Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020

Key health indicators
Northern Territory
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 the Northern Territory.

Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory—key findings

In 2015–2017, life expectancy at birth was 67 years for Indigenous males and 70 years for Indigenous females living in the Northern Territory.

The employment rate of Indigenous 15–64-year-olds in the Northern Territory remained the same at 37% in 2014–15 and 2018–19.

In the Northern Territory, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 and over who were smokers remained similar at 53–56% in 2008 and 2018–19.

The rate of health checks for Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory increased from 130 per 1,000 population in 2009–10 to 355 per 1,000 in 2018–19.

Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory

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

- There were about 74,500 Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory, 30% of the territory’s total population
- Nearly 1 in 10 Indigenous Australians lived in the Northern Territory
- 96% of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory were Aboriginal, 1.3% were Torres Strait Islander and about 3% were both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Around 23% of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory lived in Outer regional areas, 23% lived in Remote areas and 54% lived in Very remote areas
- Nearly 1 in 3 Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory 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, indigenousshpf.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 the Northern Territory

In the Northern Territory in 2015–2017, life expectancy at birth of Indigenous males was 67 years and life expectancy at birth of Indigenous females was 70 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>Northern Territory</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>70 years</td>
<td>74 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HPF Table D1.19.1—ABS 2018b.

1 in 2 Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory 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, 48% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 and over in the Northern Territory rated their health as very good or excellent, higher than the rate of 41% 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).

In the Northern Territory, injuries were the leading cause of total disease burden for Indigenous Australians, followed by cardiovascular disease, mental and substance use disorders 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 the Northern Territory

In 2016–17, the age-standardised rate of hospitalisations due to injury or poisoning among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory was 93 per 1,000 population, a marked increase compared with 58 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 NT—AIHW analysis of NHMD.*

Between July 2015 and June 2017, assault accounted for 35% of hospitalisations from injury for Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory, while falls accounted for 16%.

In 2014–2018, about 1 in 7 deaths among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory (14%, or 370) were caused by injuries—this was the third leading cause of death (CoD).
Cardiovascular disease—no significant change in death rate among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory

In 2014–2018, nearly 1 in 4 deaths among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory (23%, or 590) 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 did not change significantly between 2006 and 2018 for Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory, though declining nationally.

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

![Graph showing cardiovascular disease death rates for the Northern Territory and Australia, 2006-2018.](image)

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.

Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to have high levels of psychological distress

In 2018–19, 1 in 4 (25%) Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory had high to very high levels of psychological distress (age-standardised)—a proportion that has not changed significantly since 2008—compared with 11% of non-Indigenous Australians (NATSISS 2008, NATSIHS 2018–19).

Cancer—no significant change in death rate among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory

In 2014–2018, about 1 in 5 deaths among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory (19%, or 490) were caused by cancer, making this the second leading cause of death.

In the Northern Territory, the age-standardised rate of death from cancer has not changed significantly between 2006 and 2018 for Indigenous Australians, while falling for non-Indigenous Australians.
In 2011–15, the cancers with the highest incidence among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory (age-standardised) were lung cancer (15% of all cancers), head and neck cancer (12% of all cancers), breast cancer (12% of cancers among women) and liver cancer (7%).

Of these, there was a higher incidence rate of lung cancer, head and neck cancer and liver cancer per 100,000 population among Indigenous Australians than among non-Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory, while for breast cancer the incidence rate was higher among non-Indigenous women than among Indigenous women.

**Cancers with highest number of new cases (incidence)—age-standardised incidence rate, 2011–2015**

![Graph showing cancer incidence rates](image)

*Source: HPF Table D1.08.3—AIHW analysis of ACD 2016.*
Avoidable deaths—higher rate among Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory

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 2014–2018, there were 1,350 avoidable deaths of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory, an age-standardised rate of 548 per 100,000. This was 4.2 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory (129 per 100,000).

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

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.

Increase in rate of low birthweight babies born to Indigenous mothers in the Northern Territory

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 the Northern Territory (excluding multiple births) increased significantly from 13% to 14%. This was higher than the national rate of 11% (NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, SA and NT combined).
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020
Key health indicators—Northern Territory

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 analysis of NPDC.

Mortality rates of Indigenous children in the Northern Territory 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 the Northern Territory decreased from 442 per 100,000 population to 309 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 the ABS 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).

**1 in 5 Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory have a certificate III or higher**

In 2018–19, 21% of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory aged 20–64 had a certificate III level qualification or above as their highest educational qualification. Around 16% had a certificate III–advanced diploma as their highest educational qualification, while 4% had a bachelor degree or above.

**Highest educational qualification among those aged 20–64, 2018–19**

![Graph showing educational qualifications in Northern Territory and Australia](image)

*Source: HPF Table D2.06.11—AIHW and ABS analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 and NHS 2017–18.*

**No change in the employment rate among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory**

In 2018–19, around 37% of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory aged 15–64 were employed, less than half the rate (86%) of non-Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory. 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 the Northern Territory. 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>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>86%</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.

Increase in the proportion of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory living in low income households

In 2018–19, 59% of Indigenous adults in the Northern Territory 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 increased from 52% in 2012–13.

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

In 2016, the average weekly income for Indigenous adults living in the Northern Territory was $613, less than half that of non-Indigenous adults ($1,450).

In 2018–19, 3 in 5 (60%) Indigenous Australians living in non-remote areas in the Northern Territory could not raise $2,000 in a week. This proportion increased to 78% for Indigenous Australians living in remote areas of the Northern Territory.
**Indigenous Australians in households with an income in the lowest one-fifth nationally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012–13</th>
<th>2018–19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</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; NATSISS 2008, NATSIHS 2018–19.*

**Average adult weekly household income, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$613</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$802</td>
<td>$1,096</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></th>
<th>Non-remote</th>
<th>Remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</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). Source: HPF Table D2.08.6—AIHW and ABS analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19.*

**Decrease in overcrowding among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory**

Around half (51%) of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory were living in overcrowded households in 2018–19, compared with 62% in 2008 (NATSISS 2008, NATSIHS 2018–19).

**No change in rate of youth justice supervision and increase in adult imprisonment rate among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory**

The rate of Indigenous Australians under youth justice supervision in the Northern Territory did not change from 2012–13 to 2017–18.

**Youth justice supervision rates on an average day, people aged 10–17, Northern Territory (2012–13 to 2017–18) and Australia (2006–07 to 2017–18)**

*Note: Data not available for the Northern Territory from 2008–09 to 2011–12; Data not published for non-Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory for 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 the Northern Territory has increased since 2006.

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

![Graph showing adult imprisonment rates in Northern Territory and Australia from 2006 to 2019](image)

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

**Health risk factors**

Nationally, the three most important health risk factors contributing to the burden of disease 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 the Northern Territory and Australia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></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—Northern Territory</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>56%</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>2012–13 2018–19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No significant change in proportion of adults drinking alcohol at a risky level on a single occasion—Northern Territory</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in proportion of adults drinking alcohol at a risky level on a single occasion—Australia</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–13 2018–19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No significant change in proportion of people aged 15 and over who were overweight or obese—Northern Territory</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>59%</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?

Nearly 7 in 10 Indigenous mothers in the Northern Territory accessed antenatal care in first trimester

In the Northern Territory in 2017, 68% (age-standardised) of Indigenous mothers accessed antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, a higher proportion than the national rate of 63%.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>86%</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 the Northern Territory 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, 94% of Indigenous children in the Northern Territory were fully immunised at 5 years of age.

Children fully immunised at 5 years of age, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Other (a)</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Other (a)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</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 the Northern Territory

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 the Northern Territory, the rate of health checks increased from 130 per 1,000 population in 2009–10 to 355 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 the Northern Territory.

Between July 2015 and June 2017, in the Northern Territory the age-standardised rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations among Indigenous Australians was 127 per 1,000 population, 4 times the rate for non-Indigenous Australians (31 per 1,000).

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

- **Note:** COPD stands for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- **Sources:** HPF Tables D3.07.2, D3.07.5—AIHW analysis of NHMD.

**A lower proportion of Indigenous hospital patients have a procedure recorded**

Between July 2015 and June 2017, both in the Northern Territory 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**

- **Source:** HPF Table D3.06.1—AIHW analysis of NHMD.
Locations of primary health care services in the Northern Territory

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 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.
Being too busy, and a lack of available services, are top barriers to health care access for Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory

In 2018–19, 1 in 5 Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory (20%) 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>Too busy</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting time too long or service not available at time required</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service not available in area</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decided not to seek care</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>28%</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 the Northern Territory

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, Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory took their own leave from hospital at nearly 9 times the rate (age-standardised) of non-Indigenous Australians.

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

*Source: HPF Table D3.09.3—AIHW analysis of NHMD.*
No recent change in the number of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce

In the Northern Territory, the number of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce, and the rate per 10,000 population, increased between 2006 and 2011 but changed little between 2011 and 2016.

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


**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 the Northern Territory 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.