

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Health Atlas of Australia:

Monitoring inequality and remoteness
in Australia: Time series

Notes on the data

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General information

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Geographical structures

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

Statistical information

Except where otherwise stated, all age-standardised rates and ratios presented in the maps, data or graphs are indirectly standardised rates, based on the Australian standard. For information on the statistics presented, refer to the [statistical information](#) available from the PHIDU website.

Time series

The data for the Quintile and Remoteness Area Time Series are presented using the Quintiles and Remoteness Areas produced from the Census current at the time. For example, the first period in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Monitoring inequality in Australia: Time series for the indicator Subject completion rates in vocational education and training subjects, Aboriginal students is dated 2015: in this instance, the Quintiles and Remoteness Areas are based on the 2011 Census.

Terminology

‘Aboriginal’ and ‘Indigenous Australians’ refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Age distribution, Aboriginal usual resident population (URP)

- Aboriginal male/ female/ total URP by 5-year age groups: 0-4 years to 65+ years, usual resident population, 2006 and 2021

Indicator detail: The data presented are the five-year age/ sex group total of people reporting at the 2006 and 2021 Census to be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, as a percentage of the Aboriginal male/ female/ total population in each five-year age/sex group.

The data are the usual resident population (URP) derived from the Census. There is, however, a substantial difference between the Census counts (URP) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the estimated resident population (ERP), adjusted for net undercount as measured by the Post Enumeration Survey undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS): the ERP is 17.5% higher for Australia than the Census count. However, as the ABS has not released Aboriginal ERP by age at the Indigenous Area level, the geographical area used in the Social Health Atlases, the data published here are the URP, for which age/sex data are available. When further population data for the Aboriginal population become available from the ABS (scheduled for August 2023), PHIDU will examine the possibility of producing an estimated resident population by age at the Indigenous Area level, as was the case following the 2016 Census.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2006 and 2021.

Aboriginal usual resident population (URP) as a proportion of total URP

- Aboriginal URP as a proportion of total URP, 2006 and 2021

Indicator detail: The data presented are the number of Aboriginal people as a proportion of the total Australian population.

The data for both Aboriginal people and total Australian population are the usual resident population (URP) derived from the Census. There is, however, a substantial difference between the Census counts (URP) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the estimated resident population (ERP), adjusted for net undercount as measured by the Post Enumeration Survey undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS): the ERP is 17.5% higher for Australia than the Census count. However, as the ABS has not released Aboriginal ERP at the Indigenous Area level, the geographical area used in the Social Health Atlases, the data published here are the URP, for which age/sex data are available. When further population data for the Aboriginal population become available from the ABS (scheduled for August 2023), PHIDU will examine the possibility of producing an estimated resident population at the Indigenous Area level, as was the case following the 2016 Census.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2006 and 2021.

Aboriginal usual resident population (URP) as a proportion of total URP, by age

- Aboriginal URP as a proportion of total URP, by 5-year groups: 0-4 years to 65+ years, 2006 and 2021

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

The data for both Aboriginal people and total Australian population are the usual resident population (URP) derived from the Census. There is, however, a substantial difference between the Census counts (URP) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the estimated resident population (ERP), adjusted for net undercount as measured by the Post Enumeration Survey undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS): the ERP is 17.5% higher for Australia than the Census count. However, as the ABS has not released Aboriginal ERP by age at the Indigenous Area level, the geographical area used in the Social Health Atlases, the data published here are the URP, for which age/sex data are available. When further population data for the Aboriginal population become available from the ABS (scheduled for August 2023), PHIDU will examine the possibility of producing an estimated resident population by age at the Indigenous Area level, as was the case following the 2016 Census.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2006 and 2021.

Education

- Aboriginal people who left school at Year 10 or below, or did not go to school, 2006 and 2021

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 Aboriginal people who left school at Year 10 or below, or did not go to school as a proportion of all Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over.

Note that the numerator excludes the small proportion of the population aged 15 years and over whose highest year of school was not stated: however, these records are included in the denominator.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2006 and 2021.

- [Aboriginal full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16, 2006 and 2021](#)

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 2006 and 2021 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 Aboriginal people aged 16 years in full-time secondary school education, as a proportion of all Aboriginal 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 2006 and 2021.

- [Aboriginal participation in vocational education and training, 2001 and 2022](#)

Indicator detail: 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.

Duplicate records arising from students attending multiple training providers within the data collection period have been removed from the data sets.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd., 2001 and 2022; and the Indigenous estimated resident population, 2001 and 2021.

- [Subject completion rates in vocational education and training subjects, Aboriginal students, 2015 and 2022](#)

Indicator detail: 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

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., 2001 and 2022.

Learning or Earning

- [Aboriginal people 15 to 24 years engaged in school, work or further education/training, 2006 and 2021](#)

Indicator detail: The data presented are of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 years engaged in school, work or further education/training, as a proportion of all Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 years.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2006 and 2021

Families

- [Aboriginal single parent families with children aged less than 15 years, 2006 and 2021](#)

Indicator detail: The data presented are single parent families with children under 15 years where at least one family member at home on Census night was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person (may include families with dependent students and non-dependents), as a proportion of all Aboriginal families with children under 15 years.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2006 and 2021

- [Aboriginal jobless families with children aged less than 15 years, 2006 and 2021](#)

Indicator detail: The data presented are families with at least one Aboriginal person counted at home on Census night and either couple families with children under 15 years in which two people whose relationship in the household was "husband, wife or partners (including same-sex partners)" reported their labour force status as "unemployed" or "not in the labour force"; or in which the lone parent in the family reported their labour force status as "unemployed" or "not in the labour force".

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2006 and 2021 data.

- **Children aged less than 15 years in Aboriginal jobless families, 2006 and 2021**

Indicator detail: The data presented are children aged less than 15 years in families with at least one Aboriginal person counted at home on Census night and either couple families with children under 15 years in which two people whose relationship in the household was "husband, wife or partners (including same-sex partners)" reported their labour force status as "unemployed" or "not in the labour force"; or in which the lone parent in the family reported their labour force status as "unemployed" or "not in the labour force".

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2006 and 2021 data.

- **Children aged less than 15 years in Aboriginal families where the mother has low educational attainment, 2006 and 2021**

Indicator detail: The data presented are of children aged less than 15 years living in families where the mother was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and whose highest level of schooling was year 10 or below, or where the mother did not attend school, expressed as a proportion of all children aged less than 15 years.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2006 and 2021 data.

Housing

- **Aboriginal people living in crowded dwellings, 2016 and 2021**

Indicator detail: Aboriginal people living in dwellings assessed as crowded according to the Canadian National Occupancy Standard. The measure assesses the bedroom requirements of a household, accounting for both household size and composition, specifying that:

- there should be no more than two people 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.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016 and 2021

- **Aboriginal people living in severely crowded dwellings, 2016 and 2021**

Indicator detail: Aboriginal people living in dwellings assessed as needing four or more additional bedrooms to accommodate all people currently living in the household, according to the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (see People living in crowded dwellings above).

Severely crowded households are one of the six Homeless Operational Groups developed by the ABS to estimate homelessness. This is because people living in severe overcrowding are considered to lack of control of and access to space for social relations (one of the key elements of the ABS definition of homelessness) and are considered not to have accommodation alternatives when remaining in such extreme living arrangements (ABS, 2012).

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016 and 2021.

- **Housing suitability – Private dwelling with Aboriginal households requiring one or more extra bedrooms, 2016 and 2021**

Indicator detail: The criteria used to derive this 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 people 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 Aboriginal household is any household where at least one usual resident was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

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

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016 and 2021.

- **Aboriginal households renting from privately-owned dwellings, 2016 and 2021**

Indicator detail: This indicator is comprised of private dwellings rented from a real estate agent, person not in the same household, other landlord type and landlord type not stated. The data include households in private dwellings only. 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.

The data presented are of privately-owned private dwellings that are rented by Aboriginal households (counting dwellings), as a proportion of total occupied private dwellings with Aboriginal households.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016 and 2021.

- **Aboriginal households renting from a government housing authority, 2011 and 2021**

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

The data include households in private dwellings only. 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.

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

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2011 and 2021

- **Aboriginal households renting from a community housing group, 2011 and 2021**

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

The data include households in private dwellings only. 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.

The data presented are of private dwellings rented by Aboriginal households from a community housing provider (a housing co-operative, community or church group) as a proportion of all private dwellings with Aboriginal households.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2021

- **Total Aboriginal households renting social housing, 2016 and 2021**

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

The data include households in private dwellings only. 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.

The data presented are of private dwellings rented by Aboriginal households from a:

- government housing authority; and
 - community housing provider (a housing co-operative, community or church group)
- as a proportion of all private dwellings with Aboriginal households.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016 and 2021.

- **Aboriginal people living in rented social housing dwellings, 2016 and 2021**

Indicator detail: This indicator comprises housing rented by Aboriginal people from a social housing provider (a government housing authority or a community housing provider (a housing co-operative, community or a church group)) and privately-owned dwellings.

The data include households in private dwellings only. 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.

The data presented are of Aboriginal people renting:

- social housing dwellings; and
- privately-owned dwellings

as a proportion of total Aboriginal people living in private dwellings.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016 and 2021.

Internet access at home

- **Private dwellings with Aboriginal households, and Internet not accessed at dwelling, 2006 and 2016**

- **Private dwellings with Aboriginal households, and Internet accessed at dwelling, 2006 and 2016**

- **Private dwellings with Aboriginal households with children, and Internet not accessed at dwelling, 2011 and 2016**

- **Private dwellings with Aboriginal households with children, and Internet accessed at dwelling, 2011 and 2016**

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 Aboriginal household is any household where at least one usual resident was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

*Does not include children aged less than 15 years who were not at their usual place of residence on Census night.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2006, 2011 and 2016

Labour force

- [Aboriginal unemployment, 2006 and 2021](#)

Amendment: 2006 data were re-released in June 2023 to include participants of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). These participants were classified in the 2006 Census by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as 'employed' and therefore not included in the unemployment figures: in subsequent censuses they have been classified as unemployed.

Source:

2006: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2006 and Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), June Quarter 2007.

2021: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2021 data.

- [Aboriginal female labour force participation, 2016 and 2021](#)

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2006 and 2021 data.

Summary measure of Indigenous outcomes

Indigenous Relative Socioeconomic Outcomes Index, 2016 and 2021

- by IARE, PHN, Remoteness Areas

Indicator detail: The Indigenous Relative Socioeconomic Outcomes index (IRSEO) is an Indigenous-specific index derived by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing.

The IRSEO is composed of nine socioeconomic outcomes of the usual resident population. These are:

- Population 15 years and over employed;
- Population 15 years and over employed as a manager or professional;
- Population 15 years and over employed full-time in the private sector;
- Population 15 years and over who have completed Year 12;
- Population 15 years and over who have completed a qualification;
- Population 15 to 24 years old attending an educational institution;
- Population 15 years and over with an individual income above half the Australian median;
- Population who live in a house that is owned or being purchased; and
- Population who live in a house with at least one bedroom per usual resident.

The IRSEO reflects relative advantage or disadvantage at the Indigenous Area level. The Index ranges from 1 to 100, where a score of 1 represents the most advantaged area and a score of 100 represents the most disadvantaged area.

For further information, refer to the [Socioeconomic outcomes paper](#), produced by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), following the first release of this measure.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the CAEPR Indigenous Relative Socioeconomic Outcomes Index, 2016 and 2021 data.

Note: Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, major urban centres, State/ Territory and Australian totals were constructed using population-weighted averages.

Mothers and babies

Data quality: As is the case in most statistical collections in Australia, Indigenous status is under-reported in the National Perinatal Data Collection, from which these data are compiled. However, the level of completeness of coverage (the extent to which the identification of Indigenous Australians occurs) in these collections is generally higher than in other data collections, such as those reporting deaths or hospital admissions. It should also be noted that coverage is likely to vary between geographical areas. Data for 2017 to 2019 for remote areas, particularly in Western Australia and Northern Territory, should be treated with caution as the quality of the population correspondence provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is rated as 'Poor'.

- [Low birthweight babies, 2008 to 2010 \(NSW, Qld, SA, WA & ACT\); 2006 to 2008 \(NT\) and 2019 to 2021](#)

Indicator detail: The data comprise all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies (live born) weighing less than 2500 grams at birth, expressed as a proportion of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander live births (data over 3 years).

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

Data published previously were collected from each State and Territory health agency and are likely to have excluded people who live in one State/Territory and used a service in another. This data release uses data, provided to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare by each State and Territory, in which residents of another jurisdiction were generally coded to their correct usual address. This change will affect the time series published for quintiles and Remoteness Areas.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, on behalf of the States and Territories.

- **Smoking during pregnancy, 2008 to 2010 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & ACT); 2006 to 2008 (NT) and 2019 to 2021**
Indicator detail: The data comprise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who reported that they smoked during a pregnancy, expressed as a proportion of the number of pregnancies of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Note that as the data are aggregated over three years, they may include women who gave birth more than once during the time period.
Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, on behalf of the States and Territories.

Immunisation

- **Aboriginal children fully immunised at 1 year of age, 2 years of age and 5 years of age, 2015 and 2021**
Indicator detail: The data presented are of registered* Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal children or fewer than 10 Aboriginal children immunised.
*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, 2015 and 2021 calendar year.

Disability

- **Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over who provided unpaid assistance to people with a disability, 2006 and 2021**
Indicator detail: The 'Assistance to people 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 Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over who provided unpaid assistance to people with a disability, as a proportion of the total Aboriginal population aged 15 years and over.
Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census 2006 and 2021 data.

Premature mortality by age and sex

- Deaths of Aboriginal males/ females/ persons aged 0 to 54 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- Deaths of Aboriginal males/ females/ persons aged 0 to 64 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- Deaths of Aboriginal males/ females/ persons aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 100,000 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 the detailed data files on which this analysis relies, in releases 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. In general, the latest year's data are preliminary, the second latest are revised and the data for the earlier years are

final. In this way, the majority of records are released earlier than would be the case than were no data released until files had been returned from Coroners' offices. 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 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 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), developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd (2001) and PHIDU (2016 to 2020 average), click [here](#) for more details.

Premature mortality by selected cause

- Deaths from cancer, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
ICD-10 codes: C00-D48
- Deaths from diabetes, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
ICD-10 codes: E10-E14
- Deaths from circulatory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
ICD-10 codes: I00-I99
- Deaths from respiratory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
ICD-10 codes: J00-J99
- Deaths from external causes, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 54 years/ 0 to 64 years/ 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
ICD-10 codes: V01-Y98

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual directly age-standardised rates per 100,000 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.

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. In general, the latest year's data are preliminary, the second latest are revised and the data for the earlier years are final. For further information about the ABS revisions process see the following and related sites:

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Avoidable mortality by sex

- Deaths from all avoidable causes, Aboriginal males/ females/ persons aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)

Background: In 2010, the National Healthcare Agreement (NHA) included a performance indicator called Potentially Avoidable Deaths (PI-20). The specification for this indicator was endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council in 2009 based on advice from the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee (NHISSC).

On 4 December 2013, NHISSC agreed to the re-establishment of the Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations/Potentially Avoidable Deaths (PPH/PAD) Working Group to finalise specification of this performance indicator for the 2015 NHA report. Throughout 2014, work was done by the PPH/PAD Working Group, with further revisions by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and including additional NHISSC comments from several states. It also included an examination of the international work in avoidable mortality.

The data presented in this dataset are those listed in the [PI-16 Potentially avoidable deaths, 2018](#).

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 100,000 males/ females/ population aged 0 to 74 years; and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard. Not all of the causes of avoidable mortality are shown in this atlas as some have too few cases to be reliable indicators at the small area level.

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. In general, the latest year's data are preliminary, the second latest are revised and the data for the earlier years are final. For further information about the ABS revisions process see the following and related sites:

<https://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 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 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), developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd (2001) and PHIDU (2016 to 2020 average), click [here](#) for more details.

Avoidable mortality by selected cause

- Avoidable deaths from cancer, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- Avoidable deaths from diabetes, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- Avoidable deaths from circulatory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- Avoidable deaths from respiratory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- Avoidable deaths from selected external causes of mortality (Falls; fires, burns; Suicide and self-inflicted injuries; etc.), Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
- Avoidable deaths from other external causes of mortality (Transport accidents; Accidental drowning and submersion; etc.), Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)

Background: In 2010, the National Healthcare Agreement (NHA) included a performance indicator called Potentially Avoidable Deaths (PI-20). The specification for this indicator was endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council in 2009 based on advice from the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee (NHISSC).

On 4 December 2013, NHISSC agreed to the re-establishment of the Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations/Potentially Avoidable Deaths (PPH/PAD) Working Group to finalise specification of this performance indicator for the 2015 NHA report. Throughout 2014, work was done by the PPH/PAD Working Group, with further revisions by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and including additional NHISSC comments from several states. It also included an examination of the international work in avoidable mortality.

The data presented in this dataset are those listed in the [PI-16 Potentially avoidable deaths, 2020](#).

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 100,000 males/ females/ population aged 0 to 74 years; and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard. Not all of the causes of avoidable mortality are shown in this atlas as some have too few cases to be reliable indicators at the small area level.

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. In general, the latest year's data are preliminary, the second latest are revised and the data for the earlier years are final. For further information about the ABS revisions process see the following and related sites:

<https://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 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 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), developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd (2001) and PHIDU (2016 to 2020 average), click [here](#) for more details.

Potential years of life lost by age and sex

- Potential years of life lost, Aboriginal males/ females/ persons by broad year age group (0 to 54, 0 to 64 and 0 to 74 years), 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)

Indicator detail: The data presented are the sum of the number of years between the actual age at death and 75 years of age for all deaths of each of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, females, persons aged 0 to 54, 0 to 64 and 0 to 74 years over the years 2016 to 2020, expressed as an average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 1,000 Aboriginal males/ females/ population (aged 0 to 54, 0 to 64 and 0 to 74 years); and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard.

Deaths data

For the detailed data files on which this analysis relies 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. In general, the latest year's data are preliminary, the second latest are revised and the data for the earlier years are final. In this way, the majority of records are released earlier than would be the case than were no data released until files had been returned from Coroners' offices. 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 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 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), developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd (2001) and PHIDU (2016 to 2020 average), click [here](#) for more details.

Potential years of life lost by selected cause

- Potential years of life lost from cancer, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
 - **ICD-10 codes:** C00-D48
- Potential years of life lost from diabetes, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
 - **ICD-10 codes:** E10-E14
- Potential years of life lost from circulatory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
 - **ICD-10 codes:** I00-I99
- Potential years of life lost from respiratory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
 - **ICD-10 codes:** I00-I99
- Potential years of life lost from external causes, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 74 years, 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only)
 - **ICD-10 codes:** V01-Y98

Indicator detail: The data presented are the sum of the number of years between the actual age at death and 75 years of age for all deaths by selected cause of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 0 to 74 years over the years 2016 to 2020, expressed as an average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 1,000 Aboriginal people (aged 0 to 74 years); and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard.

Deaths data

For the detailed data files on which this analysis relies 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. In general, the latest year's data are preliminary, the second latest are revised and the data for the earlier years are final. In this way, the majority of records are released earlier than would be the case than were no data released until files had been returned from Coroners' offices. For further information about the ABS revisions process see the following and related sites:

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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 1997 to 2001 and 2016 to 2020 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), developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd (2001) and PHIDU (2016 to 2020 average), click [here](#) for more details.

Hospital admissions

Indicator detail: The data presented are of the number of separations, or completions of the episode of care of a patient in hospital, where the completion can be the discharge, death or transfer of the patient, or a change in the type of care (e.g., from acute to rehabilitation). In this atlas the term 'admission' is used in place of the more technical 'separation'. As these data relate to short-term episodes of care, and not to long-stay episodes, the number of admissions is similar to the number of separations in any year.

Data have been aggregated over a period of three years (the earliest time period) and four years (the latest time period) to increase the number of admissions at the Indigenous Area level, thereby allowing data for more conditions to be published.

Note that the data are based on the count of all admissions. As such, repeat admissions for one person are counted as separate admissions. In addition, patients admitted to one hospital and transferred to another hospital are counted as separate admissions. The impact of these hospital transfers would result in a higher rate of admissions in regional areas compared to the metropolitan areas, as well as for certain conditions which are more likely to result in transfers.

Caution should be used in the interpretation of these data because of jurisdictional differences in data quality as well as under-identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The AIHW found that nationally, about 88% of Indigenous Australians were identified correctly in hospital admissions data in the 2011–12 study period, and the 'true' number of separations for Indigenous Australians was about 9% higher than reported (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016. Admitted patient care 2014–15: Australian hospital statistics. Health services series no. 68. Cat. no. HSE 172. Canberra: AIHW).

Data Source: There is a substantial difference between the Census counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the estimated resident population (ERP), adjusted for net undercount as measured by the Post Enumeration Survey undertaken by the ABS (the ERP is 17.5% higher for Australia than the Census count). Given this difference, and as the ABS has not released Aboriginal ERP by age at the Indigenous Area level used in the Social Health Atlases, estimated resident populations were produced.

2012/13 to 2014/15 erp: Developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health.

2017/18 to 2020/21 ERP: Estimated resident population (ERP), 2021 (produced as a consultancy for PHIDU by ABS).

Exclusions: The national data published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare exclude well babies (i.e., babies not admitted for acute care) who are nine days older or less, other than the second or subsequent live born infant of a multiple birth whose mother is currently an admitted patient. [For further information see Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australian hospital statistics 2014–15. Health services series no. 68. (Cat. no. HSE 172) Canberra: AIHW; 2014.].

Same-day admissions for dialysis for kidney disease have also been excluded from the data in this atlas for the categories of admissions for males, females and total people, and admissions of persons, by age, as they represent many repeat visits by a relatively small number of patients, who may have multiple admissions in a week: their inclusion can dramatically alter the geographic distribution of other categories of admissions (see the separate note for Same-day admissions for renal dialysis, below, for further details); these data are presented separately. All other same-day admissions are included.

Confidentiality of data: Counts of between 0 and 4 admissions have been suppressed.

Where data are published by age and either the age groups 0 to 14 years or 15 years and over has been confidentialised, the alternate age group has also been confidentialised for the same area, as their publication would allow identification of the confidentialised age group.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU using data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, supplied on behalf of State and Territory health departments for 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21; 2013, 2013, 2014 and 2015 average calculated by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd and 2021 estimated resident population (ERP) produced as a consultancy for PHIDU by ABS – see Data Source above.

Admissions by sex, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Total admissions, Aboriginal persons,
- Male total admissions, Aboriginal males
- Female total admissions, Aboriginal females

Admissions by age, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Total admissions, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 14 years
- Total admissions, Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 years
- Total admissions, Aboriginal people aged 25 to 44 years
- Total admissions, Aboriginal people aged 45 to 64 years
- Total admissions, Aboriginal people aged 65 years and over

Admissions by selected principal diagnosis, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Admissions for infectious and parasitic diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: A00-B99
- Admissions for all cancer, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: C00-D48
- Admissions for endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: E00-E90
- Admissions for mental health-related conditions, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: F00-F99
- Admissions for nervous system diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: G00-G99
- Admissions for eye and adnexa diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: H00-H59
- Admissions for ear and mastoid process diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: H60-H95
- Admissions for circulatory system diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: I00-I99
- Admissions for respiratory system diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: J00-J99
- Admissions for digestive system diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: K00-K93
- Admissions for skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: L00-L99
- Admissions for musculoskeletal system and connective tissue diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: M00-M99
- Admissions for genitourinary system diseases, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: N00-N99
- Admissions for pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, Aboriginal females aged 15 to 44 years
ICD-10-AM codes: O00-O99
- Admissions for injury, poisoning and other external causes, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: S00-T98

Admissions by selected principal diagnosis and age, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Admissions for infectious and parasitic diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 14 years
ICD-10-AM codes: A00-B99
- Admissions for infectious and parasitic diseases, Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over
ICD-10-AM codes: A00-B99
- Admissions for respiratory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 14 years
ICD-10-AM codes: J00-J99

- Admissions for respiratory system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over
ICD-10-AM codes: J00-J99
- Admissions for digestive system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 14 years
ICD-10-AM codes: K00-K93
- Admissions for digestive system diseases, Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over
ICD-10-AM codes: K00-K93
- Admissions for skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 14 years
ICD-10-AM codes: L00-L99
- Admissions for skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases, Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over
ICD-10-AM codes: L00-L99
- Admissions for injury, poisoning and other external causes, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 14 years
ICD-10-AM codes: S00-T98
- Admissions for injury, poisoning and other external causes, Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over
ICD-10-AM codes: S00-T98

Same-day admissions for renal dialysis, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

Additional indicator detail: The data presented are of the number of same-day admissions for dialysis for kidney disease, including both haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, International Classification of Disease (ICD-10-AM) codes Z49.1 and Z49.2. There are two main types of dialysis: peritoneal, which occurs inside the body and can be performed almost anywhere, usually in the home setting; and haemodialysis, which occurs outside the body and is most often conducted in a hospital or satellite setting. The reason for presenting these data separately from overnight admissions is that they represent many repeat visits by a relatively small number of patients, who may have multiple admissions in a week. Their inclusion with other (overnight) admissions can dramatically alter the geographic distribution of these other categories of admissions. This is particularly evident in regional and remote areas, where dialysis facilities are located, and where those using them may have moved to live to be near the facility.

- Admissions for same-day dialysis for kidney disease, Aboriginal people
ICD-10-AM codes: Z491 to Z492

Potentially preventable hospitalisations (vaccine-preventable, acute and chronic), 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

Additional indicator detail: Data definitions for potentially preventable hospitalisations are in *the National Healthcare Agreement: PI 18-Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2017* available through METeOR ([METeOR ID: 630028](#)).

- Admissions for potentially preventable conditions, Aboriginal people

Potentially preventable hospitalisations (vaccine-preventable, acute and chronic), by age, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Admissions for potentially preventable conditions, Aboriginal people aged 0 to 14 years
- Admissions for potentially preventable conditions, Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 years
- Admissions for potentially preventable conditions, Aboriginal people aged 25 to 44 years
- Admissions for potentially preventable conditions, Aboriginal people aged 45 to 64 years
- Admissions for potentially preventable conditions, Aboriginal people aged 65 years and over

Potentially preventable hospitalisations – Vaccine-preventable conditions, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Admissions for total vaccine-preventable conditions, Aboriginal people

Potentially preventable hospitalisations – Acute conditions, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Admissions for acute cellulitis, Aboriginal people
- Admissions for acute convulsions and epilepsy, Aboriginal people
- Admissions for acute dental conditions, Aboriginal people
- Admissions for acute ear, nose and throat infections, Aboriginal people
- Admissions for acute urinary tract infections, including pyelonephritis, Aboriginal people
- Admissions for total acute conditions, Aboriginal people

Potentially preventable hospitalisations – Chronic conditions, 2012/13 to 2014/15 and 2017/18 to 2020/21

- Admissions for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Aboriginal people
- Admissions for chronic diabetes complications, Aboriginal people
- Admissions for total chronic conditions, Aboriginal people