

ABS Indigenous experimental estimates and projections, QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	449223
Registration status:	HealthI , Standard 08/06/2011 Indigenous , Standard 11/09/2012

Data quality

Institutional environment: This data is produced under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](#).

Timeliness: ABS Indigenous population estimates and projections are compiled and published once in each five year period; typically three years following the most recent census.

Accessibility: ABS Indigenous population projections are available in a variety of formats on the ABS web site under the 3238.0 product family. The formats available are:

- Main Features, which contains commentary on key figures;
- a pdf version of the publication;
- data cubes containing:
 - Indigenous population estimates and projections for Australia and the states and territories, by five-year age group (to 85 years and over) and sex, for all projection series (Series A to N);
 - Indigenous population projections for Indigenous Regions, by five-year age group (to 65 years and over) and sex;
 - Indigenous population projections for Remoteness Areas, by five-year age group (to 75 years and over) and sex.
- data cubes containing population projections, components of change and summary statistics for Australia and the states and territories, Indigenous Regions and Remoteness Areas, for the two main projection series (Series A and B).

Interpretability: The ABS observes strict confidentiality protocols as required by the Census and Statistics Act, 1905. This may limit access to data at a detailed level. ABS population projections are not intended as predictions or forecasts, and should not be considered as such. Rather, they are illustrations of growth and change in the population that would occur if the assumptions were to prevail over the projection period.

The outputs on the ABS web site under the 3238.0 product family contain notes on the assumptions and methods used to produce the Indigenous population estimates and projections. It also contains Explanatory Notes and Glossary that provide information on the data sources, terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

Relevance: Indigenous population estimates for years prior to the base population provide estimates on a temporally consistent basis, thus eliminating any inconsistencies in estimates due to the changing propensity to identify as Indigenous across censuses. Estimates are published for Australia and the states/territories, by five-year age group and sex.

Population projections inform on future changes in the Indigenous population of Australia, such as population growth/decline and changes in age structure, and are therefore used in a variety of key planning decisions. Projections are published for Australia, states/territories, Indigenous Regions and Remoteness Areas, by five-year age group and sex. Projected numbers of births and deaths are also published.

Assumptions have been formulated on the basis of past demographic trends, in conjunction with consultation with various individuals and government department representatives at the national and State/Territory level. Consultation occurred between May and July 2009, after which the assumptions were finalised.

Accuracy: Base population (2006 estimates)

The estimates and projections presented in this publication are based on results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, adjusted for net undercount as measured by the PES. The goal of the census is to obtain a complete measure of the number and characteristics of people in Australia on census night and their dwellings.

The ABS conducts the PES shortly after the Census to determine how many people were missed in the Census and how many were counted more than once. For 2006, the net undercount of the Indigenous population was 59 200 persons. The extent of under-coverage of Indigenous Australians in the 2006 Census, the relatively small sample size of the PES to adjust for that under-coverage, and the number of records with unknown Indigenous status means that 2006 population estimates should be interpreted with caution, and are therefore labelled experimental. For more information see Experimental Estimates and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Jun 2006 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001).

Population estimates

Given the poor quality of historical Indigenous component data (births, deaths and migration), ABS Indigenous population estimates for non-Census years are produced by applying assumptions about past levels of Indigenous life expectancy at birth to the base population. As levels of these components are unknown, estimates should be treated with caution, particularly for the period 1986 to 1990.

Indigenous population estimates for 1986 to 2005 based on the 2006 census supersede previously published estimates for this period.

Population projections

ABS Indigenous population projections are based on a number of assumptions on future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. They are not intended as predictions or forecasts, but are illustrations of growth and change in the Indigenous population that would occur if the assumptions were to prevail over the projection period.

While the assumptions are formulated on the basis of an assessment of past demographic trends, there is no certainty that any of the assumptions will be realised. In addition, the assumptions do not attempt to allow for non-demographic factors (such as major government policy decisions, economic factors, catastrophes, wars, epidemics or significant health treatment improvements) which may affect future demographic behaviour or outcomes.

Coherence: The estimates and projections presented in this publication are not consistent with estimates and projections based on 2001 or previous censuses. As the assumptions used in each successive set of Indigenous population estimates and projections incorporate recent trends, comparison of data across issues of this publication is not advised.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

See also [Number of lumbar spinal decompression \(excluding lumbar spinal fusion\) hospitalisations per 100,000 people aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2015-16 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of lumbar spinal fusion \(excluding lumbar spinal decompression\) hospitalisations per 100,000 people, aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2015-16 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of lumbar spinal fusion \(with or without lumbar spinal decompression\) hospitalisations per 100,000 people, aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2015-16 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of myringotomy hospitalisations per 100,000 people aged 17 years and under, 2012-13, 2015-16 and 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of potentially preventable hospitalisations - cellulitis per 100,000 people of all ages, 2014-15 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of potentially preventable hospitalisations - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\) per 100,000 people of all ages, 2014-15 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of potentially preventable hospitalisations - diabetes complications per 100,000 people of all ages, 2014-15 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of potentially preventable hospitalisations - heart failure per 100,000 people, of all ages, 2014-15 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of potentially preventable hospitalisations - kidney and urinary tract infections per 100,000 people of all ages, 2014-15 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

See also [Number of tonsillectomy hospitalisations per 100,000 people aged 17 years and under, 2012-13, 2015-16 and 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021](#)

Data sources linked to this Data quality statement:

[ABS Indigenous experimental estimates and projections \(2001 Census-based\)](#)