



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

New South Wales Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report 2018

Sydney Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
Clare Coleman, Qingsheng Zhou, Kalinda Griffiths, Richard Madden

Published by:

University of Sydney, NSW

ISBN: 978-0-6481939-4-4

Copyright August 2018

Suggested citation: Coleman, C., Zhou, Q., Griffiths, K., and Madden, R. (2018). New South Wales Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report 2018, University of Sydney

Acknowledgments:

The analysis presented in this paper was funded by Aboriginal Affairs, NSW Department of Education. The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and may not reflect those of Aboriginal Affairs or the New South Wales Government.

The format for this report was designed to correspond to the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2106 (OID) and acknowledges the copyright of that report. We acknowledge the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) work on the OID report.

Layout and publishing assistance: Rodney Bernard

Contents

- List of Figures** iii
- Acronyms and Abbreviations** v
- Glossary** vi
- Introduction**..... 1
- COAG Targets**..... 5
- 4.1 Life Expectancy**..... 5
 - Life Expectancy..... 5
 - Mortality Rates 6
- 4.2 Young child mortality** 8
 - Infant mortality rates 8
 - Young child mortality..... 9
- 4.3 Early childhood education** 11
 - Early childhood preschool enrolment 11
 - Early childhood preschool attendance 12
- 4.4 Reading, writing and numeracy** 13
 - Proportion of students at or above the NMS for NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy.. 13
 - Participation in NAPLAN testing..... 14
- 4.5 Years 1 to 10 School Attendance** 17
 - School attendance 17
 - Number and proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent or greater average school attendance 18
- 4.6 Year 12 attainment**..... 19
 - The proportion of the 20–24 year old population who have attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent qualification..... 19
 - Students who have attained an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 50.0 or above 20
- 4.7 Employment** 22
 - Employment to population ratio..... 22
 - Labour force participation 23
 - Unemployment rate..... 24

Headline Indicators	25
4.8 Post-secondary education	25
People with or working towards a post-secondary qualification	25
4.9 Disability and chronic disease.....	27
Disability prevalence	27
Participation in society by people with a disability	28
Carers of people with disability	28
4.10 Household and individual income.....	29
Median equivalised gross weekly household income.....	29
4.11 Substantiated child abuse and neglect	30
Substantiation of child protection notifications	30
Children on care and protection orders	32
Out-of-home care placement	34
4.12 Family and community violence	36
Incidence and prevalence of violence	36
Victimisation rates	37
Hospitalisation Rates	39
Homicide rates	39
People who seek services due to family violence homelessness	40
4.13 Imprisonment and juvenile detention	41
Adult imprisonment	41
Juvenile detention	42
Community-based youth justice supervision	43

List of Figures

Figure 1: NSW Population pyramid by age, sex and Aboriginality 2016 Census.....	4
Figure 2: NSW change in life expectancy for Aboriginal people by gender, from 2005–2007 to 2010–2012	5
Figure 3: NSW age-standardised three year rolling average mortality rates by Aboriginality, 2007–2014.....	6
Figure 4: NSW infant mortality rates using a rolling 3 year average by Aboriginality, 2007–2015	8
Figure 5: NSW child (1 – 4 years) mortality rates using a rolling 3 year average by Aboriginality, 2007–2015.....	10
Figure 6: Percentage of children enrolled in preschool programs in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2014–2016	11
Figure 7: NSW students (percentage) at or above the NMS in reading in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Aboriginality, 2008–2017	13
Figure 8: NSW students (percentage) at or above the NMS in writing in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Aboriginality, 2011–2017	14
Figure 9: NSW students (percentage) at or above the NMS in numeracy in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Aboriginality, 2008–2017	14
Figure 10: NSW students (percentage) participating in NAPLAN reading test by Aboriginality, 2008–2017.....	15
Figure 11: NSW students (percentage) participating in NAPLAN writing test by Aboriginality, 2008–2017.....	15
Figure 12: NSW students (percentage) participating in NAPLAN numeracy test by Aboriginality, 2008–2017.....	15
Figure 13: NSW school attendance by Aboriginality, 2014–2017	17
Figure 14: Proportion of 20-24 year olds who have attained at least Year 12 in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2006–2016	19
Figure 15: ATAR rates (50.0 or above) in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2007–2015	20
Figure 16: Proportion of NSW working age population employed by Aboriginality, 2004–2015.....	22
Figure 17: NSW Labour force participation rate by Aboriginality, 2004–2015	23
Figure 18: NSW unemployment rate by Aboriginality, 2004–2015	24
Figure 19: Proportion of people with a Certificate III qualification or above or working towards one in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2001–2016	25
Figure 20: Age-standardised proportion of with profound or severe core-activity limitation in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2002–2015	27
Figure 21: Median equivalised gross weekly household income (2014–15 dollars) in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2002 to 2014–15.....	29
Figure 22: Children aged 0–17 years who were subject of a substantiated child protection report in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2009-10 to 2016-17.....	30
Figure 23: Rate of children aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders in NSW by Aboriginality, 2005-2017	32
Figure 24: Placement of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care in NSW, at 30 June 2005-17	34

Figure 25: Proportion of adults’ self-reported experiencing physical or threatened violence in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2002, 2008 and 2014-15 36

Figure 26: NSW rate of sexual assaults by Aboriginality 2010-2017 37

Figure 27: NSW rate of assaults by Aboriginality 2010-2017 38

Figure 28: NSW rate of robberies by Aboriginality 2010-2017 38

Figure 29: NSW age-standardised imprisonment rate per 100 000 by Aboriginality, 2000–2017 41

Figure 30: NSW Daily average rate of detention of young people aged 10–17 years by Aboriginality, 2007-08 to 2016-17 43

Figure 31: NSW Daily average rate of community supervision of young people aged 10–17 years by Aboriginality, 2007-08 to 2016-17 44

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
AHS	Australian Health Survey
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admission Rank
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
EGWH	Equivalised gross weekly household
GSS	General Social Survey
HPF	Health Performance Framework
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NEHS	National Eye Health Survey
NIRA	National Indigenous Reform Agreement
NMS	National Minimum Standard
NSW	New South Wales
OID	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage
SDAC	Survey of Disability Aging and Carers
SHS	Specialist Homelessness Services

Glossary

Aboriginal	A person who identifies as being of Aboriginal origin. May also include people who identify as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.
Age standardised rates	Age standardised rates enable comparisons to be made between populations that have different age structures. Age standardisation is often used when comparing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations because the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is younger than the non-Indigenous population. Outcomes for some indicators are influenced by age, therefore, it is appropriate to age standardise the data when comparing the results. When comparisons are not being made between the two populations, the data are not age standardised.
Care and protection orders	If an investigation results in a substantiation, intervention by child protection services might be needed to protect the child. This intervention can take a number of forms, including one or more of: referral to other services; supervision and support; an application to court; and a placement in out-of-home care. The types of care and protection orders available vary across jurisdictions and may include interim and temporary orders, finalised supervisory orders, and finalised guardianship or custody orders (see substantiation).
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) was an Australian Government funded program that provided activities for unemployed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to develop work skills and move into employment (see section 4.7).
Child mortality	Child mortality is typically defined as the number of deaths of children under five years of age in a given year.
Core activity limitation (ABS SDAC definition)	<p>Four levels of core activity limitation are determined based on whether a person needs help, has difficulty, or uses aids or equipment with any of the core activities (mobility, self-care and communication). A person's overall level of core activity limitation is determined by their highest level of limitation in these activities.</p> <p>The four levels of limitation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">profound — the person is unable to do, or always needs help with, a core activity task.severe — the person:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– sometimes needs help with a core activity task, and/or– has difficulty understanding or being understood by family or friends, or– can communicate more easily using sign language or other non-spoken forms of communication.moderate — the person needs no help, but has difficulty with a core activity task

mild — the person needs no help and has no difficulty with any of the core activity tasks, but:

- uses aids or equipment, or has one or more of the following limitations
- cannot easily walk 200 metres
- cannot walk up and down stairs without a handrail
- cannot easily bend to pick up an object from the floor
- cannot use public transport
- can use public transport, but needs help or supervision
- needs no help or supervision, but has difficulty using public transport.

Confidence intervals Survey data, for example data from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, are subject to sampling error because they are based on samples of the total population. Where survey data are shown in charts in this report, error bars are included, showing 95 per cent confidence intervals. There is a 95 per cent chance that the true value of the data item lies within the interval shown by the error bars. See ‘statistical significance’.

See also ‘Error bars’.

Disability (ABS SDAC definition)

A person has a disability if he or she has a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. These activities include: loss of sight (not corrected by glasses or contact lenses); loss of hearing where communication is restricted, or an aid to assist with, or substitute for, hearing is used; speech difficulties; shortness of breath or breathing difficulties causing restriction; chronic or recurrent pain or discomfort causing restriction; blackouts, seizures, or fits, or loss of consciousness; difficulty learning or understanding; incomplete use of arms or fingers; difficulty gripping or holding things; incomplete use of feet or legs; nervous or emotional condition causing restriction; restriction in physical activities or in doing physical work; disfigurement or deformity; mental illness or condition requiring help or supervision; long-term effects of head injury, stroke or other brain damage causing restriction; receiving treatment or medication for any other long-term conditions or ailments and still restricted; or any other long-term conditions resulting in a restriction.

ICD

ICD is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is primarily designed for the classification of diseases and injuries with a formal diagnosis. ICD-10-AM is the Australian modification of the tenth revision and was adopted for Australian use from 1 January 1999 (superseding ICD-9).

Glossary

Equivalised household income	Equivalised household income adjusts the actual incomes of households to make households of different sizes and compositions comparable. It results in a measure of the economic resources available to members of a standardised household (see section 4.10).
Error bars	<p>Survey data, for example data from the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, are subject to sampling error because they are based on samples of the total population. Where survey data are shown in charts in this report, error bars are included, showing 95 per cent confidence intervals. There is a 95 per cent chance that the true value of the data item lies within the interval shown by the error bars. See 'statistical significance'.</p> <p>See also 'Confidence intervals'.</p>
Income ranges	See 'quintiles'.
Indigenous	A person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australian.
Indigenous status not stated/ Indigenous status unknown	Where a person's Indigenous status has either not been asked or not recorded
Infant mortality	Deaths of children between birth and exactly one year of age.
Inner regional	See 'remoteness areas'.
Jurisdiction	The Australian Government or a State or Territory Government and areas that it has legal authority over.
Labour force	The labour force is the most widely used measure of the economically active population or the formal supply of labour. It is a measure of the number of people contributing to, or willing to contribute to, the supply of labour and, as defined by the ABS, comprises two mutually exclusive categories of population: the employed (people who have worked for at least one hour in the reference week), and the unemployed (people who are without work, but had actively looked for work in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available to start work in the reference week).
Major cities	See 'remoteness areas'.

Mean and median income measures	<p>Mean income value is the average value of a set of income data. It is calculated by adding up all the values in the set of data and dividing that sum by the number of values in the dataset.</p> <p>Median value is the middle point of a set of income data. Lining up the values in a set of income data from largest to smallest, the one in the centre is the median income value (if the centre point lies between two numbers, the median value is the average value of the two numbers).</p> <p>Mean income values are influenced by extreme income values (including the lowest and highest incomes). Therefore, median income value is a more informative measure of income for an average household or individual income earner. .</p>
Non-Aboriginal	A person who does not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
Non-Indigenous	A person who does not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
Non-school qualification	Non-school qualifications include vocational or higher education qualifications.
Non-remote	See 'remoteness areas'.
Out of home care placement	<p>Children are placed in out-of-home care as a last resort when it is not in their best interests to remain with their family. Placement of an Aboriginal child in out-of-home care is prioritised in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with Aboriginal relatives or extended family members, or other relatives or extended family • with Aboriginal members of the child's community • with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.
Outer regional	See 'remoteness areas'.
Perinatal mortality	Fetuses delivered with a gestational age of 20 weeks or more, or weighing at least 400 grams, and all neonatal deaths –deaths within 28 days of birth.
Post-school qualification	Post-school qualifications include vocational or higher education qualifications.
Quintiles	Income quintiles are groups that result from ranking all people in the population in ascending order (from the lowest to the highest) according to their (as an example) incomes and then dividing the population into five equal groups, each comprising 20 per cent of the population.

Glossary

Rate ratio	The rate ratio is the rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population divided by the rate for the non-Indigenous (or other) population.
Regional	See 'remoteness areas'.
Relative standard /error (RSE)	The relative standard error is the standard deviation of the sample divided by the mean of the sample. See also 'statistical significance'.
Remote	See 'remoteness areas'.
Remoteness	See 'remoteness areas'.
Remoteness areas	<p>Remoteness areas are defined in the Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS) developed by the ABS.¹The ASGS remoteness classification identifies a place in Australia as having a particular degree of remoteness. The remoteness of each place is determined using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA). The ABS generates an average ARIA score for each location based on its distance from population centres of various sizes. Locations are then added together to form the remoteness areas in each State and Territory. Remoteness areas comprise the following six categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• major cities of Australia• inner regional Australia• outer regional Australia• remote Australia• very remote Australia• migratory regions (comprising off-shore, shipping and migratory places). <p>The aim of the ASGS remoteness structure is not to provide a measure of the remoteness of a particular location but to divide Australia into five broad categories (excluding migratory regions) of remoteness for comparative statistical purposes.</p>
Statistical significance	Statistical significance is a measure of the degree of difference between survey data estimates. The potential for sampling error — that is, the error that occurs by chance because the data are obtained from only a sample and not the entire population — means that reported responses may not indicate the true responses.

¹ The ASGS replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) from 1 July 2013.

Using the relative standard errors (RSE) of survey data estimates, it is possible to use a formula to test whether the difference is statistically significant. If there is an overlap between confidence intervals for different data items, it cannot be stated for certain that there is a statistically significant difference between the results. See 'confidence intervals' and 'relative standard error'.

Substantiation	Substantiations is defined as the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were the subject of substantiated child protection notifications.
Torres Strait Islander people	People who identify as being of Torres Strait Islander origin. May also include people who identify as being of both Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal origin.
Unemployment rate	The unemployment rate is defined as the proportion of people in the labour force who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, or • were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.
Very remote	See 'remoteness areas'.

Introduction

In this report we respectfully refer to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of New South Wales (NSW) as Aboriginal people, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of NSW.² When referring to all of Australia we will respectfully refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Indigenous people or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This report updates the NSW Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2017 report for the sections where new data is available. This report provides data for NSW corresponding to the Productivity Commissions' Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report (2016) for the Commonwealth. The report covers only the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) targets and the Headline Indicators, corresponding to Sections 4.1–4.13 of the Productivity Commission's report. We provide NSW specific information on the seven COAG targets, main measures and supplementary items where applicable and where this information is available for NSW. We also report on the main measures of five headline indicators and supplementary items where applicable and where this information is available for NSW. Each section discusses the data limitations and the sources of the data. This report uses the corresponding topic headings from Chapter 4 of the OID Report, 'COAG targets and headline indicators'. The updated sections are Sections 4.2-4.6, 4.8 and 4.11-4.13.

Where information has been sourced from census data, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing, ABS Prisoners of Australia or from Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) education data there are no error bars in the figures, as the summary data are considered to be exact. Where data has been sourced from surveys, the summary data are estimates and therefore 95 per cent confidence intervals are displayed on the figures.

Data limitations

With preliminary estimates of the NSW Aboriginal population from the 2016 census of 265 600 people, when looking at subgroups of the population, the counts of relatively rare events can be quite small and therefore subject to large fluctuations. For example, between 2006 and 2015 the annual number of deaths of children between the ages of 1 and 4 years ranged from three to eight. This year to year variability makes it difficult to identify if any trends are present. Some of the data used in the OID report is based on unpublished analysis by the ABS and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). These data have not been updated. Data quality is affected by the propensity to identify as Aboriginal. Further information about data limitations is included in each section of the report.

Data sources

This report is based on publicly available data from ABS data collections including the five yearly census and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the General Social

² See - NSW Department of Health (2004). *Communicating positively: A guide to appropriate Aboriginal terminology*. North Sydney, NSW: Better Health Centre.

Introduction

Survey (GSS) and the Australian Health Survey (AHS) and the Survey of Disability Aging and Carers (SDAC). The AIHW provide reports on these surveys with Indigenous and non-Indigenous comparisons in the Health Performance Framework (HPF) and commissioned reporting for the Productivity Commission Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Reports and for the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA). Education data have been sourced from the ACARA. Where possible the most recently available data have been used.

The full list of resources used is below:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2013). *Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (ABS Cat. No. 3302.0.55.003). Canberra
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3302.0.55.003>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2013). Population Projections, Australia, 2012 (base) to 2101.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3222.0>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2014). *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* Canberra <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3238.0>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). Births, Australia.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3301.02016>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). Deaths, Australia.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3302.02016>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). Australian Demographic Statistics.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/30125843DE7F366ECA2582570013F5FE>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015*. Canberra
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/C258C88A7AA5A87ECA2568A9001393E8?opendocument>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2018). *Prisoners of Australia, 2017*.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4517.02017>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). *Prisoners of Australia, 2016*.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4517.02016>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2018). *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2017*.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4510.02017>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2016*.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4510.02016>

Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. (2018). NAPLAN Results.
<http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Results>

Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. (2017). *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 report*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/indigenous/hpf-2017/index.html>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017: data tables. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-health-welfare/health-performance-framework/data>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Child Protection Australia, 2016-17*. Canberra <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2016-17/>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017). *Child Protection Australia, 2015-16*. Canberra <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2015-16/>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Youth justice in Australia, 2016-17*. Canberra <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/youth-justice/youth-justice-in-australia-2016-17/>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017). *Youth justice in Australia, 2015-16*. Canberra <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/youth-justice/youth-justice-in-australia-2015-16/>

Foreman, J., Keel, S., Xie, J., Wijngaarden, P. v., Crowston, J., Taylor, H. R., & Dirani, M. (2016). *National Eye Health Survey Full Report*. Melbourne <http://www.vision2020australia.org.au/resources/national-eye-health-survey-report>

Productivity Commission. (2017). *National Indigenous Reform Agreement, Performance Assessment 2015-16*. Canberra <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/national-agreements/indigenous-reform>

Productivity Commission. (2018). *National Indigenous Reform Agreement, Performance Assessment 2016-17*. Canberra <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/national-agreements/indigenous-reform>

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST) <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016>

Demographics of the Aboriginal Population of New South Wales

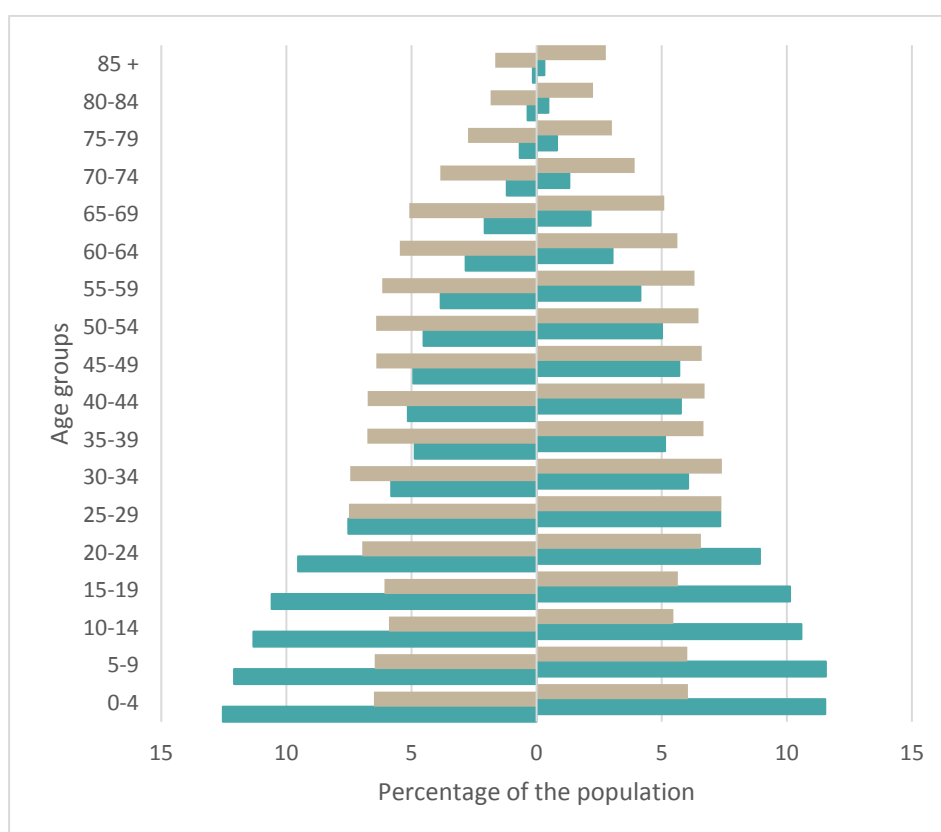
Preliminary estimates of the NSW Aboriginal population from the 2016 census is 265 600 (ABS Demographic Statistics

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/30125843DE7F366ECA2582570013F5FE> June 2017). This is 33 per cent of the Aboriginal population of Australia and 3.4

per cent of the population of NSW (7 739 274). The age structure of the NSW Aboriginal population is substantially different from the non-Aboriginal population with almost 35 per cent of the Aboriginal population under 15 years of age, whereas just over 18 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population is in this age bracket (see Figure 1).

The different population structures make the use of age-standardised results essential when comparing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population results.

Figure 1: NSW Population pyramid by age, sex and Aboriginality 2016 Census



ABS population figures incorporating census undercount
 Source: ABS Cat No. 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2017: Tables 10 and 11

In NSW, 85.5 per cent of Aboriginal people live in urban areas with a population of more than 1 000 people.

COAG Targets

4.1 Life Expectancy

COAG Target:

Closing the Indigenous life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031). This does not appear to be on track for NSW.

There is one main measure and one supplementary item for this indicator. The main measure is estimated life expectancy at birth. The supplementary item is mortality rate by leading causes. As life expectancy is only calculated every five years, annual all-cause mortality rates are also reported.

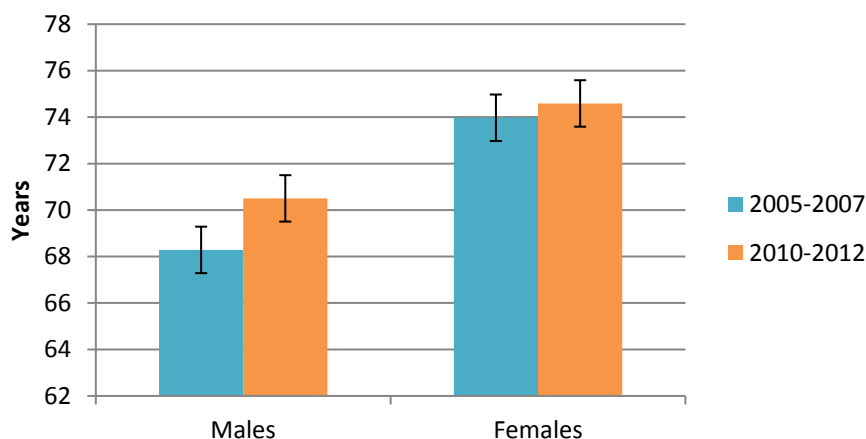
Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is calculated two years after each census by the ABS and is based on adjusted mortality rates for the three years centred on the census year.

From 2005–2007 to 2010–2012:

- life expectancy at birth for NSW Aboriginal people increased from 68.3 years to 70.5 years for males and from 74.0 years to 74.6 years for females
- the gap between NSW Aboriginal people and NSW non-Aboriginal people narrowed from 10.5 years to 9.3 years for males and from 8.6 years to 8.5 years for females.

Figure 2: NSW change in life expectancy for Aboriginal people by gender, from 2005–2007 to 2010–2012



Source: OID Report Table 4A.1.3
ABS (2013). *Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010–2012*, Cat. no. 3302.0.55.003, Canberra

Data Limitations

Data linkage is used to estimate the under identification of Indigenous people in death registration records. Census records are linked to death registration records for 12 to 15 months post census. Only 70 per cent of Aboriginal deaths in NSW were identified as Aboriginal in the 2011 linkage

4.1 Life Expectancy

process. This may have the effect of increasing the apparent life expectancy for Aboriginal people. In jurisdictions where the identification rate was higher, life expectancy was lower. As estimates of life expectancy are made through the data linkage exercise, 95 percent confidence intervals are included.

Data Source

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2013). *Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (ABS Cat. No. 3302.0.55.003). Canberra
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3302.0.55.003>

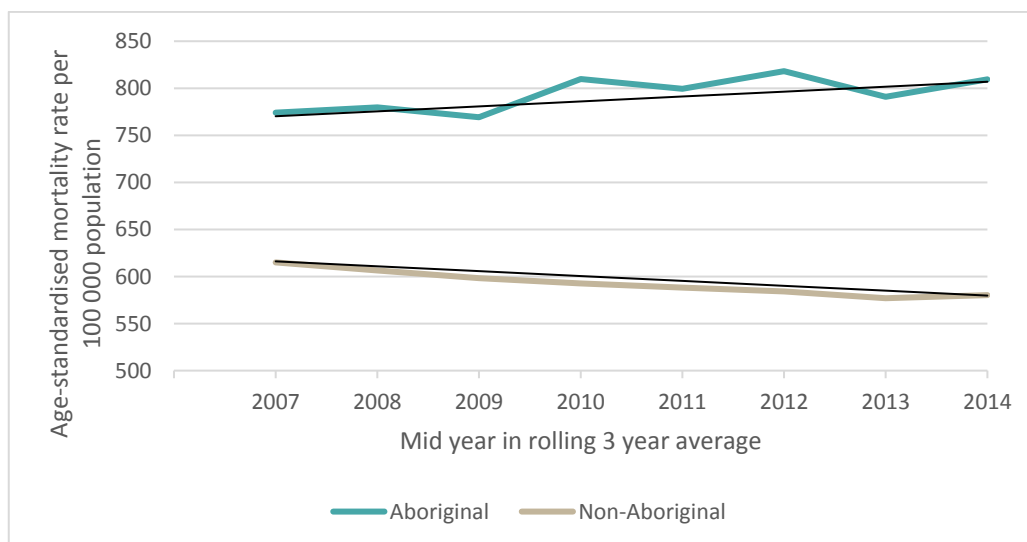
Mortality Rates

Updated all cause, age standardised mortality rates per 100 000 people are available every year and are used to supplement life expectancy information. Because the number of Aboriginal deaths are small and fluctuate from year to year, three year rolling averages are used to estimate death rates.

In NSW, from 2007 to 2014 mortality rates:

- increased for Aboriginal people by 5.0 per cent
- decreased for non-Aboriginal people by 6.4 per cent.

Figure 3: NSW age-standardised three year rolling average mortality rates by Aboriginality, 2007–2014



Notes: Trend line is the least squares regression line of best fit.
Source: OID table 4.2.3

Data Limitations

As discussed above, in 2011 only 70 per cent of Aboriginal deaths were recorded as Aboriginal in the death registration records. It is not possible to determine whether the increase in mortality rates is due to an increase in the number of Aboriginal deaths since 2007 or an increase in the recording of Aboriginal deaths in death registration records.

Data Sources

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017: data tables. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-health-welfare/health-performance-framework/data>

4.2 Young child mortality

COAG Target:

Halving the gap in mortality rates for children under 5 within a decade (by 2018). This target is on track for NSW.

There is one main measure for this indicator: mortality rates for children aged less than 5 years, by leading cause of death. Most of the deaths for the age group considered in this indicator are amongst infants. Here we divide child mortality into infant mortality rates, that is, rates for children under one year of age, and young child mortality for children between one and four years of age.

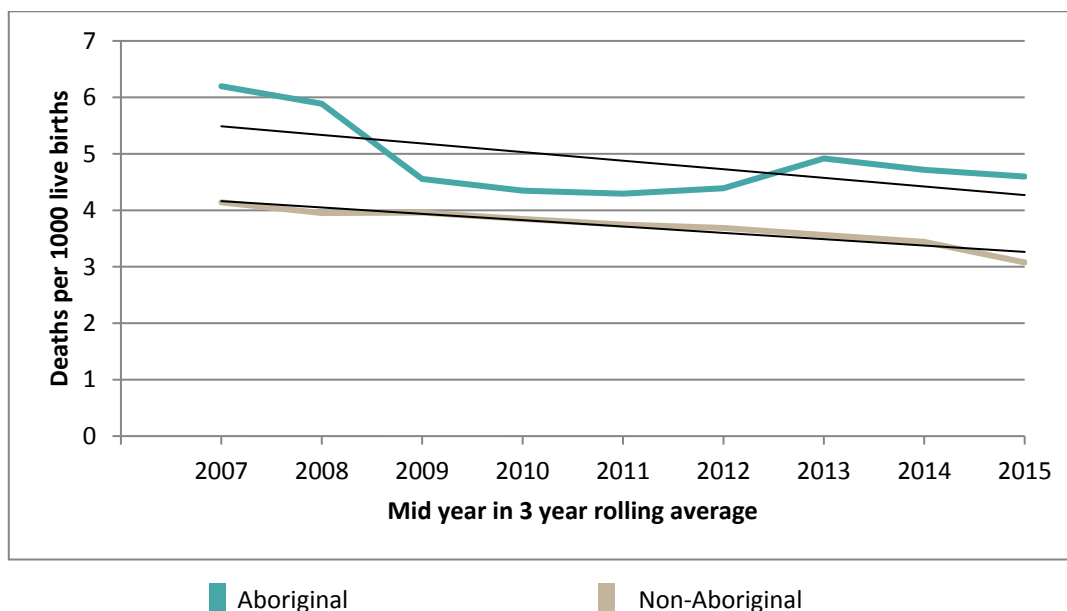
Infant mortality rates

Infant mortality is the number of deaths up to one year of age per 1 000 live births. Because the number of Aboriginal deaths are small, three year rolling averages are used to estimate death rates.

In NSW, from 2006 – 2008 to 2014 – 2016 the infant mortality:

- rates for Aboriginal infants declined from 6.2 to 4.6 per 1 000 live births
- rates for non-Aboriginal infants declined from 4.1 to 3.1 per 1 000 live births with less year by year variability
- gap has narrowed by 35 per cent.

Figure 4: NSW infant mortality rates using a rolling 3 year average by Aboriginality, 2007–2015



Source: ABS Births 2016, ABS Deaths Australia, 2016

Notes: Trend line is the least squares regression line of best fit.

Data imputed for 2009 and 2012 for Aboriginal infant mortality rate and 2012 only for non-Aboriginal rate

Data Limitations

Aboriginal infant mortality rates in NSW had major data issues in 2009 and 2012; non-Aboriginal mortality rates in 2012 were also affected. More details of the 2009 issues can be found in ABS Births 2009 at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3301.0Explanatory%20Notes12010?OpenDocument>. In 2012 the NSW Birth Registration process went online and there appears to be an

under registration of all births for that year. The most parsimonious approach is to omit the mortality data for the years of concern and impute their values by taking the average of the preceding and subsequent years. Thus, mortality rates for 2009 and 2012 for Aboriginal infants and for 2012 for non-Aboriginal infants have been imputed. As the annual number of infant deaths is very small, annual variations can be large.

Data Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2014). *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* Canberra <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3238.0>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). Births, Australia.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3301.020156>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). Deaths, Australia.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3302.020156>

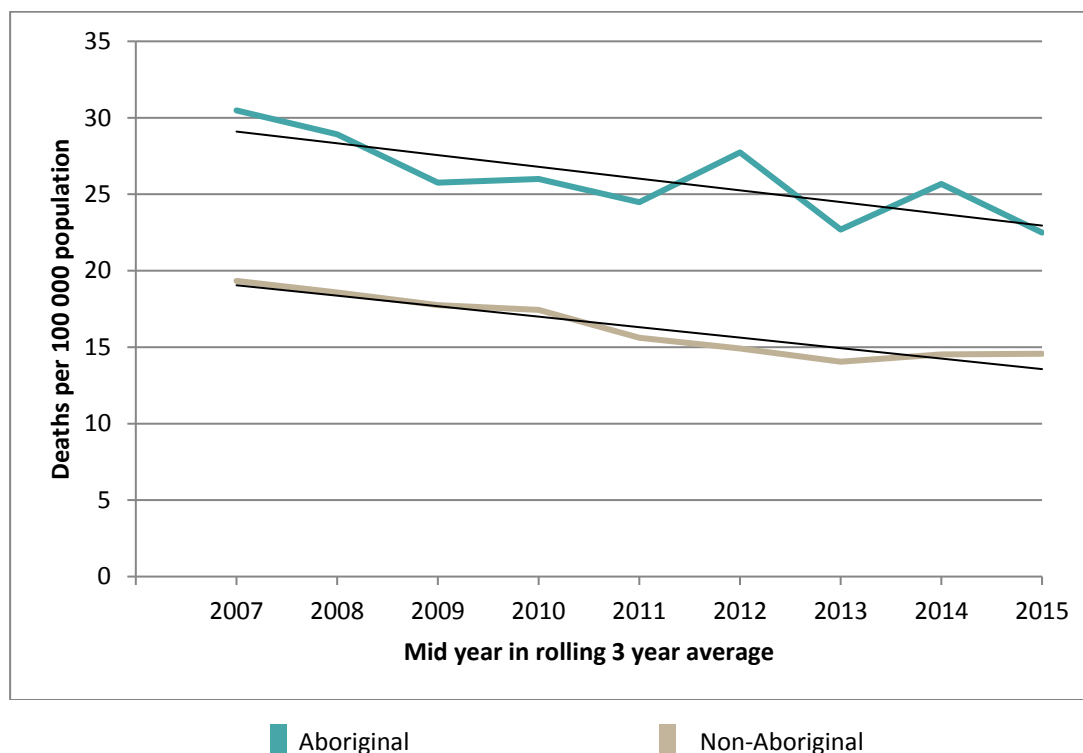
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017: data tables. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-health-welfare/health-performance-framework/data>

Young child mortality

In NSW, over the period 2006 to 2015 the young child mortality rate:

- declined from 24.0 to 22.5 per 100 000 population for Aboriginal children (5 children)
- declined from 19.7 to 14.6 per 100 000 population for non-Aboriginal children (64 children)
- gap did not observably change.

Figure 5: NSW child (1 – 4 years) mortality rates using a rolling 3 year average by Aboriginality, 2007–2015



Source: ABS Deaths 2016, ABS Population projections 2013, ABS Estimates and Projections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Populations, 2014

Note: Trend line is the least squares regression line of best fit.

Data limitations

The same data issues arise for young child mortality as for Aboriginal infant mortality in 2009 and 2012 and for non-Aboriginal mortality in 2012 and therefore the data were imputed for these years. As the annual number of deaths in this age group is very small, annual variations can be large.

Data sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2014). *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*. Canberra <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3238.0>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016). Deaths, Australia. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3302.02015>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017: data tables. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-health-welfare/health-performance-framework/data>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2013). Population Projections, Australia, 2012 (base) to 2101. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3222.0>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). Australian Demographic Statistics. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>

4.3 Early childhood education

COAG Target:

Ensuring 95 per cent of Aboriginal four year old children are enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025). This target appears to be on track for NSW.

There are two main measures for this indicator: Aboriginal children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program, and Aboriginal children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program.

Early childhood preschool enrolment

Aboriginal children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program is defined as the number of Aboriginal children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, as a proportion of the estimated number of Aboriginal children aged 4 years.

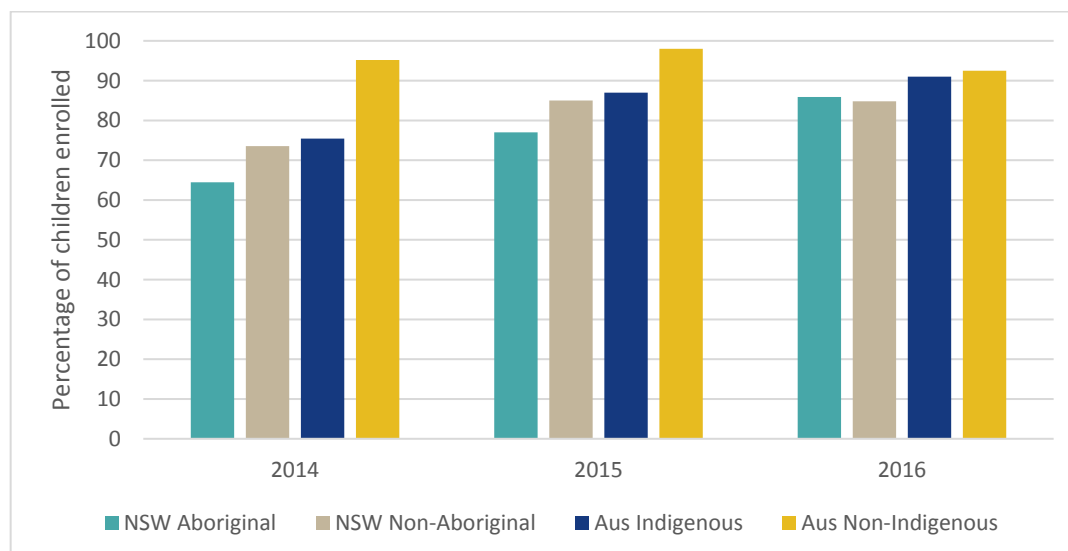
In NSW in 2016:

- 85.9 per cent of Aboriginal children aged 4 and 5, and
- 84.8 per cent non-Aboriginal children were enrolled in a preschool program.

In Australia in 2015:

- 91 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5, and
- 92.5 per cent of non-Indigenous children were enrolled in a preschool program.

Figure 6: Percentage of children enrolled in preschool programs in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2014–2016



Source: NIRA tables: 10.3 from 2014-15 and 10.1 from 2015-16 and 2016-17

4.3 Early childhood education

Early childhood preschool attendance

Aboriginal children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program is defined as the number of Aboriginal children aged 4 and 5 years as at 1 July of the collection year, who are attending a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, as a proportion of the estimated number of Aboriginal children aged 4 years.

In NSW in 2016, the attendance rate in preschool program was

- 95.4 per cent for Aboriginal children
- 96.5 per cent for non-Aboriginal children.

In Australia in 2016, the attendance rate in preschool program was:

- 93.4 per cent for Indigenous children
- 96.4 per cent for non-Indigenous children.

Data Limitations

The Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report recommends that data on this topic not be used for assessment against the COAG target because there is a new method for determining attendance being developed for the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA). They state that a new method will be adopted for the next report. In the interim we have used NIRA data for NSW and Australia in this report.

There are three available sets of data for enrolment and attendance at preschool, each with different assumptions and differing data. For example, NIRA distributes the small number of children whose Indigenous status is not stated proportionately between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups whereas the OID allocates them to the non-Aboriginal group only. The ABS data on preschool (42400 2016 Preschool Education, Australia, 2016 <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4240.0>) appears to be the source document for the OID and the NIRA data. The differing assumptions appear to provide slightly different results. For example, in 2015, the ABS source document says that 4 400 four and five year old Aboriginal children are enrolled in a preschool program. NIRA says 3 862 are enrolled and the OID report says 3 854 Aboriginal children are enrolled.

Data Sources

Productivity Commission. (2017). *National Indigenous Reform Agreement, Performance Assessment 2015-16*. Canberra <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/national-agreements/indigenous-reform> NIRA 2014–15, 2015–16 and 2016-17

4.4 Reading, writing and numeracy

COAG Target:

Halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade (by 2018).

This target does not appear to be on track for NSW.

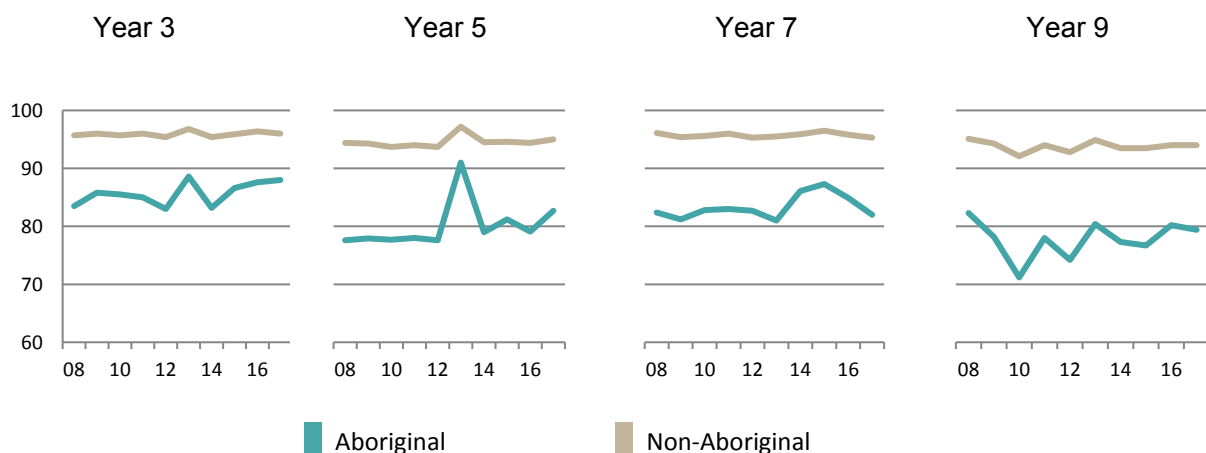
There are two main measures and one supplementary item for this indicator. The main measures are: National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) student achievement (the proportion of students at or above the national minimum standard (NMS) for NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy, in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9) and NAPLAN student participation (the rate of student participation in the NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9). The supplementary item is the average student achievement (based on NAPLAN mean scale scores).

Proportion of students at or above the NMS for NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy

Over the period 2008-2017:

- a smaller proportion of Aboriginal students are at or above the NMS for reading, writing and numeracy in NSW than their non-Aboriginal counterparts
- the proportion of students at or above the NMS was consistently lower for Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal students, and although there was some year to year variability there was no obvious trend over time
- gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students are generally less in NSW than for Australia as a whole.

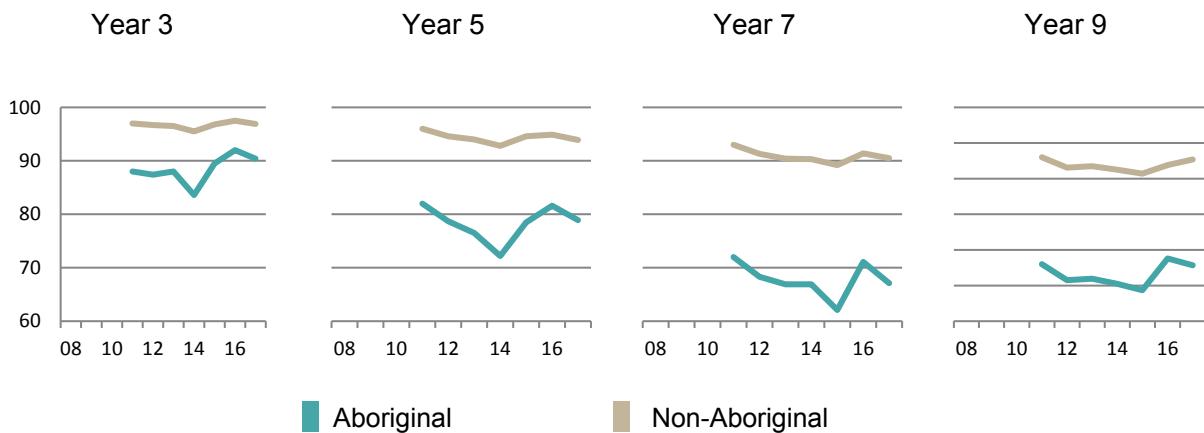
Figure 7: NSW students (percentage) at or above the NMS in reading in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Aboriginality, 2008–2017



Source: OID Table 4A.4.1 and ACARA <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/TimeSeries>

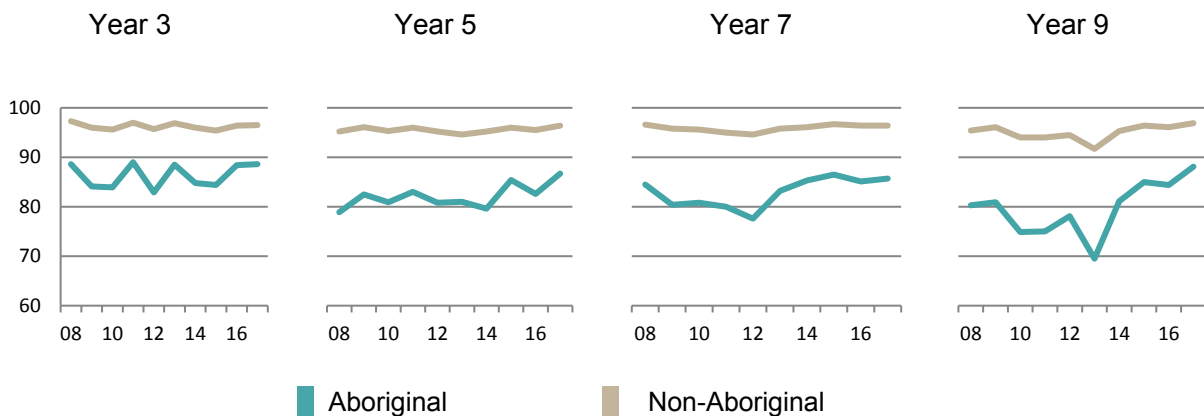
4.4. Reading, writing and numeracy

Figure 8: NSW students (percentage) at or above the NMS in writing in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Aboriginality, 2011–2017



Source: OID Table 4A.4.2 and ACARA <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/TimeSeries>
 *Note that data from 2008 to 2010 is not included due to changes in the writing test

Figure 9: NSW students (percentage) at or above the NMS in numeracy in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by Aboriginality, 2008–2017



Source: OID Table 4A.4.3 and ACARA <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/TimeSeries>

Data limitations

The smaller number of Aboriginal students in any particular year group results in larger annual fluctuations making it difficult to identify trends.

Data sources

NMS data source: Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. (2017). NAPLAN Results. <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Results>
 NMS data source: Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. (2018). NAPLAN Results. <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Results>

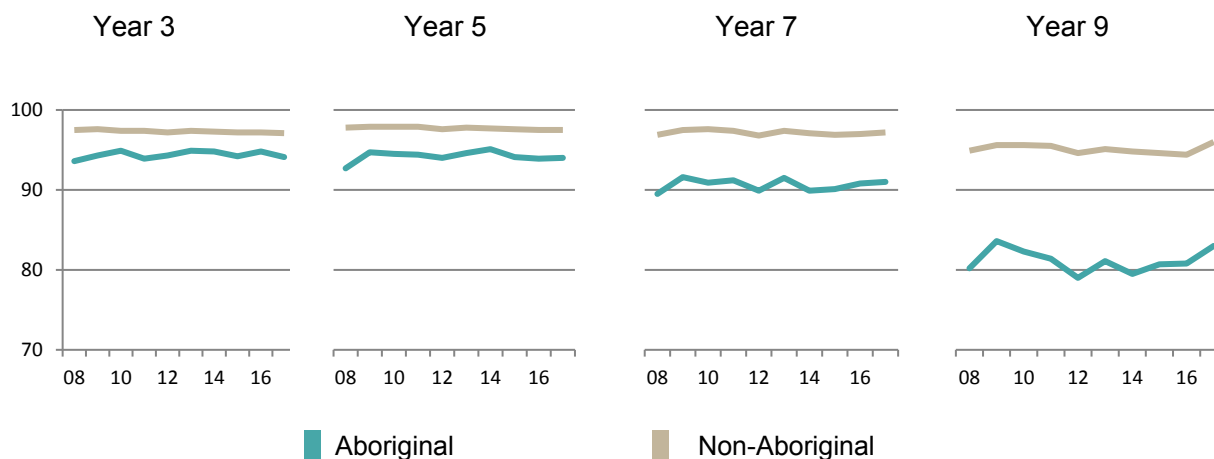
Participation in NAPLAN testing

Over the period 2008 to 2017 participation:

- by Aboriginal students in NAPLAN tests has fluctuated with no clear trend towards closing the gap

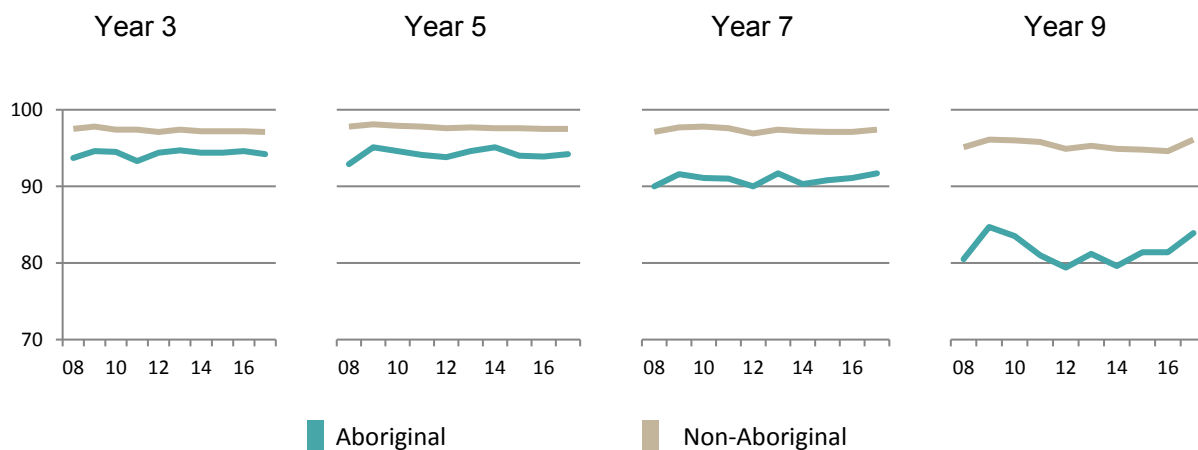
- is consistently lower for Aboriginal students across all Year levels and all tests compared with non-Aboriginal students
- falls markedly in Year 9 for Aboriginal students across all testing falling below 80 per cent for numeracy testing
- rates are generally higher in NSW than for Australia as a whole for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Figure 10: NSW students (percentage) participating in NAPLAN reading test by Aboriginality, 2008–2017



Source: OID Report Tables 4A.4.100-131 and ACARA <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Participation>

Figure 11: NSW students (percentage) participating in NAPLAN writing test by Aboriginality, 2008–2017

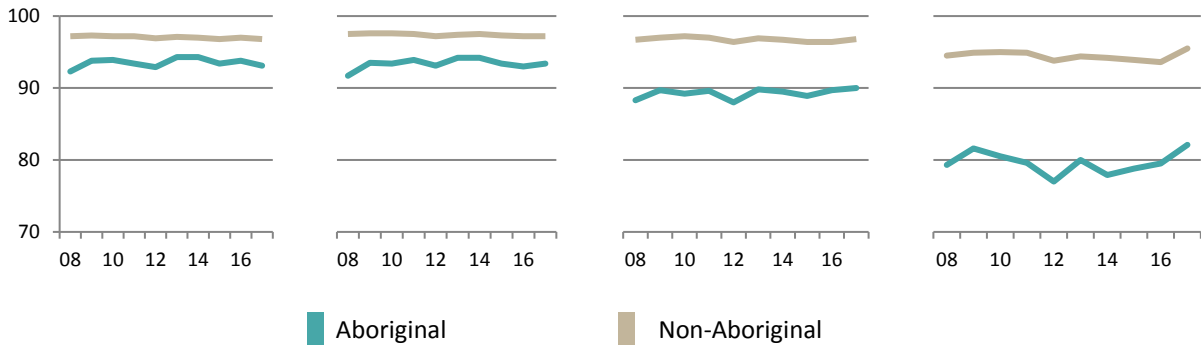


Source: OID Report Tables 4A.4.100-131 and ACARA <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Participation>

Figure 12: NSW students (percentage) participating in NAPLAN numeracy test by Aboriginality, 2008–2017

Year 3 Year 5 Year 7 Year 9

4.4. Reading, writing and numeracy



Source: OID Report Tables 4A.4.100-131 and ACARA <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Participation>

Data limitations

The smaller number of Aboriginal students in any particular year group results in larger annual fluctuations making it difficult to identify trends.

Data sources

Data for 2008 to 2015 sourced from the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST) <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables – Tables 4A.4.100 to 4A.4.132 with 2016 and 2017 data sourced from Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. (2017). NAPLAN Results. <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Participation> Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. (2018). NAPLAN Results. <http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Participation>

4.5 Years 1 to 10 School Attendance

COAG Target:

To close the gap in school attendance between Aboriginal children and non-Indigenous children within 5 years (by the end of 2018). This does not appear to be on track.

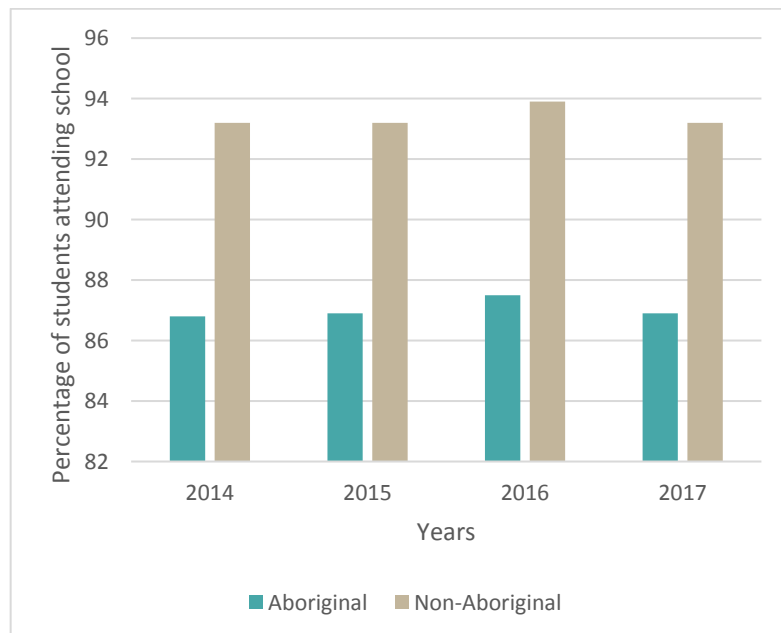
The main measure is overall school attendance for students in Years 1 to 10. The two supplementary measures are: the proportion of students who attend school 90 per cent, or more, of the time, and the number and proportion of schools achieving a 90 per cent or greater average school attendance.

School attendance

In NSW, over the period 2014 to 2017:

- school attendance for Aboriginal students in Years 1 to 10 showed little change, from 86.8 per cent in 2014 to 86.9 in 2017
- school attendance for non-Aboriginal students in Years 1 to 10 is consistently higher than for Aboriginal students (93.2% in 2014 and 93.2% in 2017)
- there has been little change in the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal school attendance in NSW (fluctuating between 6.3 and 6.4 per cent) or Australia (fluctuating between 9.8 and 9.4 per cent).

Figure 13: NSW school attendance by Aboriginality, 2014–2017



Source: OID Report Table 4A.5.1 and NIRA Table 13.1

Number and proportion of schools achieving 90 per cent or greater average school attendance

In 2017, 55.7 per cent of schools in NSW have Aboriginal students attending more than 90 per cent of the time compared with 45.7 per cent nationally. There has been little change from 2015.

Data limitations

NSW data are not collected in a comparable way with other states and territories so comparison with the Australian total needs to be considered with caution. There are no figures available for the proportion of students who attend school more than 90 per cent of the time in the government sector in NSW, figures are available for non-government school sector.

Data sources

Productivity Commission. (2017). *National Indigenous Reform Agreement, Performance Assessment 2016-17*. Canberra <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/national-agreements/indigenous-reform>

Productivity Commission. (2016). *National Indigenous Reform Agreement, Performance Assessment 2015-16*. Canberra <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/national-agreements/indigenous-reform>

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST) <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables

4.6 Year 12 attainment

COAG Target:

Halving the gap for Indigenous 20–24 year olds in year 12 or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.

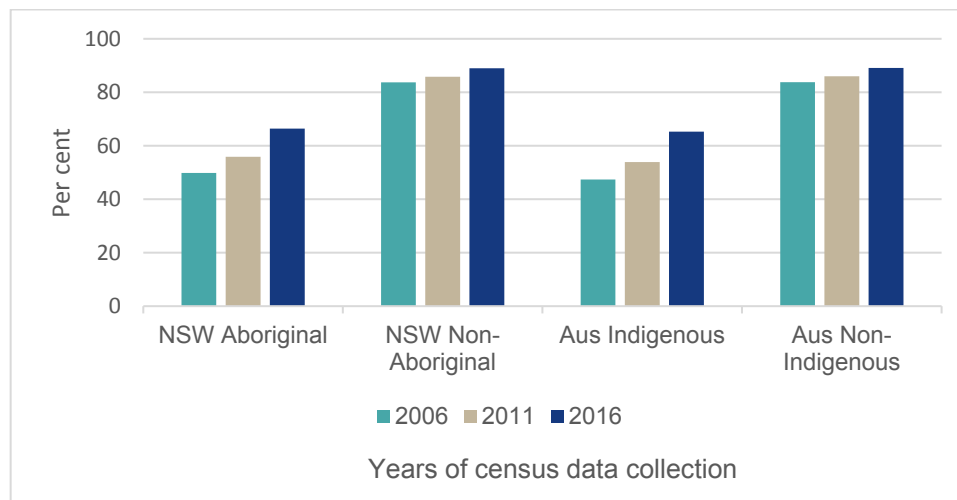
This appears to be on track for NSW.

There are two main measures and one supplementary measure for this indicator. The main measures are: the proportion of the 20–24 year old population who have attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certificate II or above, and Year 12 certification. The supplementary item is students who have attained an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 50.0 or above. No measure for Year 12 certification has been developed.

The proportion of the 20–24 year old population who have attained at least a Year 12 or equivalent qualification

The proportion of NSW Aboriginal students achieving a Year 12 or equivalent is lower than their non-Aboriginal counterparts across all years and is similar to the national picture. The figure below shows the census data.

Figure 14: Proportion of 20-24 year olds who have attained at least Year 12 in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2006–2016



Source: OID Report: Table 4A.6.3
NIRA 2016-16 Table 12.1

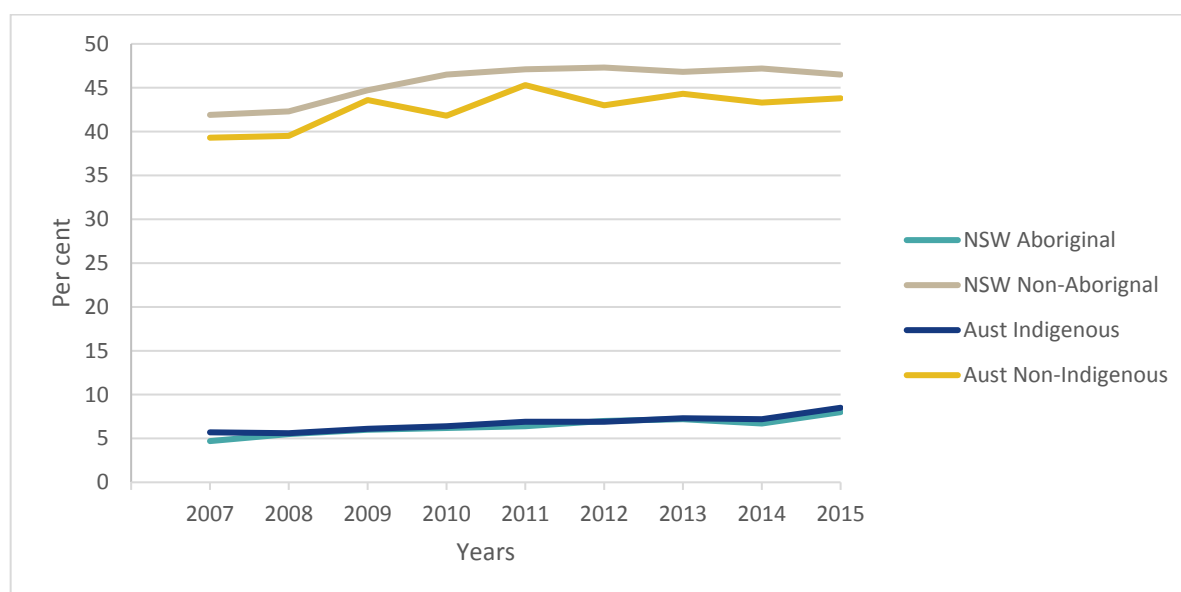
Students who have attained an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 50.0 or above

'The ATAR rate is the number of students who achieved an ATAR of 50.00 or above, expressed as a proportion of the estimated potential Year 12 population. The estimated potential Year 12 population is an estimate of a single year age group which could have attended Year 12 that year, calculated as the estimated resident population aged 15–19 years divided by five' (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, 2016, p. 4.46).

In NSW in 2015;

- 8.0 per cent of Aboriginal potential Year 12 students achieved an ATAR of 50.0 or above. This is an improvement from the 4.7 per cent in 2007
- 46.5 per cent of non-Aboriginal potential Year 12 students in NSW achieved an ATAR of 50.0 or above in 2015, up from 41.9 per cent in 2007
- The gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students is 38.5 per cent.

Figure 15: ATAR rates (50.0 or above) in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2007–2015



Source: OID Report Table 4A.6.11

Data limitations

The data points are estimated values as the denominator is an estimated rather than actual Year 12 population.

Data sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST) <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables.

Productivity Commission. (2017). *National Indigenous Reform Agreement, Performance Assessment 2016-17*. Canberra <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/national-agreements/indigenous-reform>

4.7 Employment

COAG Target:

Halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018). This does not appear to be on track.

The main measure is the employment to population ratio with two supplementary items: labour force participation rate, and unemployment rate.

Employment to population ratio

The employment to population ratio is defined as the proportion of people aged 15 to 64 years who are employed.

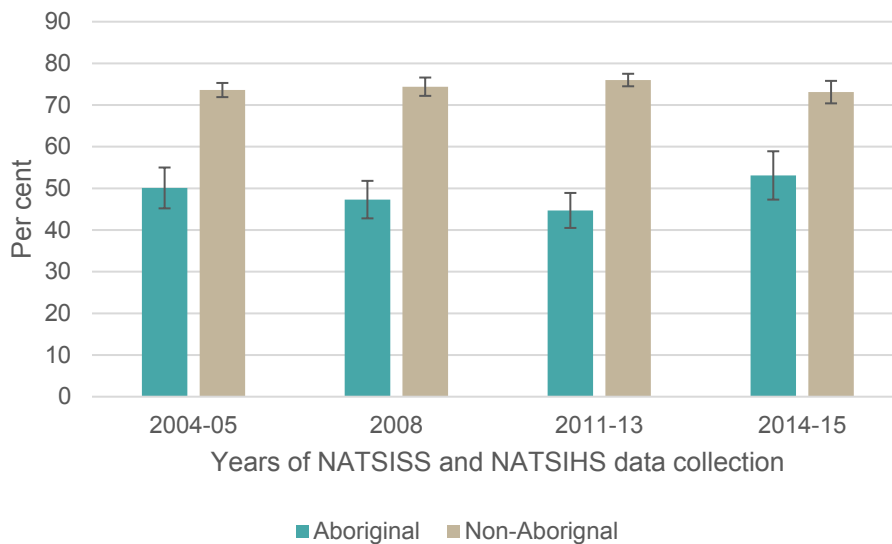
Over the period 2004 to 2015 in NSW:

the proportion of Aboriginal people between the ages of 15 to 64 years who are employed has fluctuated between 45 and 55 per cent. This has stayed within the 95 per cent confidence intervals of the estimated means

- the proportion of the non-Aboriginal population who are employed has fluctuated between 73.1 and 76.0 per cent.

The gap was 20 per cent in 2014-15.

Figure 16: Proportion of NSW working age population employed by Aboriginality, 2004–2015



Source: OID Report Table 4A.7.1
Error bars represent 95 per cent confidence intervals around each estimate.

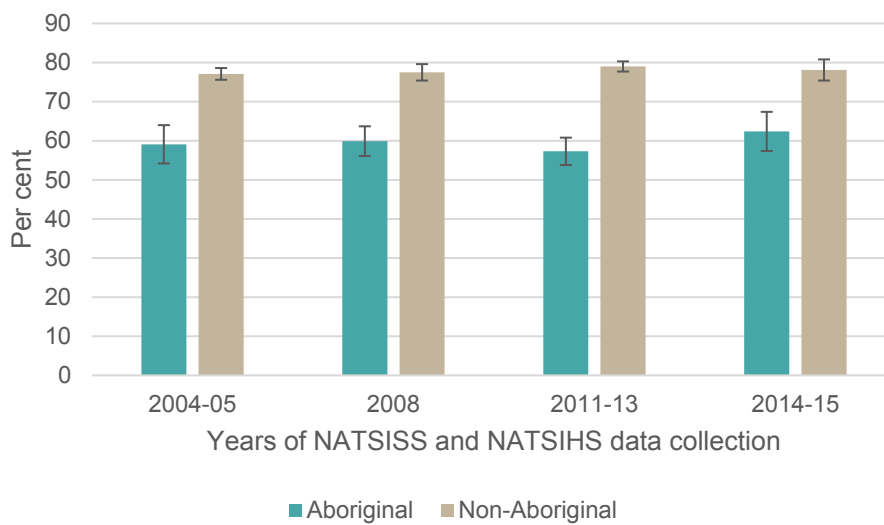
Labour force participation

Labour force participation is defined as the proportion of people aged 15 to 64 years who are in the labour force, that is, employed, or unemployed and actively looking for work.

As with the employment to population ratio above, over the period 2004-05 and 2014-15:

- participation is consistently lower for the 15-64 year old Aboriginal population compared with the non-Aboriginal population, on average 18.3 percentage points
- there is no evidence that there has been a change in labour force participation for Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal people in this age group since 2004.

Figure 17: NSW Labour force participation rate by Aboriginality, 2004–2015

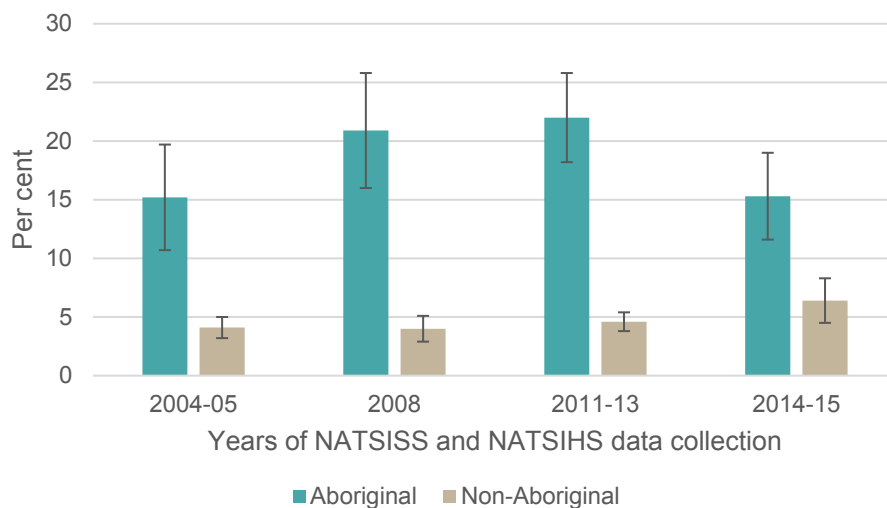


Source: OID Report Table 4A.7.12
Error bars represent 95 per cent confidence intervals around each estimate.

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people aged 15-64 years in NSW has ranged between 15 and 22 per cent. There is no evidence that there has been a change since 2004.

Figure 18: NSW unemployment rate by Aboriginality, 2004–2015



Source: OID Report Table 4A.7.8
 Error bars represent 95 per cent confidence intervals around each estimate.

Data Limitations

The data is difficult to interpret because of changes to the employment status of participants in the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). Prior to 2009 people in the CDEP were counted as employed and post 2009 they were considered unemployed. In addition, the estimated values have large confidence intervals, making it difficult to identify if there are any actual changes over time.

These data are from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) which has often been collected across years.

Data Sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables

Headline Indicators

The headline indicators do not have targets associated with them. In this section we report on main measures and supplementary items, where they exist, and where relevant data is available.

4.8 Post-secondary education

There is one main measure: People with or working towards a post-secondary qualification.

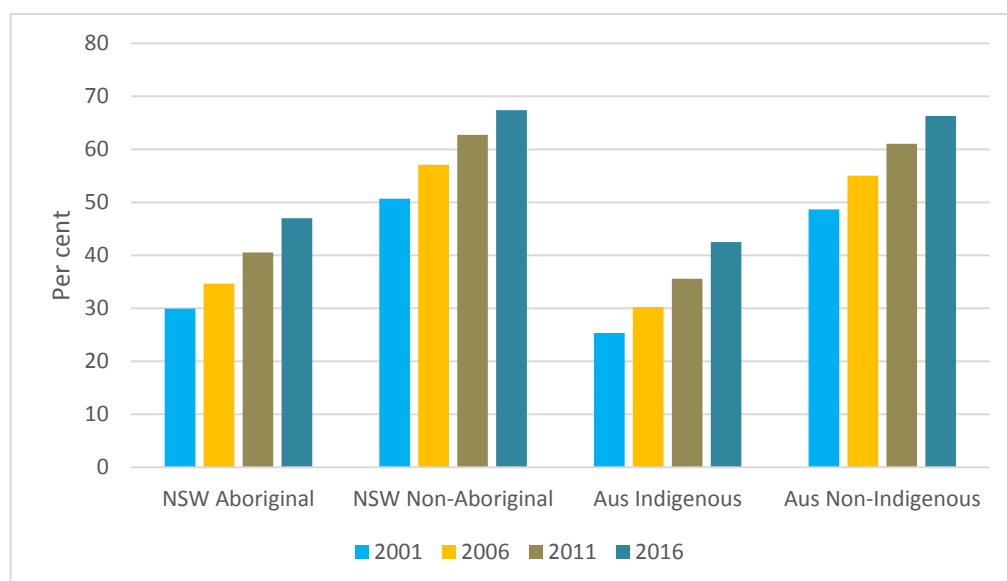
People with or working towards a post-secondary qualification

In NSW, over the period 2001 to 2016 the percentage of people between the ages of 20 and 64 with at least a Certificate III qualification, or working towards one:

- increased for Aboriginal people from 29.9 per cent in 2001 to 47 per cent in 2011
- increased for non-Aboriginal people from 50.7 to 67.4 per cent.

The gap increased from 20.7 to 22.2 per cent.

Figure 19: Proportion of people with a Certificate III qualification or above or working towards one in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2001–2016



Source: OID Report Table 4A.8.2 using census data and 2016 data from NIRA 2016-17 Table 15.1.

Data Limitations

All of these results are from unpublished ABS data.

Data Sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)

<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables

4.8 Post-secondary Education

Productivity Commission. (2017). *National Indigenous Reform Agreement, Performance Assessment 2016-17*. Canberra <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/national-agreements/indigenous-reform> Table 15.1

4.9 Disability and chronic disease

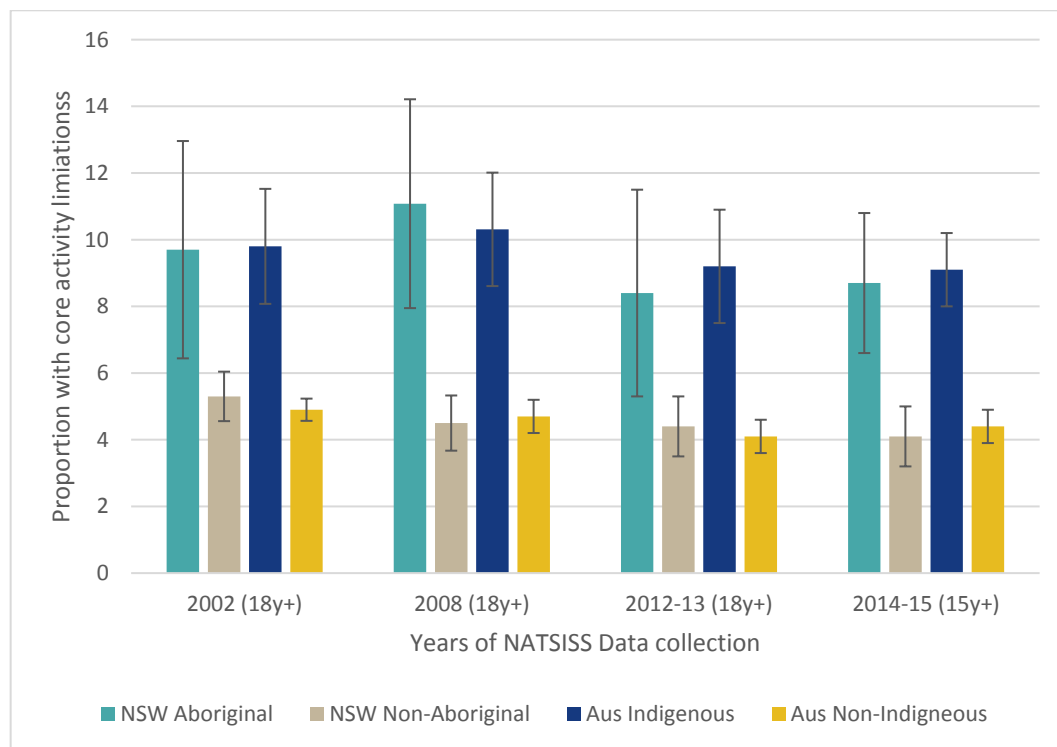
There are two main measures and three supplementary items for this indicator. The main measures are: disability prevalence and hospitalisation rates related to chronic diseases. The supplementary items are the proportion of people with vision loss, participation in society by people with disability and carers of people with disability. There is limited data available for these measures by state and Aboriginality.

Disability prevalence

Profound or severe core activity limitation

In NSW 8.7 per cent of Aboriginal people over 15 years old had a profound or severe limitation in 2014–15 (Figure 20). This was similar to all Aboriginal people elsewhere in the country.

Figure 20: Age-standardised proportion of with profound or severe core-activity limitation in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2002–2015



Source: OID Report Tables 4A.9.7-11

The prevalence rates presented here have different age thresholds because of changes in the data collections

Vision loss

The most recent comprehensive data on eye health for Aboriginal people are available from the 2016 National Eye Health Survey that was conducted in 30 geographic areas across the nation, 10 of which were in NSW.

After age-adjustment, the prevalence of vision impairment was near three times higher in Aboriginal people in NSW (13.2 per cent) compared to non-Aboriginal people (4.5 per cent) (NEHS 2016 Report: Table 19).

Participation in society by people with a disability

Employment rates are lower and unemployment rates are higher for Aboriginal people with a disability than for those without a disability.

In 2014-15, NATSISS reported that in NSW, those with a profound or severe core limitation have:

- an employment rate of 23.8 per cent compared with an employment rate of 62.6 per cent for those with no reported disability
- a labour force participation rate of 33.1 compared with 70.7 per cent for those with no reported disability.

The data for educational attainment and household income for people with a disability is not disaggregated by state and Aboriginality.

Carers of people with disability

In 2014-15:

- in Australia 25.5 per cent) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over provided care for a person with disability (29.8 per cent of females compared with 20.8 per cent of males
- in NSW around 15 per cent of NSW Aboriginal people aged between 15 and 65 years provided care for a person with disability.

The 2011 Census shows labour force participation was:

- 54.5 per cent for Aboriginal carers in NSW
- 68.4 per cent for non-Aboriginal carers.

Data limitations

The Survey of Disability Aging and Carers (SDAC) does not disaggregate data by Aboriginality and by state so restricted figures for disability are available for NSW. NATSISS does not differentiate between disability and long term health conditions with and without restrictions and although it disaggregates by state the disability data are compromised.

Data sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)

<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016>

Foreman, J., Keel, S., Xie, J., Wijngaarden, P. v., Crowston, J., Taylor, H. R., & Dirani, M. (2016). *National Eye Health Survey Full Report*. Melbourne

<http://www.vision2020australia.org.au/resources/national-eye-health-survey-report>

4.10 Household and individual income

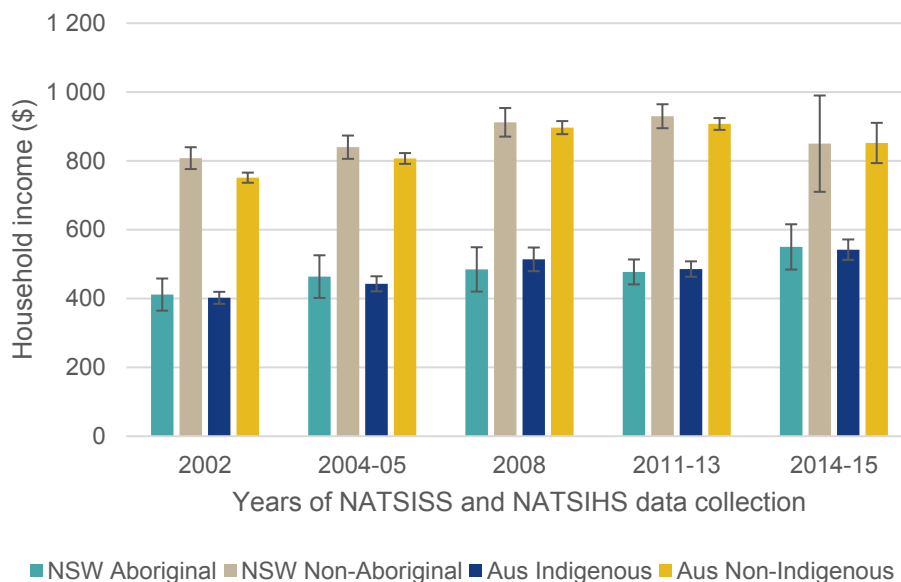
There are two main measures for this indicator. These are median equivalised gross weekly household income and median gross weekly personal income. There are no data available for personal income for NSW by Aboriginality.

Median equivalised gross weekly household income

Over the period 2002 to 2014-15, after adjusting for inflation, the median real equivalised gross weekly household (EGWH) income:

- for NSW Aboriginal households increased from \$412 in 2002 to \$550 in 2014-15
- for NSW non-Aboriginal households increased from \$ to \$850 in 2014-15
- gap has narrowed from \$396 in 2002 to \$300 in 2014-15.

Figure 21: Median equivalised gross weekly household income (2014-15 dollars) in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2002 to 2014-15



Source: OID Report Table 4.10.1
Error bars represent 95 per cent confidence intervals around each estimate.

Data limitations

The very large confidence interval (+/- \$139) in 2014-15 for NSW Non-Aboriginal EGWH, which may be due to small sample sizes in the NATSISS. The OID report on this measure is based on unpublished ABS data so this report is not easily updated outside of the OID reporting cycle.

Data sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016>

4.11 Substantiated child abuse and neglect

There are two main measures and two supplementary items for this indicator. The main measures are: substantiation of child protection notifications and children on care and protection orders. The two supplementary items are placement in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle and diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections in children. There is no NSW specific information about diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections in children.

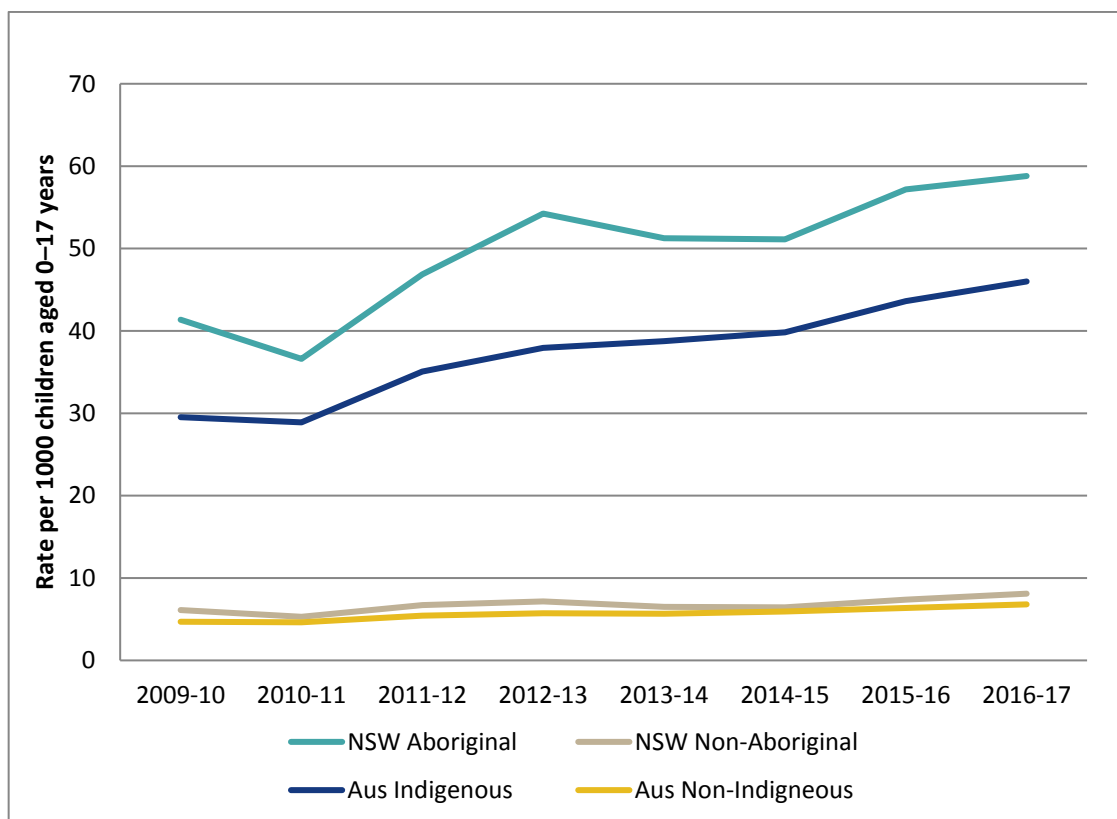
Substantiation of child protection notifications

Over the period 2009-10 to 2016-17 in NSW the substantiation rate of Aboriginal children aged 0-17

- was consistently over seven times the rate for non-Aboriginal children (Figure 22)
- increased from 41.1 to 58.8 per 1 000 compared with 6.1 to 8.1 per 1 000 for non-Aboriginal children.

In 2016-17, 5 489 Aboriginal children in NSW were the subject of a substantiated child protection notification compared with 13 749 non-Aboriginal children.

Figure 22: Children aged 0–17 years who were subject of a substantiated child protection report in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2009-10 to 2016-17



Sources: OID Report Table 4A.11.1, AIHW Child Protection Australia 2017, Table 3.5 and AIHW Child Protection Australia 2018, Table S3

Data Limitations

Time series data should be interpreted with caution, as rates may be affected by changes in community awareness of child abuse and neglect, changes in propensity to report, changes in laws, policies or child protection practices (for example changes relating to mandatory reporting over

time), changes in service levels and (for Aboriginal children) improvements in Indigenous identification.

Data Sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017b). *Child Protection Australia, 2015-16*. Canberra
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2015-16/> Table 3.5

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Child Protection Australia, 2016-17*. Canberra
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2016-17/> Table S13

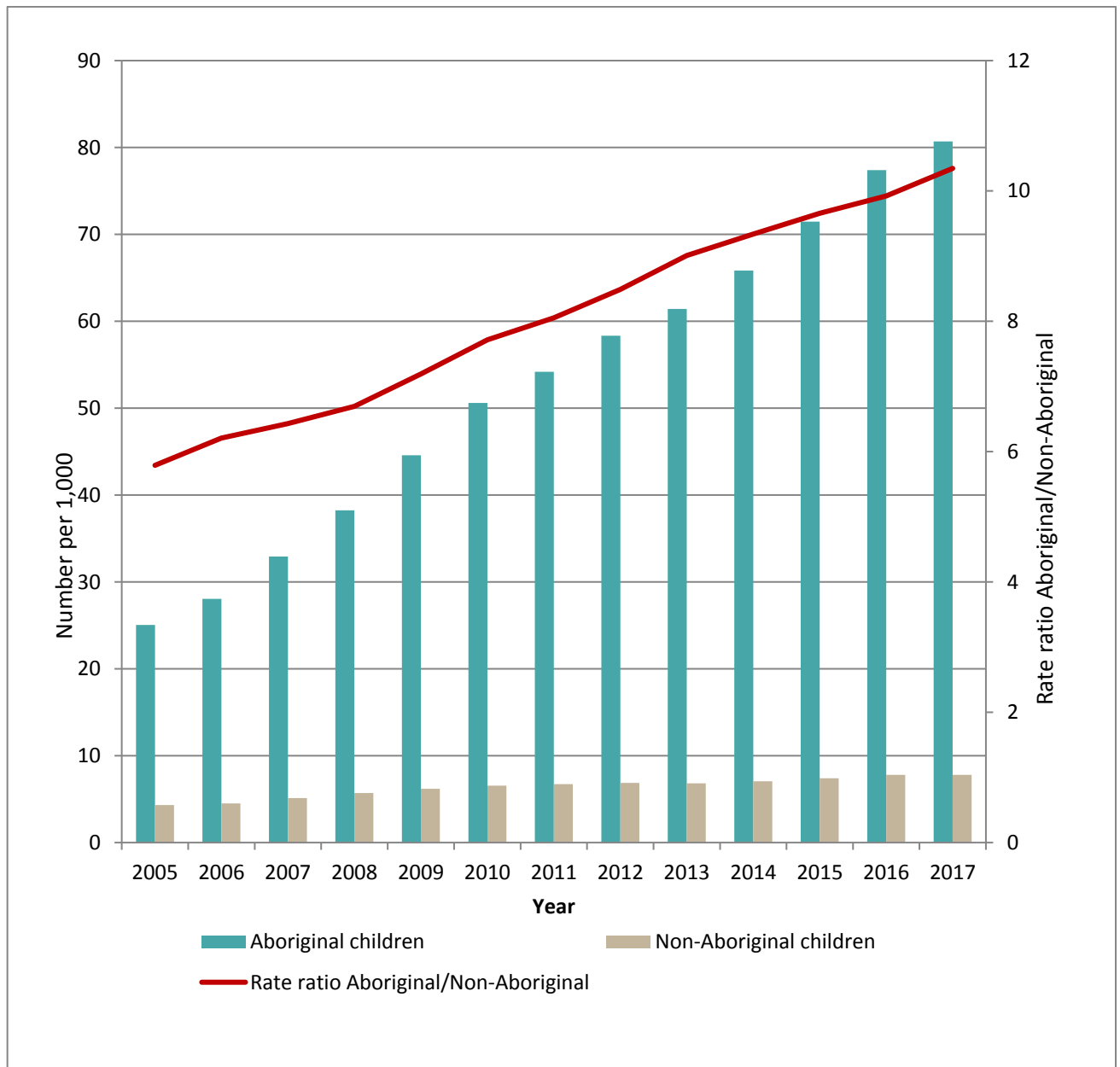
Children on care and protection orders

Over the period 2005 to 2017 the rate of NSW children aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders

- increased from 20.7 to 80.7 per 1 000 children for Aboriginal children (2 113 children in 2005 and 7 571 in 2017)
- increased from 4.3 to 7.8 per 1 000 for non-Aboriginal children (6 084 children in 2005 and 12 882 in 2017)

The gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children widened as reflected by the increased rate ratio from about 6 in 2005 to 10 in 2017 (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Rate of children aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders in NSW by Aboriginality, 2005-2017



Sources: OID Report Table 4A.11.5, AIHW Child Protection Australia 2017 Table 4.4 and AIHW Child Protection Australia 2018 Table S
 Rate ratio is the number per 1 000 of Aboriginal children on care and protection orders divided by the number per 1 000 of Non-Aboriginal children on care and protection orders.

Data limitations

As for substantiation.

Data sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017b). *Child Protection Australia, 2015-16*. Canberra
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2015-16/> table 4.4

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Child Protection Australia, 2016-17*. Canberra
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2016-17/> table S29

4.11 Substantiated child abuse and neglect

Out-of-home care placement

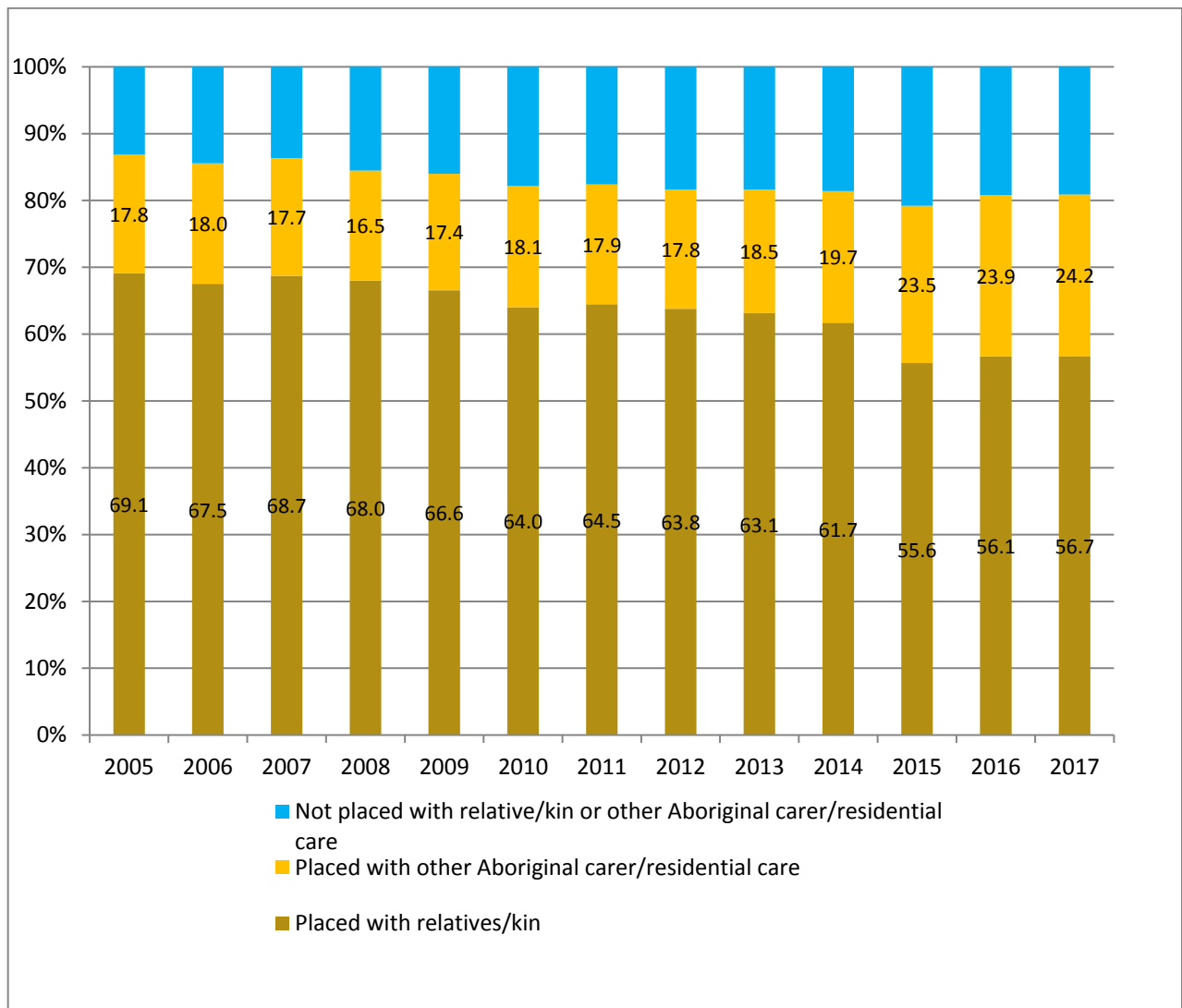
From 2005 to 2017 in NSW:

- the rate of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care has increased from seven to ten times the rate of non-Aboriginal children
- there was an increase of 4 200 Aboriginal children in care (2 543 in 2005 to 6 743 in 2017).

In NSW at 30 June 2017, over 80 per cent of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care were placed with relative/kin, with other Aboriginal carers, or in Aboriginal residential care, in accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

This level has gradually declined from a high of over 85 per cent ten years ago (Figure 24), and is consistently about 10 percentage points higher than the national level.

Figure 24: Placement of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care in NSW, at 30 June 2005-17



Sources: OID Report Table 4A.11.7 AIHW Child Protection Australia 2017 Table S42 and AIHW Child Protection Australia 2018 Table S45

Data limitations

As for substantiation.

Data sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017b). *Child Protection Australia, 2015-16*. Canberra
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2015-16/> Table S42

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Child Protection Australia, 2016-17*. Canberra
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2016-17/> Table S45

4.12 Family and community violence

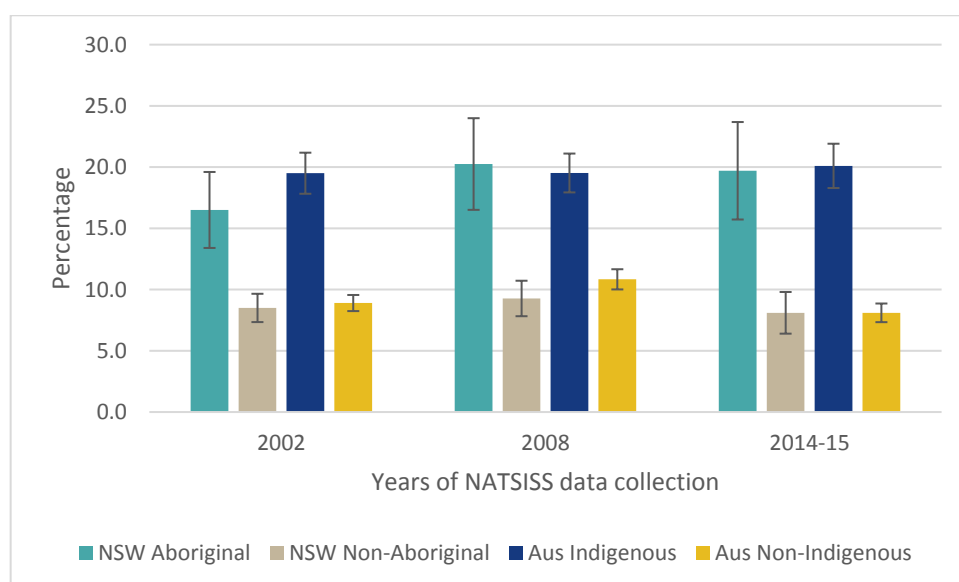
For this indicator there is no main measure although there are four supplementary items. The supplementary items are incidence and prevalence of violence, victimisation rates, hospitalisation rates and homicide rates.

Incidence and prevalence of violence

In NSW in 2014-15:

- nearly one in five (19.7 per cent) Aboriginal adults (18 years and over) reported experiencing physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months
- The rate was similar to the Aboriginal people outside NSW but about double of that experienced by non-Aboriginal Australians.

Figure 25: Proportion of adults' self-reported experiencing physical or threatened violence in NSW and Australia by Aboriginality, 2002, 2008 and 2014-15



Source: OID 2016 Table 4A.12.4

Data Limitations

These data are self-report and thus may be affected by recall bias and other factors that might influence responses. Non-Aboriginal responses were collected from the General social survey which was not conducted at the same time.

Data Sources

Data is collected in the NATSISS for Aboriginal data and the GSS for non-Aboriginal data. The 2008 NATSISS data are compared with the 2006 GSS data.

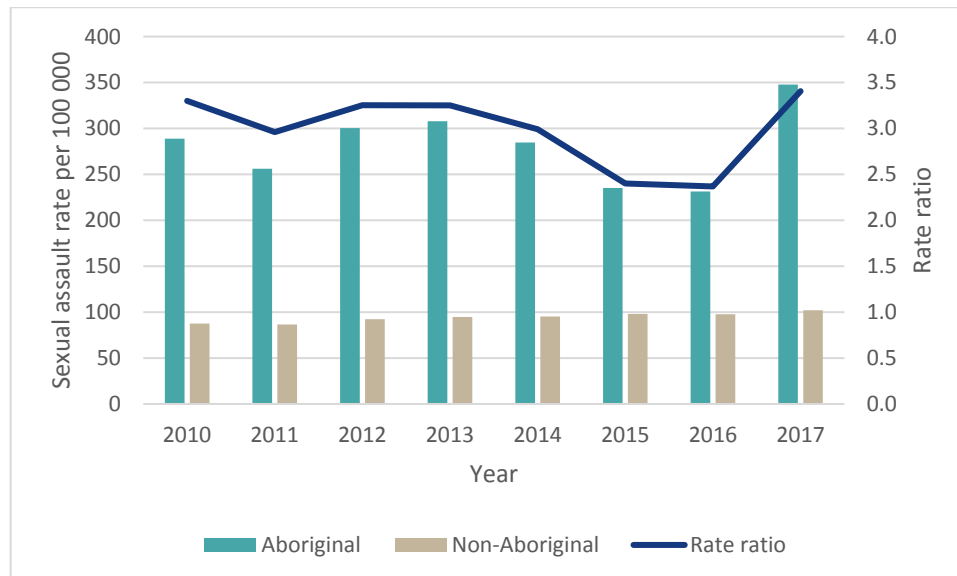
Victimisation rates

The latest available data on crime victims by Aboriginal status for NSW are for 2017.

In 2017 in NSW:

- the rate of victimisation of assault for Aboriginal people was 2.8 times the rate for non-Aboriginal people
- 65 per cent of Aboriginal victims of assaults were female, compared to 45 per cent of non-Aboriginal victims of assaults
- rates of victimisation of sexual assault for Aboriginal people were 3.4 times that of non-Aboriginal people. This rate ratio was much higher than the two years before (at 2.4 times the non-Aboriginal rate) and back to similar rates as previous years.
- one in five Aboriginal victims of sexual assaults were men.

Figure 26: NSW rate of sexual assaults by Aboriginality 2010-2017

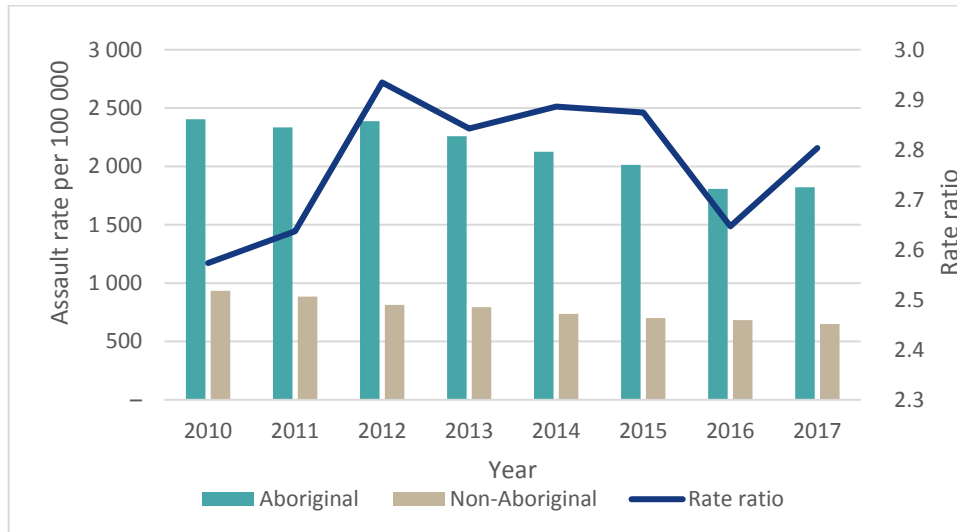


Data source: OID 2016 Table 4A. ABS Reported crimes 2017 Table 16.

Rate ratio is the number per 100,000 of Aboriginal people who were sexually assaulted divided by the number per 100,000 of Non-Aboriginal people who were sexually assaulted.

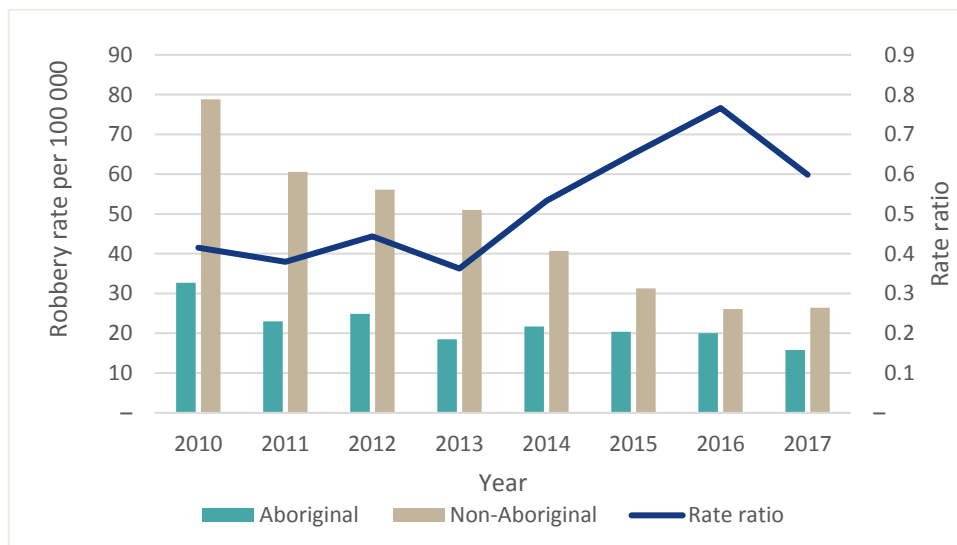
4.12 Family and community violence

Figure 27: NSW rate of assaults by Aboriginality 2010-2017



Data source: OID 2016 Table 4A. ABS Reported crimes 2017 Table 16.
Rate ratio is the number per 100 000 of Aboriginal people who were assaulted divided by the number per 100 000 of Non-Aboriginal people who were assaulted.

Figure 28: NSW rate of robberies by Aboriginality 2010-2017



Data source: OID 2016 Table 4A. ABS Reported crimes 2017 Table 16.
Rate ratio is the number per 100 000 of Aboriginal people who were robbed divided by the number per 100 000 of Non-Aboriginal people who were robbed.

Data Limitations

These data are based on reporting to police which may under-estimate some types of crimes.

Data Sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2016*.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4510.02016>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2018). *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2017*.
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4510.02017>

Hospitalisation Rates

In NSW in 2014-15 hospitalisation rates for:

- Aboriginal people because of assaults were 350.6 per 100 000 population. After considering differences in age structure, this is 6.4 times of the rate for the non-Aboriginal population
- Aboriginal people in NSW for non-family violence-related assaults were 100.6 per 100 000 population. After considering difference in age structure, this is 9.2 times the rate for the non-Aboriginal population.

Data Limitations

Hospital records provide some information on instances of violence that result in hospitalisation. However, these sources are likely to underestimate the true extent of family and community violence, because not all victims seek medical attention and not all hospitalisations resulting from family violence will be recorded as such. Data Sources

The data source for this is unpublished AIHW analysis of the hospital morbidity database and uses Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST) <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> Table 4A.12.1.

Homicide rates

ABS statistics reports that over the period 2013-2017

- 30 Aboriginal people in NSW were victims of homicide and related offences that included murder, attempted murder and manslaughter (but excluded driving causing death)
- In 2017 the rate was 1.4 times that for non-Aboriginal people, with 448 homicide and related offences.

Data Limitations

The number of homicides ranged between 3 and 11 over the period 2010 – 2017. With such small numbers it is difficult to observe trends in rates. For this reason rates are calculated across a four year rolling average to manage fluctuations over time.

Data Sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST) <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017c). *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2016*. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4510.02016>, Table 16

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017c). *Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2017*. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4510.02017>, Table 16

People who seek services due to family violence homelessness

Nationally domestic and family violence was the second most common main reason both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people sought Specialist Homeless Services (SHS) (both around 23 per cent in 2014-15).

The latest available data for NSW show that in 2014-15 Aboriginal people were overrepresented amongst those who received assistance from SHS — at around one in four SHS clients (24.7 per cent). In NSW, 163 Aboriginal people per 10 000 received the assistance, compared to 16 for non-Aboriginal people.

Of Aboriginal people who were aged 10 and over who received assistance from SHS, 35.4 per cent were escaping family and domestic violence.

Data Limitations

No trend data are available.

Data Sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)
<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016> supplementary tables

4.13 Imprisonment and juvenile detention

For this indicator there are two main measures and one supplementary item. The main measures are adult imprisonment and juvenile detention. The supplementary item is young people subject to community-based supervision orders.

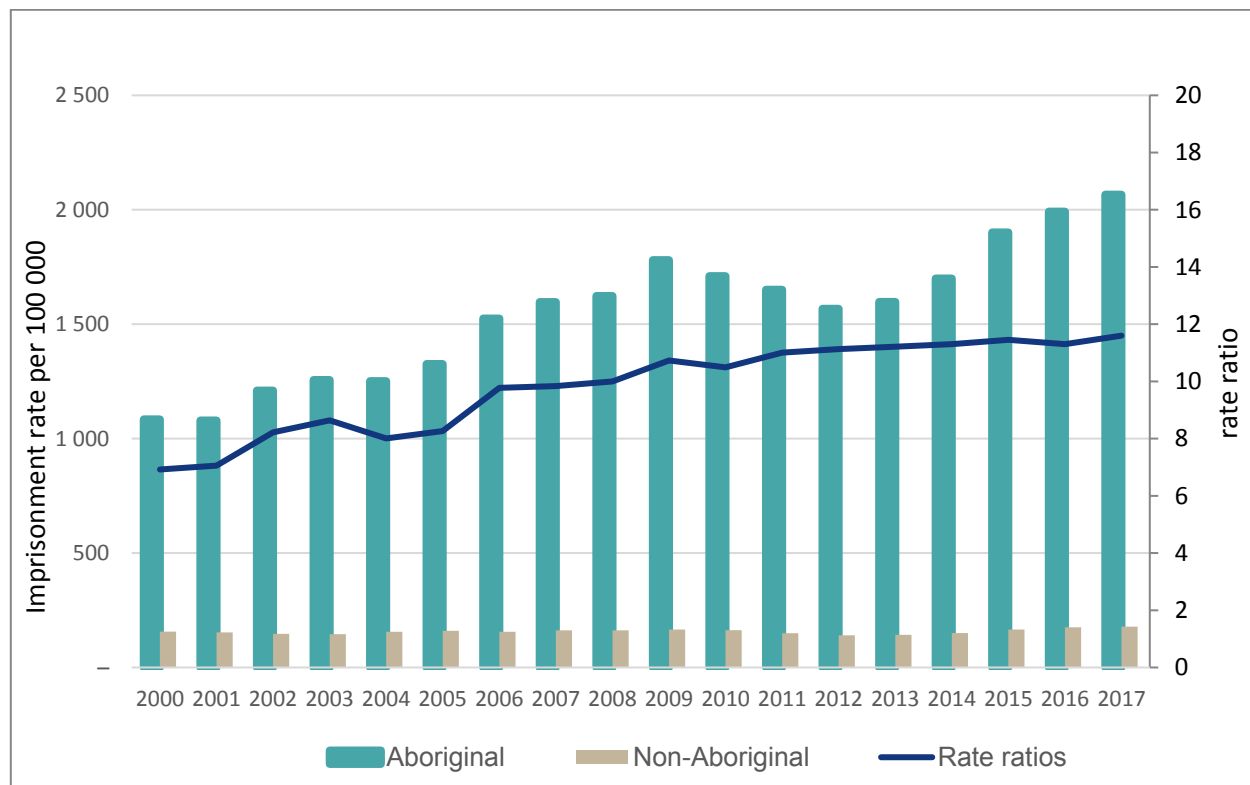
Adult imprisonment

At 30 June 2017 in NSW:

- Aboriginal people made up near a quarter of the adult prison population (24.3 per cent)
- the rate was slightly lower than the national percentage of 27.4 per cent
- 90 per cent of the Aboriginal prisoners are male
- half of the Aboriginal prisoners had an expected time to serve less than 1.2 years (median years), compared with 2.3 years for non-Aboriginal prisoners
- the Aboriginal people age standardised imprisonment rate was 11.6 times the non-Aboriginal rate (2 066 prisoners per 100 000 Aboriginal adult population compared to 178 per 100 000 adult non-Aboriginal population)

The rate of imprisonment has continued to increase for Aboriginal people in NSW with little change to the non-Aboriginal imprisonment rates. The rate ratio has remained stable since 2011.

Figure 29: NSW age-standardised imprisonment rate per 100 000 by Aboriginality, 2000–2017



Source: OID Report Table 13.5, ABS Prisoners in Australia 2017 Table 17 2018 Table 18.
The rate ratio is the rate of Aboriginal imprisonment divided by the rate of Non-Aboriginal imprisonment.

4.13 Imprisonment and juvenile detention

Data Limitations

The data for this measure are from 30th June each year and may not reflect the true incarceration rates (OID 2016). Sentenced and unsentenced prisoners are not identified by Aboriginality in the published data.

Data Sources

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST)

<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016>

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017b). *Prisoners of Australia, 2016*.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4517.02016>

Juvenile detention

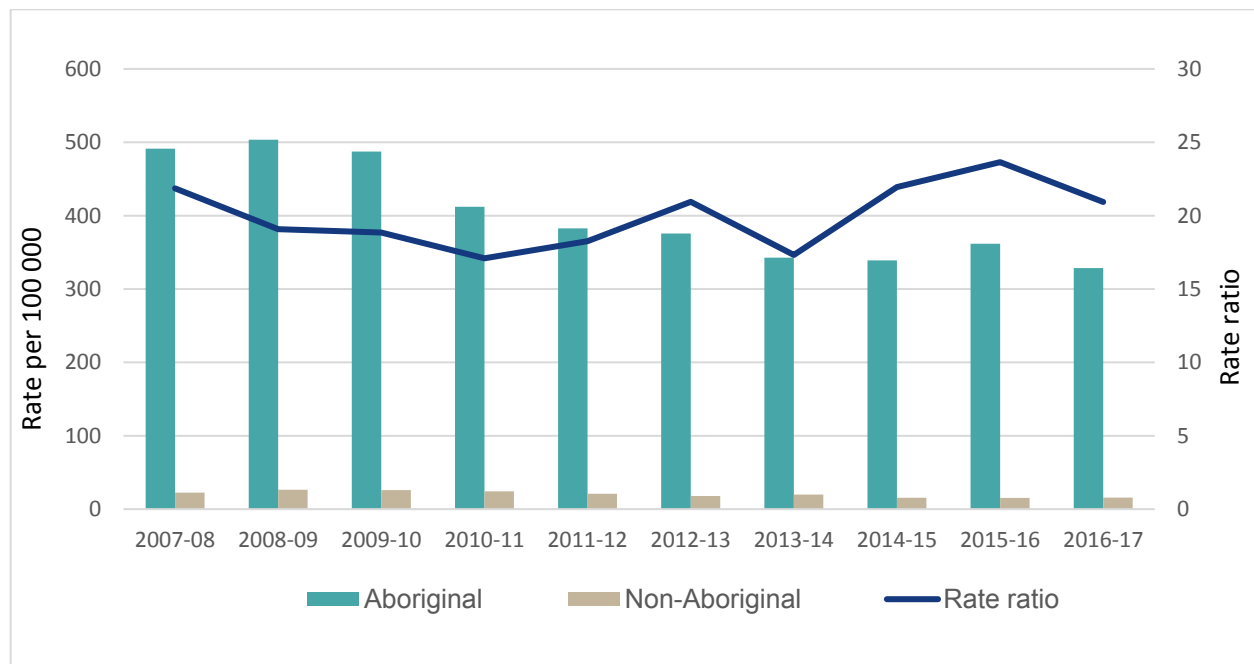
In 2016–17 in NSW the:

- daily average was 130 Aboriginal 10–17 year olds in detention (rate of 328.6 per 100 000)
- daily average of 109 non-Aboriginal 10–17 year olds in detention (rate of 15.7 per 100 000)
- rate of Aboriginal young people in detention was 21 times the rate for non-Aboriginal young people.

More than 90 per cent of these were male for both populations.

In NSW the daily average detention rate for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people shows a general trend of declining, although in 2015-16 the rate was slightly higher than the year before and the year after (Figure 30).

Figure 30: NSW Daily average rate of detention of young people aged 10–17 years by Aboriginality, 2007-08 to 2016-17



Source: OID Report Table 4A.13 AIHW (2017) Youth Justice in Australia 2015–16 and AIHW (2018) Youth Justice in Australia 2016–17

Rate ratio is the rate of Aboriginal detention divided by the rate of Non-Aboriginal detention.

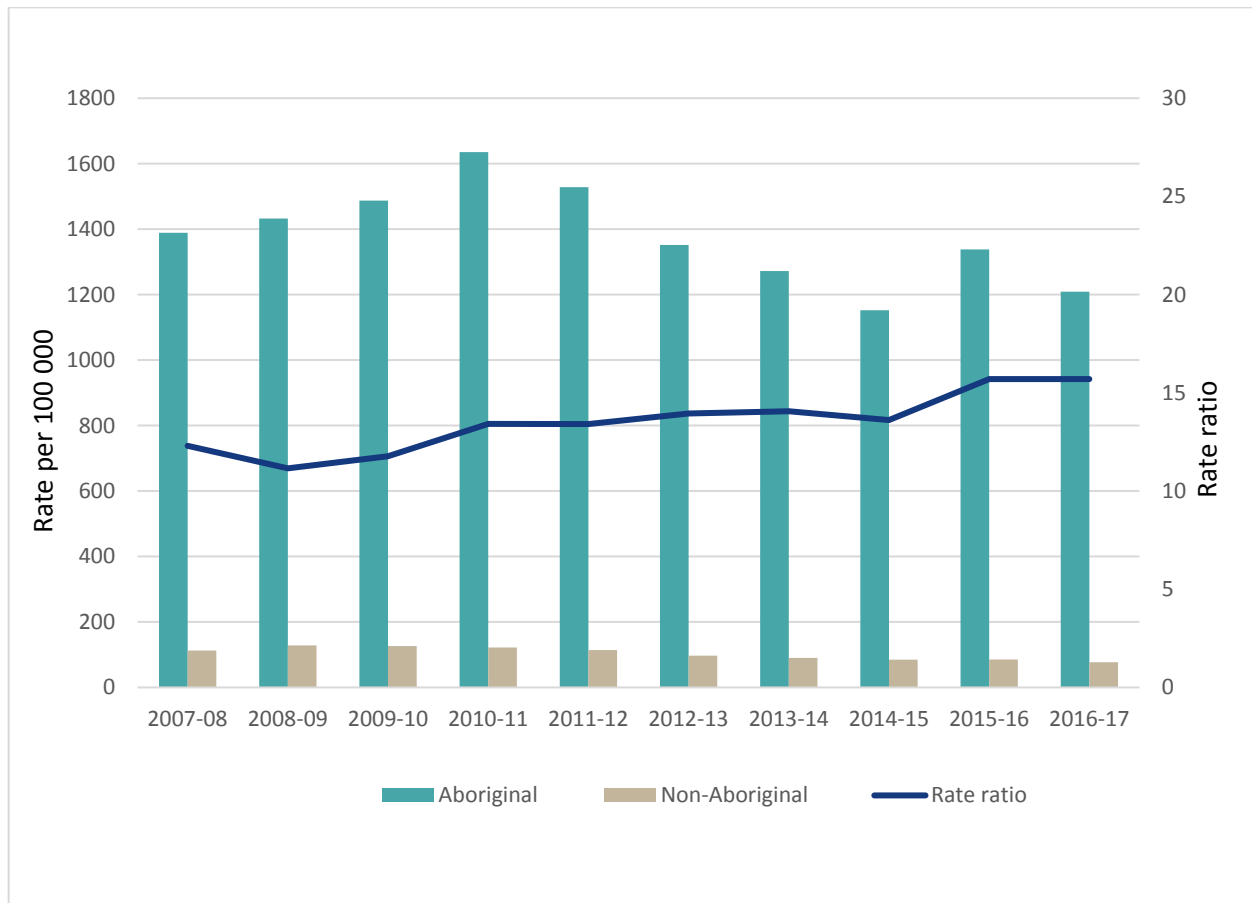
Community-based youth justice supervision

In 2016–17 in NSW:

- a daily average of 478 Aboriginal young people (367 male) aged 10–17 years were supervised in the community (rate of 1 209 per 100 000) representing a decrease of more than 10 per cent since 2007
- 536 non-Aboriginal people were supervised in the community
- the rate for Aboriginal young people was 16 times of that of non-Aboriginal young people in NSW.

4.13 Imprisonment and juvenile detention

Figure 31: NSW Daily average rate of community supervision of young people aged 10–17 years by Aboriginality, 2007-08 to 2016-17



Source OID Table 4A.13.12 and AIHW (2018) Youth Justice in Australia

Data Limitations

Legislative changes and changing in sentencing make it difficult to interpret trend data since 2007.

Data Sources

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2017). *Youth justice in Australia, 2015-16*. Canberra <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/youth-justice/youth-justice-in-australia-2015-16/>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). *Youth justice in Australia, 2016-17*. Canberra <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/youth-justice/youth-justice-in-australia-2016-17/>

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2016). *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2016*. Canberra (AUST) <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/2016>