

Key data – NSW Aboriginal¹ people

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

18/01/18

Population: in 2016, 216,176 Aboriginal people resided in NSW, representing 2.9% of the total NSW population and 33.3% of the Aboriginal population in Australia.

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

Age: in 2016, the median age of the NSW Aboriginal population was 22 years, compared with 38 years for the non-Aboriginal population. 53% of the Aboriginal population was aged 24 years and below, compared with 31% 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: in 2011, 14.7% of the NSW Aboriginal population had not identified as Aboriginal in 2006, and 6.5% of those who had identified as Aboriginal in 2006 did not in 2011.

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 with 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 2016, the disability rate for Aboriginal people was 7.6% compared with 5.4% for the NSW population overall.

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 2017, there was a significant increase in the proportion of Aboriginal students who achieved the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in reading in Years 3 and 5 and in numeracy in Years 5 and 9. For non-Aboriginal students the only significant increase across this time period was in the proportion of students in Year 9 scoring above the NMS in numeracy. Between 2016 and 2017 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of non-Aboriginal or Aboriginal students achieving at or

above the national minimum standard in either reading or numeracy.

In 2017 there was a lower proportion of Aboriginal students achieving the NMS than non-Aboriginal students in reading and numeracy in all years assessed (Years 3, 5, 7 and 9).

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 2016, 2,881 Aboriginal people commenced university in NSW, compared with 1,000 Aboriginal students in 2004. In 2016, 45% of Aboriginal people and 59% of non-Aboriginal people aged 15 years or over had a post school qualification.

Child protection: in 2015-16, Aboriginal children and young people in NSW were the subject of 21% of all child protection reports and represented 37% of all children and young people in out-of-home-care.

Language: in 2016, less than 1% of Aboriginal people in NSW spoke an Aboriginal language at home, compared with 15% for the rest of Australia.

Community safety: in 2016, Aboriginal people in NSW were 2.6 times more likely to be a victim of assault compared with non-Aboriginal people.

Employment: in 2016, 46% of Aboriginal adults in NSW (15 years and over) were employed, compared with 59% of non-Aboriginal people.

Unemployment: in 2016, the unemployment rate in NSW for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people was 15% and 6% of the total labour force, respectively. Unemployment amongst Aboriginal people was highest for 18-24 year olds, at 24%.

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 2016, 42% of Aboriginal households in NSW owned or were purchasing their home, compared with 65% of non-Aboriginal households.

Household income (equivalised): in 2014-15, the median weekly household income for Aboriginal households in NSW was \$550, compared with \$850 for non-Aboriginal households.

Incarceration rate: in 2017, Aboriginal people in NSW were 11.6 times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be imprisoned; and 71% of Aboriginal people in prison in NSW had experienced prior imprisonment, compared with 46% of non-Aboriginal people. In 2015-16, Aboriginal young people were detained at 24 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>)

² Median equivalised household income is not a measure of the total income of a household. It is a measure of the income a lone person in a household would need to have the same standard of living as the household in question (See *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Key Indicators 2016*, p 4.81)

Data Sources

Population

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