

Key data - NSW Aboriginal¹ people

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

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Population: In 2015, 225,349 Aboriginal people resided in NSW, representing 3% of the NSW population and 30.9% of the Aboriginal population in Australia.

Population growth: By 2026, the NSW Aboriginal population is expected to grow to 282,962 people.

Age: In 2011, the median age of the NSW Aboriginal population was 21 years, compared with 38 years for the non-Aboriginal population. 56% of the Aboriginal population was aged 24 years and below, compared with 31.5% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Location: In 2011, 44.6% of the NSW Aboriginal population lived in major cities, 33.7% in inner regional areas, 17.2% in outer regional areas, 2.9% in remote areas and, 1.6% in very remote areas.

Population mobility: Between 2006 and 2011, 6,587 Aboriginal people permanently left NSW and 4,591 Aboriginal people moved to NSW.

Identification change: Between 2006 and 2011, 14.7% of the NSW population changed from identifying as non-Aboriginal to Aboriginal and 6.5% of the NSW population changed from identifying as Aboriginal to non-Aboriginal.

Mixed partnerships: In 2013, 78% of NSW Aboriginal babies were born to mixed partnerships (2013).

Life expectancy: In 2010-12, the life expectancy for Aboriginal people in NSW was 70.5 years for males and 74.6 years for females, compared to 79.8 years for non-Aboriginal males and 83.1 years for non-Aboriginal females.

Infant mortality: Between 2010 and 2014, the rate of infant mortality was 4.6 per 1,000 for Aboriginal infants, compared with 3.9 per 1,000 for non-Aboriginal infants.

Subjective well-being: In 2011-13, 66% of Aboriginal people assessed their own health as good, very good or excellent, compared with 86% of the total population.

Disability: In 2011, Aboriginal people in NSW were nearly twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to require assistance with daily activities.

Land ownership: In 2009, 0.5% of NSW land was owned by Aboriginal people.

Children on track on the Australian Early development Index: In 2015, 34.1% of Aboriginal children were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain on school entry, compared with 19.4% of non-Aboriginal children.

Reading and numeracy: Between 2008 and 2015, with the exception of year 3 performance in Numeracy where there was a statistically significant decrease, there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of non-Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in Reading or Numeracy.

For Aboriginal students, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of year 5's and year 9's

achieving at or above the national minimum standard in Numeracy. For Reading, there was a statistically significant increase for year 7's and a decrease for year 9's.

Year 12 attainment: In 2014-15, 63% of Aboriginal people in NSW aged 20-24 years had completed Year 12 or higher, compared with 87% of the non-Aboriginal population.

Post-school education: In 2014, 2,400 Aboriginal people commenced university in NSW, compared with 1,000 Aboriginal students in 2004. In 2011, 39% of Aboriginal people and 61% of non-Aboriginal people aged 20-64 had a post school qualification.

Child protection: In 2014-15, Aboriginal children and young people in NSW were the subject of 20% of all child protection reports and represented one-third of all children and young people in out-of-home-care.

Language: In 2011, less than 1% of Aboriginal people in NSW spoke an Aboriginal language at home, compared with 17% for the rest of Australia.

Community safety: In 2015, Aboriginal people in NSW were 3.4 times more likely to be a victim of assault compared to non-Aboriginal people.

Employment: In 2014-15, 53% of Aboriginal people aged 15-64 years in NSW were employed, compared with 71% of non-Aboriginal people.

Unemployment: In 2014-15, the unemployment rate in NSW for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 15-64 years was 15% and 5.7% respectively. In 2011, for 18-24 year olds, it was 26% and 11.4% respectively.

Self-employment: In 2011, 8% of employed Aboriginal people in NSW were owner/managers or contributing family workers compared with 17% of the non-Aboriginal workforce. Between 2006 and 2011, there was a 33% increase in the number of Aboriginal employers.

Housing and home ownership: In 2011, 39% of Aboriginal households in NSW owned or were purchasing their home, compared with 67% of non-Aboriginal households.

Household income: In 2011-13, the median weekly household income for Aboriginal households in NSW was \$457, compared with \$890 for non-Aboriginal households.

Incarceration rate: In 2015, Aboriginal people in NSW were 11.5 times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be imprisoned and 75% of Aboriginal people in NSW sentenced in the previous 12 months were previously imprisoned, compared with 49% of non-Aboriginal people. In 2014-15, Aboriginal young people were detained at 15 times the rate of non-Aboriginal young people in NSW.

¹ The term 'Aboriginal' is used to describe the many nations, language groups and clans in New South Wales (NSW) including those from the Torres Strait. The preference for the term 'Aboriginal' to 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' in NSW recognises that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of NSW (NSW Ministry for Health, 2004, *Communicating positively. A guide to appropriate Aboriginal terminology*. Retrieved from <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal/Publications/pub-terminology.pdf>)

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