- by IARE
ICD-10 codes: J00-J99
- Deaths from external causes, Indigenous/ non-Indigenous persons aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 2011 to 2015 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- by IARE
ICD-10 codes: V01-Y98

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual directly age-standardised Indigenous/ non-Indigenous rates per 100,000 Indigenous/ non-Indigenous population (aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years /0 to 74 years, as appropriate); and/or directly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard.

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Source: Data compiled by PHIDU from deaths data based on the 2011 to 2015 Cause of Death Unit Record Files supplied by the Australian Coordinating Registry and the Victorian Department of Justice, on behalf of the Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the National Coronial Information System. The population is the estimated resident population (ERP) from the Australian Census 2011.