

Closing the Gap Time Series Atlas: Notes on the Data

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General information

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Geographical structures

Where available, data are presented for both Indigenous Areas and (the larger) Indigenous Regions. However, some data were only available to PHIDU by Indigenous Region.

For information regarding the geographies, 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

'Indigenous' refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The targets

PHIDU has presented data at the sub-state and territory geographic level for the targets reported in the Closing the Gap: Prime Minister's Report 2018 [1]. Where data were not available for the targets or supplementary information presented in the Report, PHIDU has reported on proxy measures that we believe are informative of the targets. A list of the targets and other measures presented in this atlas is available [here](#).

[1] Commonwealth of Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Closing the Gap: Prime Minister's Report 2018*

Notes on the Data: Indicators and Data sources

Halve child mortality rates by 2018

- Child mortality rate, 0 to 4 years – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2002 to 2006; 2003 to 2007; 2004 to 2008; 2005 to 2009; 2006 to 2010; 2007 to 2011; 2008 to 2012; 2009 to 2013; 2010 to 2014; and 2011 to 2015 - by IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual child mortality rates per 100,000 population aged 0 to 4 years: they are presented as five-year rolling averages for the periods from 2002–06 to 2011--15.

Source: Data compiled by PHIDU from deaths data based on the 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 average estimated resident population for 2001/06, 2006/11 or 2011/16.

- Smoking during pregnancy – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous [*supplementary indicator*]
Period 1: NSW and WA - 2004 to 2006; SA - 2003 to 2005; Tas - 2005 to 2006; NT and ACT - 2004 to 2005; Vic and Qld - not available
Period 2: NSW, SA, WA, Tas and NT - 2006 to 2008; ACT - 2005 to 2007; Vic and Qld - not available
Period 3: NSW, Qld, SA and ACT - 2008 to 2010; Vic, WA and Tas - 2009 to 2011; NT - 2006 to 2008
Period 4: 2012 to 2014
- Indigenous data by IARE and IREG
- Non-Indigenous data by IREG

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.

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

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

- [Children fully immunised at 1 year of age, 2 years of age and 5 years of age – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2014 and 2017 \[supplementary indicator\]](#)
- by IARE and IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are of registered* 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 children or fewer than 10 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, 2014 and 2017 calendar years.

Have 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025)

- [Preschool enrolments, 4 to 5 years – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017](#)
- by IARE and IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are the number of children aged 4 to 5 years enrolled in a preschool program, as a proportion of all children aged 4 to 5 years.

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Microdata: Preschool Education, Australia (cat. no. 4240.0.55.003)

Halve the gap for Indigenous children in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018)

Early childhood development: Australian Early Development Census indicators – Indigenous (non-Indigenous data not yet available) [proxy indicator]

- [Children assessed as developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains - Indigenous, 2009, 2012 and 2015](#)
- by IARE
- [Children assessed as developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains - Indigenous, 2009, 2012 and 2015](#)
- by IARE
- [Children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the physical health and wellbeing domain - Indigenous, 2009, 2012 and 2015](#)
- by IARE
- [Children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the social competence domain - Indigenous, 2009, 2012 and 2015](#)
- by IARE
- [Children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the emotional maturity domain - Indigenous, 2009, 2012 and 2015](#)

- by IARE
- Children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive (school based) domain - Indigenous, 2009, 2012 and 2015
- by IARE
- Children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in the communication skills and general knowledge domain - Indigenous, 2009, 2012 and 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 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin 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.
3. Data for 2015 are new and for 2009 and 2012 are revised

Source: Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the 2009, 2012 and 2015 Australian Early Development Censuses, provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Halve the gap for Indigenous Australians aged 20-24 in Year 12 or attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020)

- Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates, 20 to 24 years – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2006, 2011 and 2016
- by IARE and IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are the number of persons aged 20 to 24 years who completed Year 12 or equivalent as a proportion of all people aged 20 to 24 years.

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

- 15 to 19 year olds engaged in school, work or further education/training – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2006, 2011 and 2016 [supplementary indicator]
- by IARE and IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are 15 to 19 year olds engaged in school, work or further education/training, as a proportion of all 15 to 19 year olds.

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

- Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16 – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2006, 2011 and 2016 [*proxy indicator*]
- by IARE and IREG

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 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 young people in full-time secondary school education, as a proportion of all 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, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018)

- Employment rates, males/ females/ persons 15 to 64 years – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2006, 2011 and 2016
- by IARE and IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are the number of employed males/ females/ persons aged 15 to 64 years, as a proportion of all males/ females/ persons in the labour force aged 15 to 64 years.

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

- Labour force participation rates, 15 to 64 years – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous, 2006, 2011 and 2016 [*supplementary indicator*]
- by IARE and IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are the number of persons aged 15 to 64 years in the labour force, as a proportion of all persons aged 15 to 64 years.

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

Close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation (by 2013)

- Premature mortality, 0 to 64 years – Indigenous/ non-Indigenous (NSW, Qld, SA, WA & NT only), 2002 to 2006; 2003 to 2007; 2004 to 2008; 2005 to 2009; 2006 to 2010; 2007 to 2011; 2008 to 2012; 2009 to 2013; 2010 to 2014; and 2011 to 2015 [*proxy indicator*]
- by IARE and IREG

Indicator detail: The data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 100,000 population (aged 0 to 64 years); 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 revised data for 2015 and final data for all other years. 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 2002 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 average estimated resident population for 2001/06, 2006/11 or 2011/16.