Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020

Key health indicators

Western Australia
The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework* (HPF) was developed to monitor progress towards health equity for Indigenous Australians.

The HPF brings together information about health outcomes, broader determinants of health like housing and education, health protective and risk factors, and access to health services. This report presents key findings from the HPF for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia.

### Indigenous Australians in Western Australia—key findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>In 2015–2017, life expectancy at birth</strong> was <strong>67 years</strong> for Indigenous <strong>males</strong> and <strong>72 years</strong> for Indigenous <strong>females</strong> living in Western Australia.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The employment rate</strong> among Indigenous 15–64 year olds in Western Australia remained the same at <strong>40%</strong> in 2014–15 and 2018–19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In Western Australia, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 and over who were smokers</strong> remained similar at <strong>42–44%</strong> in 2008 and 2018–19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The rate of health checks</strong> for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia <strong>increased</strong> from <strong>81 per 1,000</strong> population in 2009–10 to <strong>275 per 1,000</strong> in 2018–19.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

In 2016, according to official population estimates (ABS 2018a):

- There were **100,500** Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, nearly **4%** of the state’s total population
- **1 in 8** Indigenous Australians lived in Western Australia
- **96%** of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia were Aboriginal, 1.9% were Torres Strait Islander and 2.1% were both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- About **62%** of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia **lived in non-remote areas**, including **Major cities, Inner regional areas or Outer regional areas**, **14% lived in Remote areas** and **24% lived in Very remote areas**
- **1 in 3** Indigenous Australians in Western Australia were aged under 15.
The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HPF

The HPF is made up of 68 measures across three tiers: tier 1—health status and outcomes; tier 2—determinants of health; and tier 3—health system performance. Each measure represents a health-related concept that is explored in detail, using various indicators drawn from relevant data sources and research.

This year, for the first time, the detailed findings and data are presented together on a dedicated website, indigenoushpf.gov.au. The website includes:

- comprehensive national, and state and territory reporting
- supplementary data tables
- interactive data visualisations with more information for states and territories
- the measures, with updated sections on research and evaluations.

Policy developments will shape the HPF in future. At a national level, these include the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and a refresh of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan. The refreshed Health Plan will embed the cultural determinants and social determinants of health, with a vision that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy long, healthy lives that are centred in culture, with access to services that are prevention-focused, responsive, culturally safe and free of racism and inequity.

Data sources

Data sources are indicated throughout this report using abbreviations. A full list of data sources and corresponding abbreviations is provided at the end of this report, along with a list of recent AIHW releases that provide more recent information from some of these data sources.

Data limitations

The under-identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is the main limitation in most of the administrative datasets used for health reporting, particularly in some states and territories. Changes in identification over time might also affect time series analyses. Data analysis using these sources is limited to jurisdictions considered to have Indigenous identification information of adequate quality for national reporting:

- Mortality data—current and long-term data (1998 onwards) are reported for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.
- Hospitals data—current results are reported for all jurisdictions. For annual time series from 2004–05, data from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory are used.

Technical note

In general, differences and changes over time highlighted in this report are statistically significant—this means that statistical tests indicate a high level of confidence that these results reflect real differences or changes.

Note that ‘non-remote’ includes Major cities, Inner regional areas and Outer regional areas and ‘remote’ includes Remote areas and Very remote areas, as described in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) (ABS 2016).
Health status and outcomes

Life expectancy of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

In Western Australia in 2015–17, life expectancy at birth for Indigenous males was 67 years and for Indigenous females was 72 years.

Life expectancy results for Australia presented in this report are calculated to enable an effective comparison with state and territory estimates and differ from ‘headline’ Australia estimates presented elsewhere.

Life expectancy at birth, 2015–2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Western Australia</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous males</td>
<td>67 years</td>
<td>70 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous females</td>
<td>72 years</td>
<td>74 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HPF Table D1.19.1—ABS 2018b.

More than 2 in 5 Indigenous Australians in Western Australia rate their health as very good or excellent

Information about how people rate their own health is widely used in health research. While this type of information generally tells a similar story to other measures of health—for example, reported long-term health conditions—people may rate their health as good to excellent even if they have significant health problems. How people rate their own health partly depends on their awareness of and expectations about their health and comparisons with others around them.

The concept of health is broader than physical health or illness and includes mental, social and spiritual dimensions. Culturally distinct views of health and wellbeing held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may influence how individuals assess their own health.

In 2018–19, 45% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 and over in Western Australia rated their health as very good or excellent, not significantly different from the result of 40% in 2012–13.

Proportion of Indigenous Australians rating their own health as very good or excellent

Source: HPF Table D1.17.8—AIHW and ABS analysis of AATSIHS 2012–13 and NATSIHS 2018–19.
Leading causes of the burden of disease

‘Burden of disease’ refers to the impact of disease and injury on a population. It is measured in ‘years of healthy life lost’, made up of years lost due to premature death (fatal disease burden) and due to living with disease or injury (non-fatal disease burden).

Injuries were the leading cause of total disease burden for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, followed by mental and substance use disorders, cardiovascular disease and cancer. Note, jurisdiction-specific burden of disease information is available for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, but not the other jurisdictions (AIHW 2016).

More information about these conditions follows.

Injuries and poisoning—increase in hospitalisation rate among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

In 2016–17, the age-standardised rate of hospitalisations due to injury or poisoning among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia was 61 per 1,000 population, compared with 56 per 1,000 in 2004–05.

Injuries and poisoning hospitalisation rates (age-standardised), 2004–05 to 2016–17

![Graph showing hospitalisation rates](image)

*Note: Results for Australia are for NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT combined.*

*Source: HPF Table D1.03.5 WA—AIHW and ABS analysis of NHMD.*

Between July 2015 and June 2017, assault was the leading cause of hospitalisations from injury among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, accounting for almost 3 in 10 (2,900) hospitalisations from injury.

In 2014–2018, about 1 in 5 deaths among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia (18%, or 480 deaths) were caused by injuries—this was the second leading cause of death (CoD).
Indigenous Australians in Western Australia more likely that non-Indigenous Australians to have high levels of psychological distress

In 2018–19, nearly 1 in 3 Indigenous Australians in Western Australia had high to very high levels of psychological distress (32%, age-standardised)—a proportion that has not changed significantly since 2008—compared with 13% of non-Indigenous Australians (NATSISS 2008, NATSIHS 2018–19).

Cardiovascular disease—decrease in death rate among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

In 2014–2018, about 1 in 4 deaths among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia (24%, or 640 deaths) were caused by cardiovascular disease—this was the leading cause of death.

The age-standardised rate of death from cardiovascular disease per 100,000 population decreased between 2006 and 2018 for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, both in Western Australia and nationally.

Cardiovascular disease death rates (age-standardised), 2006–2018

![Cardiovascular Disease Death Rates](chart)

Note: Results for Australia are for NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT combined. Source: HPF Table D1.23.28—AIHW and ABS analysis of CoD.

Cancer—no significant change in death rate among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

In 2014–2018, about 1 in 5 deaths among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia (18%, or 480) were caused by cancer, making this the third leading cause of death.

Age-standardised rates of death from cancer have not changed significantly between 2006 and 2018 for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, while falling for non-Indigenous Australians.
In 2011–15, the cancers with the highest age-standardised incidence among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia were breast cancer (13% of cancers among women), lung cancer (12% of all cancers), head and neck cancer (9% of all cancers) and bowel cancer (9% of all cancers).

There was a higher incidence of lung cancer and head and neck cancer per 100,000 population among Indigenous Australians than among non-Indigenous Australians in Western Australia. Rates of breast cancer (among women) and bowel cancer were lower among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia than among non-Indigenous Australians.

**Cancers with the highest number of new cases (incidence)—age-standardised incidence rate, 2011–2015**
Avoidable deaths—higher rate among Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

Avoidable and preventable mortality refers to deaths from conditions that are considered avoidable given timely and effective health care (including disease prevention and population health initiatives) (Page et al. 2007; AIHW 2010).

In 2014–18, there were 1,440 avoidable deaths of Indigenous people in Western Australia, an age-standardised rate of 443 per 100,000. This was 4.5 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians in Western Australia (99 per 100,000).

Avoidable and preventable death rates (age-standardised), 2014–2018

![Graph showing avoidable death rates for Western Australia and Australia](image)

Note: Results for Australia are for NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT combined. 
Source: HPF Table D1.24.4—AIHW and ABS analysis of CoD.

Decrease in rate of low birthweight babies born to Indigenous mothers in Western Australia

A healthy birthweight is associated with better health outcomes throughout life.

Between 2000 and 2017, the low birthweight rate for babies born to Indigenous mothers living in Western Australia (excluding multiple births) decreased from 13.2% to 12.7%. This was higher than the national rate of 11% (NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT combined).
Low birthweight rates, 2000–2017

Note: Results for Australia are for NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT combined.
Source: HPF Table D1.01.3—AIHW and ABS analysis of NPDC.

Mortality rates of Indigenous children in Western Australia decreased over 20 years to 2018

Infant and childhood mortality are long established measures of child health as well as the overall health of the population and its physical and social environment.

Between 1998 and 2018, the death rate for Indigenous children aged 0–4 in Western Australia declined from 294 per 100,000 population to 182 per 100,000.

Mortality rates of children aged 0–4, 1998–2018

Note: Results for Australia are for NSW, WA, SA and NT combined.
Sources: HPF Table D1.20.16, D1.20.17—AIHW and ABS analysis of CoD.
Determinants of health

Cultural factors—country and caring for country, knowledge and beliefs, language, self-determination, family and kinship, and cultural expression—can be protective, and positively influence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and wellbeing (Bourke et al. 2018).

A new study—the Mayi Kuwayu Study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing—aims to provide more evidence of how culture is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s health and wellbeing (ANU 2020).

A large part of the disparity in health outcomes between Indigenous Australians and non-Indigenous Australians is explained by disparities in social determinants, in particular income, employment and education (AIHW 2018).

Nearly 2 in 5 Indigenous people in Western Australia have a certificate III or higher

In 2018–19, 38% of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia aged 20–64 had a certificate III level qualification or above as their highest educational qualification. Around 29% had a certificate III–advanced diploma. An estimated 9% had a bachelor degree or above (note that this estimate has a large margin of error and should be used with caution).

![Highest educational qualification among those aged 20–64, 2018–19](image)

**Sources:** HPF Table 2.06.11—AIHW and ABS analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 and NHS 2017–18.

No change in the employment rate among Indigenous people in Western Australia

In 2018–19, 40% of Indigenous people in Western Australia aged 15–64 were employed, compared with 77% of non-Indigenous Australians. Nationally, 49% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 were employed.

The employment rate did not change significantly between 2014–15 and 2017–19 for Indigenous Australians living in Western Australia. Nationally, there was a small increase in the employment rate for non-Indigenous Australians over this period.
Employed people as a proportion of the working age population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Compared with employed people, those who lack employment are more likely to experience high or very high levels of psychological distress (NATSIHS 2018–19).

Nationally, among Indigenous Australians of working age in 2018–19:
- **2 in 10** who were employed reported high or very high levels of psychological distress
- **4 in 10** who were not employed reported high or very high levels of psychological distress.

No significant change in proportion of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia living in low income households

In 2018–19, 47% of Indigenous adults in Western Australia were living in a household with an income in the lowest 20% nationally (this is based on equivalised household income, a measure that is adjusted to better compare households of different types and sizes). This proportion remained similar between 2012–13 and 2018–19.

Indigenous Australians continue to be highly over-represented in lower-income households.

In 2016, the average weekly income for Indigenous adults living in Western Australia was $808, lower than the average for non-Indigenous adults of $1,179.

In 2018–19, almost half (49%) of Indigenous Australians living in non-remote areas in Western Australia could not raise $2,000 in a week. This proportion increased to 80% for Indigenous Australians living in remote areas of Western Australia.
Decrease in overcrowding among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

Almost 2 in 10 (19%) Indigenous Australians in Western Australia were living in overcrowded households in 2018–19, compared with 3 in 10 (30%) in 2008 (NATSISS 2008, NATSIHS 2018–19).

Decrease in rate of youth justice supervision, increase in adult imprisonment rate among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

The rate of Indigenous Australians under youth justice supervision in Western Australia decreased from 2006–07 to 2017–18.

### Average adult weekly household income, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$808</td>
<td>$1,179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Indigenous Australians living in a household that could not raise $2,000 in a week, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Non-remote</th>
<th>Remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-remote</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: ‘Non-remote’ includes Major cities, Inner regional areas and Outer regional areas; ‘Remote’ includes Remote areas and Very remote areas (ABS 2016).

### Indigenous Australians in households with an income in the lowest one-fifth nationally

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–13</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HPF Table D2.08.1—AIHW and ABS analysis of the AATSIHS 2012–13; NATSIHS 2018–19.

### Average adult weekly household income, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$808</td>
<td>$1,179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HPF Table D2.08.11—AIHW and ABS analysis of Census of Population and Housing 2016.

### Indigenous Australians living in a household that could not raise $2,000 in a week, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Non-remote</th>
<th>Remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>49%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HPF Table D2.08.6—AIHW and ABS analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19.

### Indigenous Australians in households with an income in the lowest one-fifth nationally

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HPF Table D2.08.1—AIHW and ABS analysis of the AATSIHS 2012–13; NATSIHS 2018–19.

### Young justice supervision rates on an average day, people aged 10–17, 2006–07 to 2017–18

Source: HPF Table D2.11.1—AIHW JJ NMDS 2000–01 to 2017–18.
The age-standardised imprisonment rate among Indigenous adults in Western Australia has increased since 2006 (ABS 2019).

**Adult imprisonment rates (age-standardised), 2006–2019**

![Graph showing the age-standardised imprisonment rate among Indigenous adults in Western Australia and Australia, with a significant increase observed over the years.](image)

*Source: HPF Table D2.11.12—ABS 2019.*

**Health risk factors**

Nationally, the three most important health risk factors contributing to disease burden for Indigenous Australians have been identified as:

- **Smoking**—accounts for 12% of disease burden nationally, and is a significant risk factor for cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease
- **Drinking alcohol**—accounts for 8% of disease burden nationally, and is a significant risk factor for mental health and substance use disorders, and injuries
- **Being overweight or obese**—accounts for 8% of disease burden nationally, and is a significant risk factor for diabetes, kidney diseases, and cardiovascular disease (AIHW 2016).

**Health risk factor trends—Indigenous Australians in Western Australia and Australia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health risk factor</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2018–19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No significant change in proportion of current smokers aged 15 and over—Western Australia</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in proportion of current smokers aged 15 and over—Australia</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No significant change in proportion of adults drinking alcohol at a risky level on a single occasion—Western Australia</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in of adults drinking alcohol at a risky level on a single occasion—Australia</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No significant change in proportion of people aged 15 and over who were overweight or obese—Western Australia</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in proportion of people aged 15 and over who were overweight or obese—Australia</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sources: HPF Tables D2.15.1, D2.16.7—AIHW and ABS analysis of NATSISS 2008, AATSIHS 2012–13, and NATSIHS 2018–19.*
How well is the health system performing?

Over 1 in 2 Indigenous mothers in Western Australia accessed antenatal care in first trimester

In Western Australia in 2017, 56% (age-standardised) of Indigenous mothers accessed antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, a lower proportion than the national rate of 63% (AIHW NPDC).

Women whose first antenatal visit was in the first trimester of pregnancy, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HPF Table D3.01.10—AIHW analysis of the NPDC.

Almost all Indigenous children in Western Australia fully immunised at 5 years

Children are considered fully immunised at 5 years of age when they have been vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio.

Nationally, the rate of Indigenous children fully immunised at 5 years of age increased significantly from 77% in 2008 to 97% in 2018.

In 2018, 95% of Indigenous children in Western Australia in were fully immunised at 5 years of age.

Children fully immunised at 5 years of age, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Other(^{(a)})</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Other(^{(a)})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{(a)}\) Includes children whose Indigenous status was not determined.

Source: HPF Table D3.02.4—AIHW analysis of the AIR.
Strong increases in rates of Indigenous-specific health checks in Western Australia

The first Indigenous-specific health check, for those aged 55 and over, was introduced in 1999 and health checks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all ages were in place from May 2006. In May 2010, the frequency of health checks was standardised so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all ages were able to have a health check every year (AIHW 2017).

Nationally, the rate of Indigenous Australians accessing these health checks rose almost fourfold across all age groups between 2009–10 and 2018–19. Among Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, the rate of health checks increased from 81 per 1,000 population in 2009–10 to 275 per 1,000 in 2018–19.

Indigenous-specific health checks, 2009–10 to 2018–19

Sources: HPF Tables D3.04.5, D3.04.6, D3.04.7—AIHW analysis of DoH MBS.
The rate of preventable hospitalisations is higher among Indigenous Australians than among non-Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

Between July 2015 and June 2017, there were 13,300 potentially preventable hospitalisations of Indigenous Australians in Western Australia, an age-standardised rate of 91 per 1,000 population, compared with 24 per 1,000 among non-Indigenous Australians.

Potentially preventable hospitalisations (age-standardised), July 2015 to June 2017

A lower proportion of Indigenous hospital patients have a procedure recorded

Between July 2015 and June 2017, both in Western Australia and nationally, the proportion of Indigenous hospital patients who had a procedure recorded was lower than for non-Indigenous hospital patients.

Hospital patients who had a procedure recorded, July 2015 to June 2017
Locations of primary health care services in Western Australia

Drawing on information from the AIHW’s Online Service Report (OSR), the following map shows locations of Indigenous-specific primary health care services. These services include Aboriginal Community Controlled Health organisations and other primary health care services funded by the Department of Health to provide health services to Indigenous Australians. The map also shows locations of regular GP clinics provided by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and GP and Nurse Led Clinics listed in the National Health Services Directory (NHSD). These locations can be either Indigenous-specific or mainstream. Because some services are listed in more than one data source, the symbols have been shifted slightly to display all service categories represented at each location.

Primary health care services (including outreach)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled (OSR 2017–18)
- Indigenous-specific Government and not-for-profit (OSR 2017–18)
- Royal Flying Doctor Service (regular GP clinics in 2018–19)
- NHSD-listed primary health care services (NHSD 2020)

Sources: Online Services Report (2017–18); National Health Services Directory (downloaded 28 September 2020); Royal Flying Doctor Service (2019).
Cost, and being too busy, are top barriers to health care access for Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

In 2018–19, 3 in 10 Indigenous Australians in Western Australia (30%) did not go to a health provider when they needed to.

Most common reasons Indigenous Australians did not see a health care provider when needed, 2018–19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too busy</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decided not to seek care</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport or distance</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In previous 12 months. More than one reason could be given.
Source: HPF Table D3.08.4—AIHW and ABS analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19.

Taking own leave from hospital—higher rate among Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians in Western Australia

People taking their own leave from hospital after being admitted—choosing to leave before starting treatment, or leaving hospital before completing treatment—provides indirect evidence of how well hospital services are meeting patients’ needs.

From July 2015 to June 2017, there were 2,900 Indigenous Australians in Western Australia who took their own leave from hospital. Indigenous Australians in Western Australia took their own leave from hospital at nearly 10 times the rate (age-standardised) of non-Indigenous Australians, the largest disparity among all jurisdictions.

People taking own leave from hospital, July 2015 to June 2017

Source: HPF Table D3.09.3—AIHW analysis of NHMD.
The number of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce in Western Australia has increased

In Western Australia, the number of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce, and the rate per 10,000 population, increased between 2006 and 2016.

### Indigenous Australians in the health workforce, 2006–2016

![Graph showing the increase in the number of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce in Western Australia from 2006 to 2016.](source: HPF Table D3.12.13—ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006, 2011 and 2016 Census data.)

More information

Website

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework information is now available on [indigenoushpf.gov.au](http://indigenoushpf.gov.au). This includes interactive data visualisations with more information for states and territories.

National summary report

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 summary report.

State and territory key health indicator reports

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 key health indicators—New South Wales
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 key health indicators—Queensland
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 key health indicators—Western Australia
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 key health indicators—South Australia
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 key health indicators—Tasmania
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 key health indicators—Australian Capital Territory

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 key health indicators—Northern Territory

Supplementary data tables

For data used in this report see Data tables: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020 summary report.

Data sources

Information presented in the state and territory key health indicator reports comes from the following data sources. Note, data is not presented from all of these data sources in all state and territory reports.

- Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) 2012–13
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Causes of Death Collection (CoD)
- Australian Cancer Database (ACD)
- Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)
- Census of Population and Housing
- Department of Health Medicare Claims data (DoH MBS)
- Juvenile Justice National Minimum Dataset (JJ NMDS)
- Life tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2015–2017
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) 2018–19
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) 2008 & 2014–15
- National Health Services Directory (NHSD) 2020
- National Health Survey (NHS) 2017–18
- National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)
- National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC)
- Online Services Report (OSR) 2017–18
- Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) 2019.

Recent releases

Since data were compiled for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HPF, AIHW has released more recent information on some topics in this report. These include:


References


ABS 2018a. Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. ABS cat no. 3238.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS.


AIHW 2017. Indigenous health check (MBS 715) data tool. Cat. no. WEB 125. Canberra: AIHW.


This key health indicator report presents a selection of key findings on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia are faring, according to various measures of health status and outcomes, determinants of health and health system performance. Indicators are based on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020. Detailed national and state and territory information, including supplementary data tables and interactive data visualisations, are presented on a dedicated website, indigenoushpf.gov.au.