



# **National Health Survey: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results, Australia**

**2001**

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## INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics in Darwin on 1800 633 216.

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## PREFACE

This publication presents summary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) results from the 2001 National Health Survey (NHS), conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from February to November 2001. Approximately 500 Indigenous Australians were enumerated in the main NHS sample, and a further 3,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children from across remote and non-remote areas of Australia were included in an Indigenous supplementary sample from June to November 2001.

The results presented in this publication include:

- health status measures
- health service use and other actions people had recently taken for their health
- health-related aspects of lifestyle and other health risk factors
- summary women's health characteristics.

Corresponding information for the non-Indigenous population, and selected results from the 1995 NHS, have been included for comparison.

The Explanatory Notes for this publication provide a brief description of the survey, its concepts, definitions, methodology and procedures, and the quality, comparability and interpretation of results. Technical Notes provide more detail on methodology and the reliability of the results. Appendix 2 provides information about the range of publications and other data services available or planned. More comprehensive information about the survey is provided in the *National Health Survey: Users Guide, 2001*, which will be available free of charge on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> in December 2002.

Further results from the NHS relating to the general Australian population can be found in *National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2001* (cat. no. 4364.0). More extensive analysis of Indigenous results from the NHS is expected to be published in *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2003* (cat. no. 4704.0) which is expected to be released in August 2003.

The success of the Indigenous component of the 2001 National Health Survey was dependent on the very high level of cooperation received from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the range of Indigenous statistics published or planned by the ABS would not be possible. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
BMI	Body Mass Index
CD	Census collection district
CHINS	Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey
GP	General medical practitioner
HIB	Haemophilus Influenza Type B
ICD-9	International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision
ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHS	National Health Survey
NHS(I)	National Health Survey (Indigenous)
OHP	Other health professionals
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error
WHO	World Health Organisation

### SYMBOLS

na	not available
np	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated.
*	estimate has a relative standard error of between 25%–50% and should be used with caution. Data are subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.
**	estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.
. .	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

### EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

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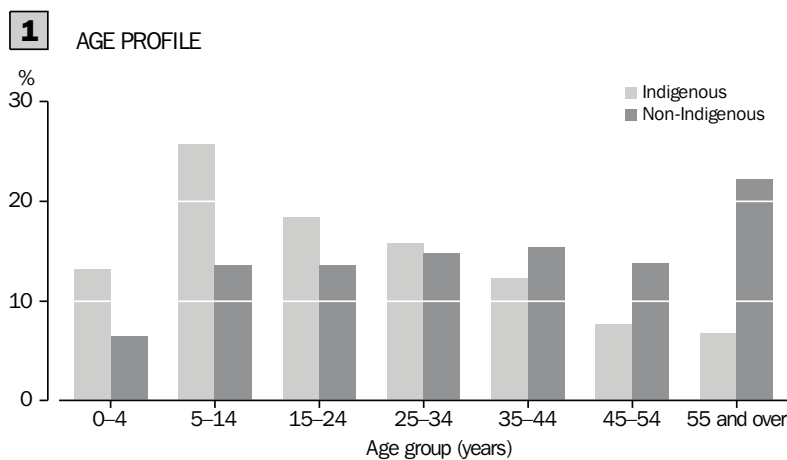
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

This publication presents summary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) results from the 2001 National Health Survey (NHS), conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from February to November 2001. Survey content presented in this publication includes health status measures as well as information relating to health service use and lifestyle factors which affect health. Corresponding information for the non-Indigenous population, and data from the 1995 NHS, have been included for comparative purposes.

For the first time, NHS results are presented for Indigenous Australians living in remote areas. This information is limited to those items for which data are of acceptable quality.

As shown in the graph below, the Indigenous population is considerably younger than the non-Indigenous population. The close relationship between health and age makes it misleading to compare total populations with differing age structures. Comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are therefore presented by age group or by using age standardised rates to allow for the effect of age.



## DATA QUALITY

**Sampling error** Due to the small size of the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 NHS, the Indigenous results have larger sampling errors than results for the non-Indigenous population. For this reason, differences in results between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, between Indigenous results for 1995 and 2001, and between remote and non-remote Indigenous estimates may or may not be statistically significant. That is, for some of the statistics presented in this publication that may be different for different sub-populations or time periods presented, the size of the associated sampling errors means that it cannot be stated with any confidence that the estimates represent any real difference between the sub-populations or time periods. Significance testing has been undertaken on selected Indigenous and non-Indigenous comparisons (table 1) and on time series data (table 2) presented in this publication to assist readers with understanding the level of significance that should be attributed to apparent differences in rates.

**Non-sampling error** There are a number of sources of error in survey results apart from sampling error (the variability between the results that the total population would report and those obtained from a representative sample). The 'reliability of estimates' and 'interpretation of results' sections of the explanatory notes to this publication identify a number of factors that affect the quality of the published estimates. Some of these factors affect the 1995 survey results, or the 2001 results, or both. One such factor is a change in survey field procedures used to identify households for enumeration in non-remote areas in the Indigenous supplement to the 2001 NHS. This change affects the representation in the sample of Indigenous children living in households in non-remote areas where no Indigenous adult is usually resident. While it is unlikely that the change in field procedures impacts on estimates sufficiently to affect the interpretation of the results, readers should be aware of the issue and refer to paragraphs 30–32 of the Explanatory Notes for details.

It should also be noted that all results presented in this publication are based on information reported by respondents and may therefore differ from information collected using other methods or sources.

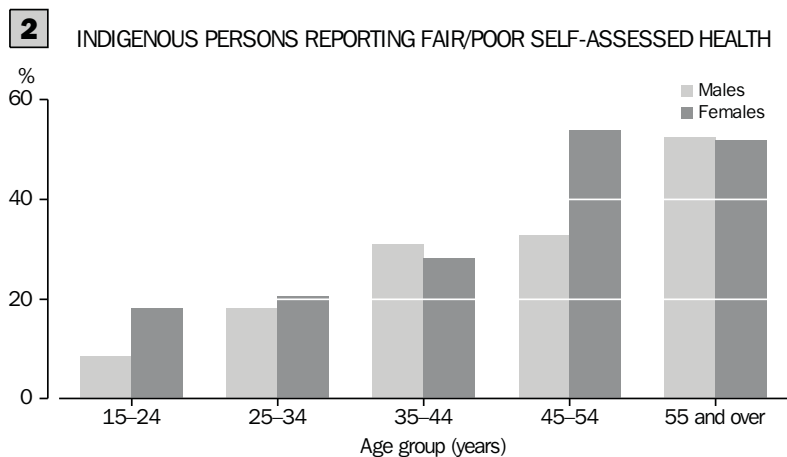
## HEALTH STATUS

**Self-assessed health** Self-assessed health status provides an indicator of overall health, based on an individual's perception of their health. It should be remembered that this measure is dependent on an individual's awareness and expectation of their own health. As such, it may be influenced by factors such as access to health services and health information.

After adjusting for differences in age structure, two-thirds of Indigenous Australians reported their health as good, very good, or excellent. However, one-third reported their health as 'fair' or 'poor', almost twice the rate for non-Indigenous people (18%) (table 1).

Self-assessed health  
*continued*

The proportion of Indigenous Australians reporting 'fair or poor' health increased with age, from 13% of those aged 15–24 years to 52% of those aged 55 years and over (table 5). Indigenous females were more likely overall to report 'fair or poor' health than Indigenous males (29% compared to 23%).



Long-term health conditions

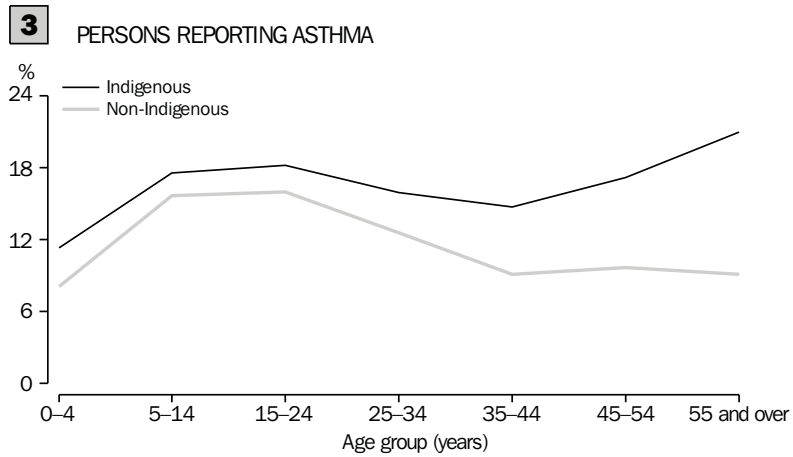
After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians were equally likely (78%) to report having at least one long-term health condition. Indigenous Australians living in remote areas were more likely to report having no long-term health condition (29%) than Indigenous Australians living in non-remote areas (20%) (table 1).

Reporting a long-term health condition increased markedly with age, from 34% of Indigenous children aged under 5 years to 99% of Indigenous Australians aged 55 years and over. The number of reported long-term conditions also increased with age, with three or more conditions being reported by 3% of children aged under 5 years compared with 75% for Indigenous Australians aged 55 years and over (table 3).

Of the selected long-term health conditions presented in Appendix 1, eye/sight problems were the most commonly reported conditions among the Indigenous population (29%). These were followed by asthma (16%), the broad group of back problems (15%) and ear/hearing problems (15%).

Asthma

After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians were more likely to report asthma as a long-term health condition than were the non-Indigenous population (17% and 12% respectively). Although table 1 shows asthma more often reported in non-remote areas than in remote areas, it cannot be stated with any confidence that these estimates represent any real difference between the two sub-populations. Within the Indigenous population, the prevalence of asthma was above 10% across age groups, peaking at 21% for those aged 55 years and over (table 3).

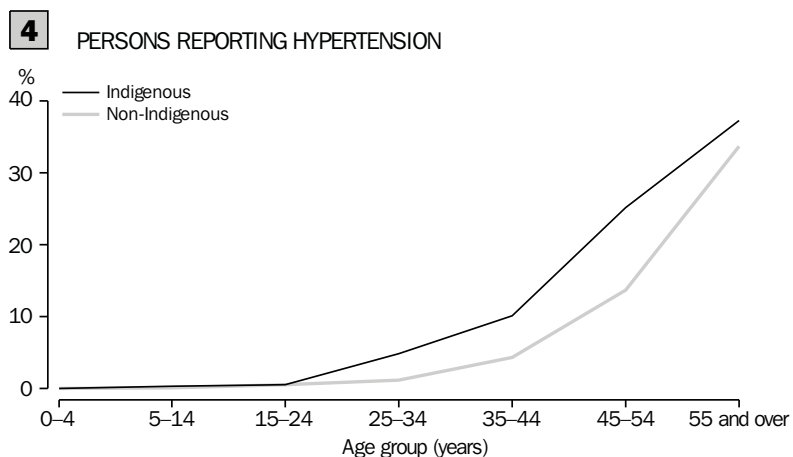


Conditions of the circulatory system

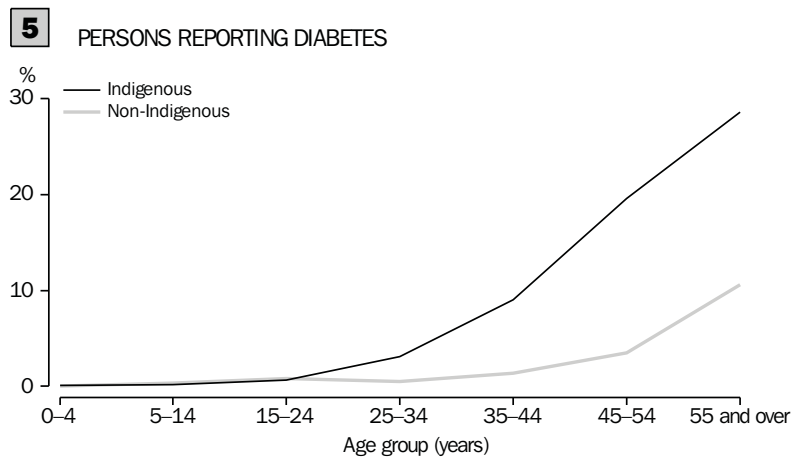
About one-tenth of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders reported a long-term health condition associated with the circulatory system, such as heart disease, hypertension or other conditions affecting the veins or arteries (Appendix 1). After adjusting for age differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, nearly one-fifth (19%) of Indigenous Australians reported these conditions (table 1).

Of Indigenous Australians aged 35 to 44 years, 16% reported a long-term health condition associated with the circulatory system. The rate increased to 31% for Indigenous adults aged 45 to 54 years, and to 47% of those aged 55 years and over (table 3).

Among Indigenous Australians, the most commonly reported condition of the circulatory system was hypertension. As shown in the graph below, the prevalence of hypertension increased rapidly among Indigenous Australians from the age of 35 years, with the onset approximately 10 years younger than for the non-Indigenous population.



Diabetes Diabetes was a reported condition for 5% of Indigenous Australians (Appendix 1). After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians were over three times as likely as the non-Indigenous population to report some form of diabetes, with the condition almost twice as prevalent among Indigenous Australians in remote (16%) compared with non-remote (9%) areas (table 1). As shown below, diabetes increased markedly with age, from 1% of Indigenous persons aged 15 to 24 years to 29% of those aged 55 years and over. As with hypertension, substantial increases in the proportion of the Indigenous population reporting diabetes occurred at a much younger age (35 to 44 years) than for the non-Indigenous population (55 years and over).



HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS

After adjusting for age differences, in 2001 Indigenous Australians were more likely (53%) to have taken at least one of the listed health-related actions than were non-Indigenous people (47%) (table 7). Indigenous women were more likely (58%) to have taken a health-related action than Indigenous men (47%) (table 10).

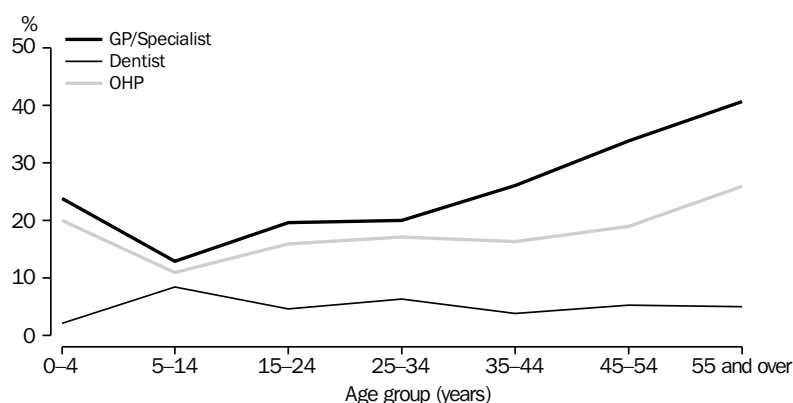
Consultations with health professionals

Information collected relating to consultations with health professionals in the two weeks prior to interview suggests some differences between the use of services by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In 2001, after adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to have visited the casualty or outpatient departments of a hospital in the two weeks prior to interview. However, it cannot be stated with any confidence that there is any difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in their likelihood to have consulted either a dentist or a doctor (including general practitioners and specialists) (table 7).

Consultations with health professionals *continued*

As shown below, the proportion of Indigenous Australians consulting health professionals varied with age. Of children aged under 5 years, 24% had consulted a general practitioner or specialist in the two weeks prior to interview. While this rate was lower among older children and younger adults (to age 34 years), it rose again in older age to a peak of 41% among Indigenous Australians aged 55 years and over. Dental consultations were most common amongst Indigenous Australians aged 5–14 years (8%), with approximately 5% of those aged 15 years and over consulting a dentist in the two weeks prior to interview (table 9).

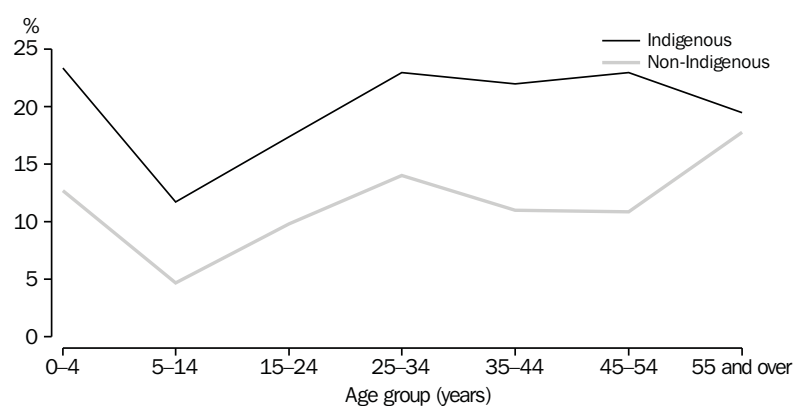
**6** INDIGENOUS PERSONS CONSULTING SELECTED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Hospital admissions

After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to have been hospitalised in the 12 months prior to interview (20% and 12% respectively), with Indigenous males and females being equally likely to have been hospitalised (table 10). As shown below, Indigenous Australians were admitted to hospital more often than non-Indigenous people across all age groups. Hospital admissions were most common amongst Indigenous children aged under 5 years and Indigenous adults aged 25 to 34 and 45 to 54 years (each group 23%) (table 9).

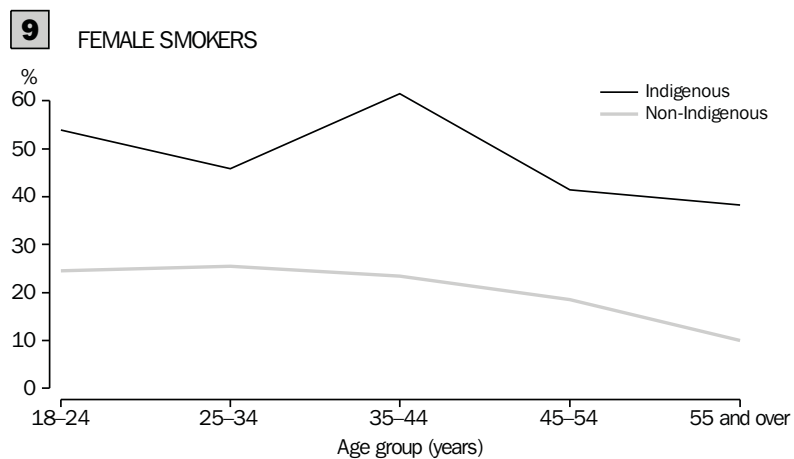
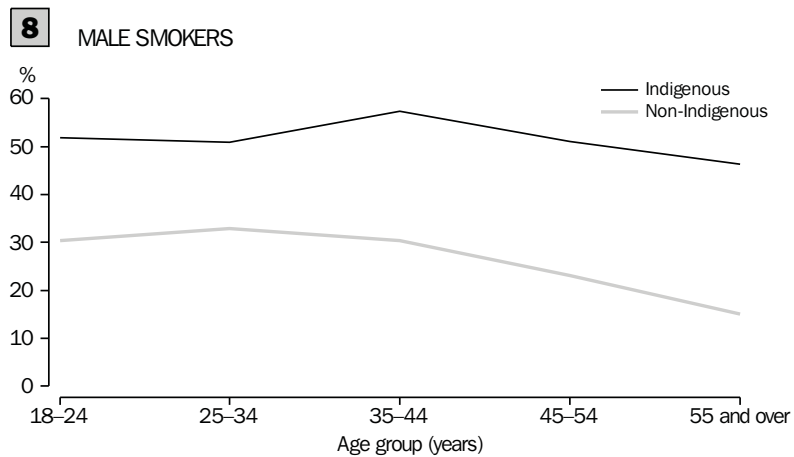
**7** PERSONS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL IN LAST 12 MONTHS



## HEALTH RISK FACTORS

**Smoking** After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to be current smokers (51% and 24% respectively) (table 13). While the age standardised proportion of Indigenous adults in non-remote areas who smoke was estimated at slightly different rates in 1995 and in 2001, it cannot be stated with any confidence that the estimates represent any difference in population in those years (table 2).

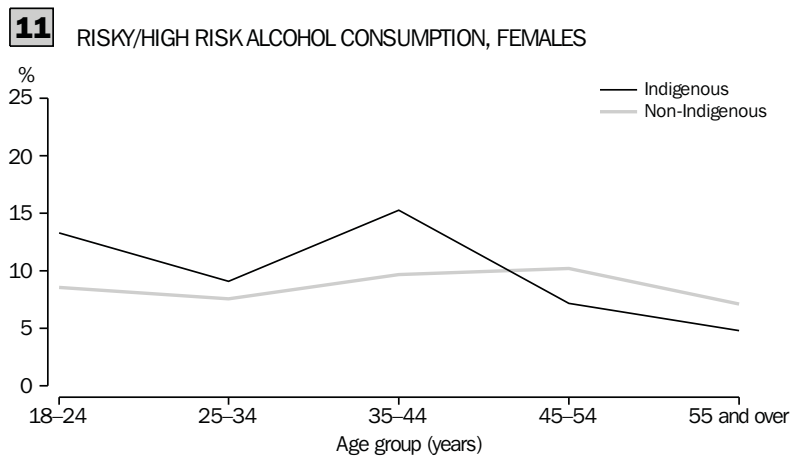
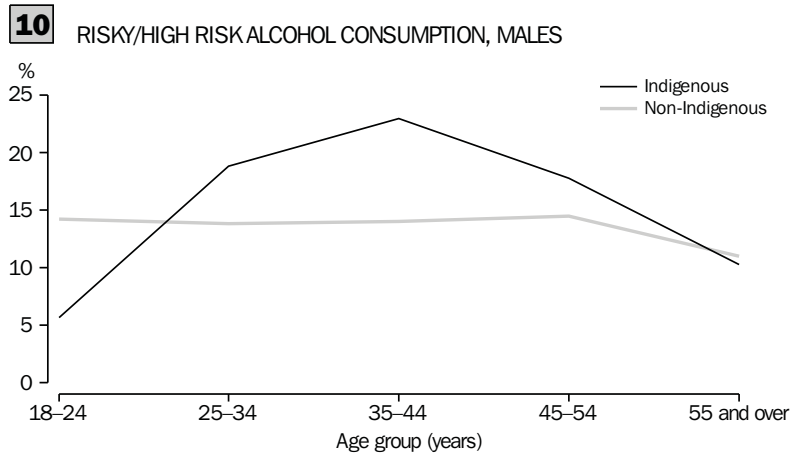
As shown in the following graphs, smoking is more common among Indigenous males and females in every age group when compared with the non-Indigenous population.



Alcohol consumption

Alcohol consumption at risky/high risk levels was reported in the survey at 12% and 11% for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians respectively, although sample error means that it cannot be stated with any confidence that this represents any difference in the sub-populations (table 1). Indigenous adults were less likely (42%) than non-Indigenous adults (62%) to have consumed alcohol in the week prior to interview (table 13). The proportion of the Indigenous population in non-remote areas reporting alcohol consumption at risky or high risk levels has declined slightly from the time of the 1995 survey, although it cannot be stated with any confidence that this represents a decline in consumption levels in the Indigenous population (table 2).

The proportion of Indigenous adults who consumed alcohol at risky or high risk levels was generally higher for males than females and varied across age groups (see graphs below). The highest proportion was recorded for males aged 35–44 years at 23% (table 16). However, younger Indigenous males (18–24 years) were less likely (6%) than non-Indigenous males in the same age group (14%) to consume alcohol at risky or high risk levels.





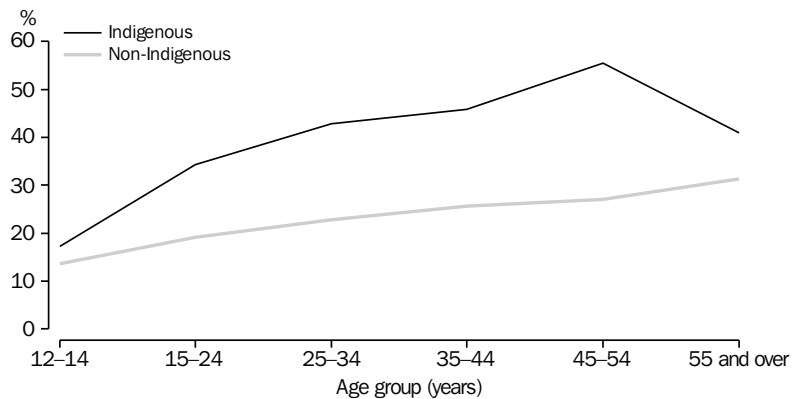
Exercise and diet

Due to collection difficulties, information relating to diet and exercise was not collected for Indigenous Australians living in remote areas. In the two weeks prior to interview, the majority (around 70%) of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults living in non-remote areas, reported their levels of exercise for recreation, sport or fitness as either sedentary or low (table 1).

After adjusting for age differences, 42% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults living in non-remote areas were estimated to have a medium to high fruit intake, in contrast to 52% of the non-Indigenous population. However, 83% of Indigenous Australians were estimated to have a medium to high vegetable intake (77% for the non-Indigenous population) (table 13).

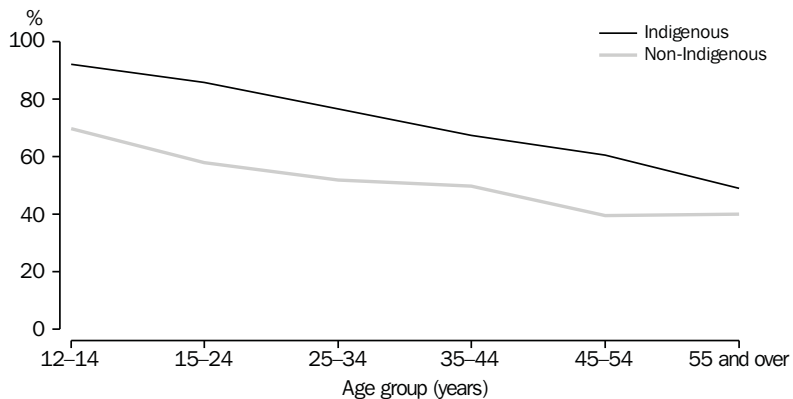
As shown in the graph, Indigenous Australians living in non-remote areas in every age group, were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to add salt to their meals after cooking.

**12** PERSONS IN NON-REMOTE AREAS WHO USUALLY ADD SALT TO MEALS



Across each age group, Indigenous Australians were also more likely than non-Indigenous people in non-remote areas to usually drink whole (full cream) milk rather than reduced fat alternatives.

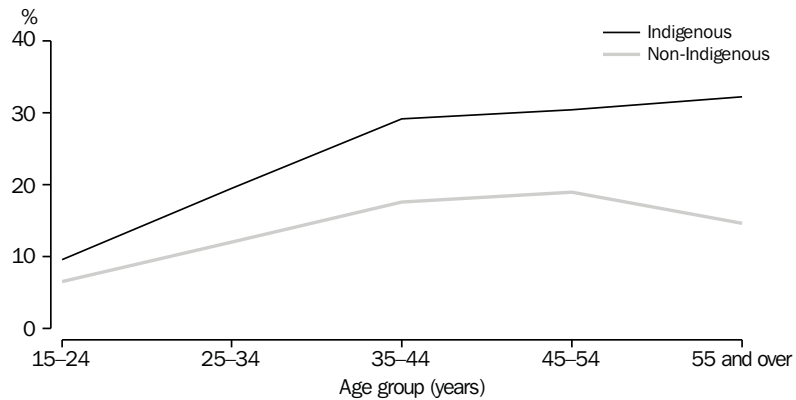
**13** PERSONS IN NON-REMOTE AREAS WHO USUALLY DRINK WHOLE MILK



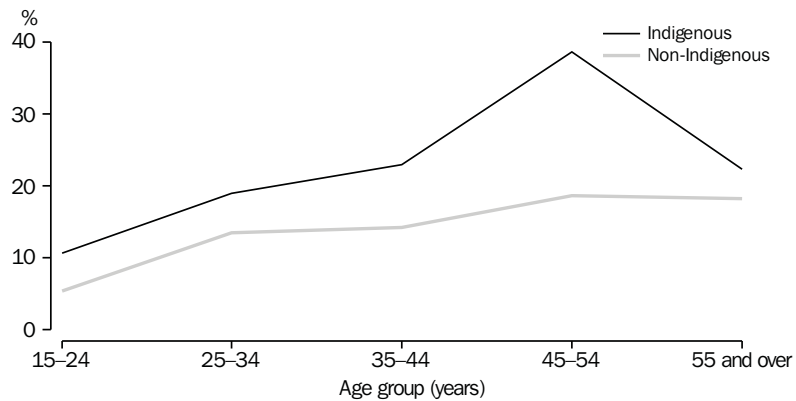
Body mass Self-reported measurements of height and weight were collected and used as the basis for allocating body mass categories for persons aged 15 years and over. Height and weight information could not be obtained for approximately 20% of Indigenous persons and 8% of non-Indigenous persons. After adjusting for age differences and non-response, Indigenous Australians were more likely (61%) to be classified as overweight or obese when compared with non-Indigenous Australians (48%) (table 1). The proportion of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons, aged 18 years and over and classified as obese, has increased since 1995 (table 14).

As shown in the following graphs, Indigenous males and females in each age group were more likely to be classified as obese than non-Indigenous Australians in the same groupings.

**14** OBESSE MALES



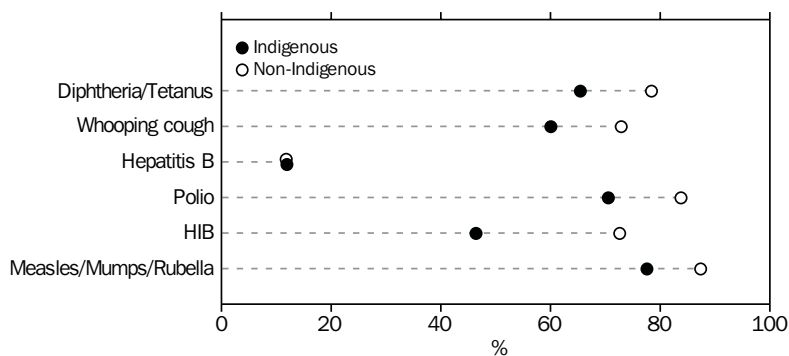
**15** OBESSE FEMALES



**Immunisation** Information about vaccinations for influenza and pneumonia was collected from persons aged 50 years and over. About half of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians had an influenza vaccination in the 12 months prior to the survey, with another 10% or so of both groups having had a vaccination, but not in the last 12 months. In relation to pneumonia, Indigenous Australians (25%) were almost twice as likely to have had a vaccination in the last 5 years than were non-Indigenous Australians (14%), with the proportion of Indigenous people living in remote areas who had been vaccinated (48%) being more than double that in non-remote areas (19%) (table 19).

The majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under 7 years of age living in non-remote areas were fully immunised against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps and rubella, as were non-Indigenous children. However, for haemophilus influenza type B (HIB), the Indigenous rate was 46% compared to the non-Indigenous rate of 73% (table 20).

**16** CHILDREN AGED UNDER 7 YEARS(a): IMMUNISATION STATUS



(a) In non-remote areas

**Breastfeeding** In 2001, three-quarters (77%) of Indigenous children aged under 4 years living in non-remote areas were reported to have been breastfed for at least some period, similar to the proportion of the Indigenous population of this age who were reported to have been breastfed in 1995 (75%) (table 21).

**Women's health** Women aged 40 years and over were asked whether they had mammograms and, if so, how frequently. After allowing for age differences, 43% of Indigenous women reported regular mammograms. For pap smear tests, 50% of Indigenous women aged 18 years and over reported regular tests (table 22).

# 1

## PERSONS: SUMMARY HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS, AGE STANDARDISED RATES, AUSTRALIA, 2001

<i>Health characteristic</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>		<i>Non-Indigenous</i>		<i>All persons</i>	
	<i>Remote areas(a)</i>	<i>Non-remote areas(a)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Self-assessed health status(b)</i>						
Excellent/very good	28	36	34	52	52	52
Good	43	28	(c)32	(c)30	30	30
Fair/poor	28	35	34	18	18	18
<i>Selected long-term conditions(d)</i>						
Neoplasms/cancer	*1	**1	(c)*1	(c)2	2	2
Diabetes	16	9	11	3	3	3
Eye/sight problems	38	49	46	51	51	51
Ear/hearing problems	17	18	18	14	14	14
Circulatory problems/diseases	24	18	(c)19	(c)17	17	17
Asthma	15	18	17	12	12	12
Back problems	21	22	(c)22	(c)21	21	21
No long-term condition	29	20	(c)22	(c)22	22	22
<i>Health-related actions(e)</i>						
Admitted to hospital	21	19	20	12	12	12
Visited casualty/outpatients	9	5	6	3	3	3
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	24	27	(c)27	(c)24	24	24
Dental consultation	7	5	(c)5	(c)6	6	6
Consultation with other health professional	27	16	18	13	13	13
Day(s) away from work/study(f)	11	9	(c)10	(c)10	10	10
<i>Risk behaviour/characteristics</i>						
Current daily smokers(g)	53	47	49	22	22	22
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption(g)	18	10	(c)12	(c)11	11	11
Sedentary/low level exercise(b)(h)	na	71	na	68	na	na
Overweight/obese BMI(b)(i)	58	62	61	48	48	48
Low usual daily fruit intake(a)(h)(j)	na	57	na	47	na	na
Low usual daily vegetable intake(a)(h)(j)	na	17	na	23	na	na

(a) See Glossary for definitions.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(c) Difference between total Indigenous and non-Indigenous data is not statistically significant.

(d) ICD-10 based output classification (see Explanatory Notes and Glossary for further details).

(e) Hospital admissions relate to the 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview.

(f) Persons aged 5–64 years.

(g) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(h) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(i) Proportions are calculated excluding 'Body Mass Index' not known.

(j) Persons aged 12 years and over.

## 2

## PERSONS: SUMMARY HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS, NON-REMOTE AREAS, AGE STANDARDISED RATES, AUSTRALIA, 1995 AND 2001(a)

<i>Health characteristic</i>	<i>1995</i>		<i>2001</i>	
	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Self-assessed health status(b)</i>				
Excellent/very good	(c)38	55	(c)36	52
Good	(c)29	28	(c)28	30
Fair/poor	(c)33	17	(c)35	18
<i>Selected long-term conditions(d)</i>				
Neoplasms/cancer	—	2	(c)**1	2
Diabetes	(c)9	2	(c)9	3
Eye/sight problems	(c)47	51	(c)49	51
Ear/hearing problems	13	12	18	14
Circulatory problems/diseases	27	21	18	17
Asthma	(c)18	11	(c)18	12
No long-term condition	(c)23	25	(c)20	22
<i>Health-related actions(e)</i>				
Admitted to hospital(f)	na	na	19	12
Visited casualty/outpatients	(c)7	3	(c)5	3
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	(c)26	24	(c)27	25
Dental consultation	(c)*3	6	(c)5	6
Consultation with other health professional	10	10	16	13
Day(s) away from work/study(g)	(c)12	9	(c)9	10
<i>Risk behaviour/characteristics</i>				
Current smokers(h)	(c)46	23	(c)49	24
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption(h)	(c)13	8	(c)10	11
Sedentary/low level exercise(b)	(c)72	69	(c)71	68
Overweight/obese BMI(b)(i)	(c)54	43	(c)62	48

(a) Indigenous data for 1995 are only available for non-remote areas. As a result, non-Indigenous and time series comparisons are made on this basis.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(c) Difference between 1995 and 2001 Indigenous data is not statistically significant.

(d) ICD-9 based output classification (see Explanatory notes and Glossary for further details).

(e) Hospital admissions relate to the 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview.

(f) Hospital admissions were collected for different recall periods in 1995 (2 weeks) and 2001 (12 months). While 1995 data are available for a two week period, they are not presented here as comparisons with 2001 data are not meaningful.

(g) Persons aged 5–64 years.

(h) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(i) Proportions are calculated excluding 'Body Mass Index' not known.

## 3

## PERSONS: WHETHER HAD LONG-TERM CONDITION BY SELECTED TYPE AND NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, AUSTRALIA, 2001

Type of condition	Age group (years)							
	0-4		5-14		Total aged 0-14		15-24	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Infectious and parasitic diseases	*2	np	*3	—	2	np	*1	1
Neoplasms/cancer	—	np	—	—	—	np	—	—
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs								
Anaemia	np	—	np	—	np	—	**1	1
Other diseases of the blood and blood forming organs	—	—	—	—	—	—	np	—
Total(a)	np	—	np	—	np	—	np	1
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases								
Diabetes/ high sugar levels	np	np	np	—	np	—	**1	1
High cholesterol	—	—	np	—	—	—	—	—
Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	np	—	np	—	np	—	—	—
Total(a)	**1	np	*1	1	1	—	*2	1
Diseases of the nervous system								
Epilepsy	np	np	*1	—	1	—	*2	—
Migraine	—	np	*3	2	2	1	7	6
Other diseases of the nervous system	np	—	*1	—	1	—	*1	1
Total(a)	**1	1	5	3	4	2	10	8
Diseases of the eye and adnexa								
Cataract	np	np	—	—	np	—	np	np
Short sighted/myopia	np	—	np	5	1	3	8	17
Long sighted/hyperopia	np	—	3	5	2	3	7	8
Total/partial loss of vision	np	—	*2	2	1	1	*3	2
Other diseases of the eye and adnexa	**1	np	*3	5	2	4	7	8
Total(a)	*2	2	10	14	7	10	22	30
Diseases of the ear and mastoid								
Total/partial hearing loss	*3	1	8	2	7	2	9	3
Otitis media	*4	3	*3	2	4	2	*1	*1
Other diseases of the ear and mastoid	*2	—	*2	1	2	1	*4	2
Total(a)	9	4	12	5	11	5	13	5
Diseases of the circulatory system								
Hypertension	—	—	np	np	np	np	**1	*1
Other diseases of the circulatory system	*2	1	*2	2	2	*1	*3	3
Total(a)	*2	1	*2	2	2	2	*4	3
Diseases of the respiratory system								
Bronchitis	*3	2	*3	2	3	2	*4	2
Asthma	11	8	18	16	15	13	18	16
Chronic sinusitis	**1	1	3	6	2	4	*4	10
Other diseases of the respiratory system	*3	4	9	11	7	8	15	19
Total(a)	16	13	26	26	23	22	31	33

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

## 3

PERSONS: WHETHER HAD LONG-TERM CONDITION BY SELECTED TYPE AND NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, AUSTRALIA, 2001 — *continued*

Type of condition — <i>continued</i>	Age group (years)							
	25–34		35–44		45–54		55 and over	
	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %
Infectious and parasitic diseases	*4	1	**1	1	**1	1	*3	1
Neoplasms/cancer	**1	*1	*4	1	*2	2	**1	4
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs								
Anaemia	np	2	np	2	*2	2	**1	1
Other diseases of the blood and blood forming organs	np	—	np	—	—	—	—	1
Total(a)	*2	2	1	2	*2	2	**1	2
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases								
Diabetes/high sugar levels	*3	*1	9	1	20	4	29	11
High cholesterol	**2	1	*4	3	12	9	18	18
Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	1	1	np	1	*1	1	np	1
Total(a)	*6	3	11	5	27	13	38	26
Diseases of the nervous system								
Epilepsy	*1	1	**1	1	*2	1	—	—
Migraine	*5	9	12	9	14	10	*5	4
Other diseases of the nervous system	3	1	*4	1	3	2	**1	1
Total(a)	*8	10	14	11	19	12	*7	6
Diseases of the eye and adnexa								
Cataract	3	—	*2	—	**2	*1	*11	8
Short sighted/myopia	16	22	16	22	32	31	32	32
Long sighted/hyperopia	*7	7	17	15	49	46	53	50
Total/partial loss of vision	*4	3	*5	3	*6	3	*6	6
Other diseases of the eye and adnexa	3	12	12	14	14	27	26	39
Total(a)	29	37	44	45	85	87	88	96
Diseases of the ear and mastoid								
Total/partial hearing loss	*10	5	11	9	16	13	26	27
Otitis media	*2	—	*1	—	**1	—	—	—
Other diseases of the ear and mastoid	2	2	5	3	*7	5	*5	6
Total(a)	13	7	16	11	23	17	29	32
Diseases of the circulatory system								
Hypertension	*5	1	10	4	25	14	37	34
Other diseases of the circulatory system	7	5	**9	8	16	13	26	26
Total(a)	11	6	*16	12	31	23	47	48
Diseases of the respiratory system								
Bronchitis	*2	3	5	3	*8	3	*12	5
Asthma	16	13	15	9	17	10	21	9
Chronic sinusitis	12	12	14	14	12	15	15	12
Other diseases of the respiratory system	15	23	19	19	15	19	19	16
Total(a)	31	35	*35	33	35	33	44	31

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

## 3

PERSONS: WHETHER HAD LONG-TERM CONDITION BY SELECTED TYPE AND NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, AUSTRALIA, 2001 — *continued*

Type of condition — <i>continued</i>	Age group (years)							
	0–4		5–14		Total aged 0–14		15–24	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Diseases of the digestive system	*1	1	*1	1	1	1	*2	2
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*2	3	*3	3	3	3	*2	3
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue								
Arthritis	np	—	np	—	np	—	*2	1
Back problems	—	—	**1	2	—	1	15	16
Other diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	np	—	np	2	1	1	*3	3
Total(a)	np	—	*2	3	np	2	19	19
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	—	1	*1	1	1	1	*1	2
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	*3	2	**1	1	1	1	*1	1
Symptoms, signs and conditions not elsewhere classified								
Injuries	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	3
Other symptoms, signs and conditions not elsewhere classified	*3	5	7	9	6	8	6	8
Total(a)	*4	5	7	9	6	8	9	11
<b>Total persons who reported a long-term condition (a)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>
Number of conditions								
One	24	19	30	28	28	25	26	30
Two	7	6	12	13	10	11	16	19
Three or more	*3	2	10	10	8	8	23	22
Total persons with one or more long-term conditions	34	27	51	51	46	43	65	71
<b>Total persons who did not report a long-term condition</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Total persons (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total persons who reported a long-term condition ('000)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1 317</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1 643</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1 783</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued



## 3

PERSONS: WHETHER HAD LONG-TERM CONDITION BY SELECTED TYPE AND NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, AUSTRALIA, 2001 — *continued*

Type of condition — <i>continued</i>	Age group (years)							
	25–34		35–44		45–54		55 and over	
	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %
Diseases of the digestive system	*4	4	11	6	*9	10	13	15
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*2	3	2	3	*3	4	*2	4
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue								
Arthritis	8	4	14	9	28	19	40	41
Back problems	27	24	27	28	37	30	29	30
Other diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	9	4	11	6	13	11	18	18
Total(a)	38	28	*41	37	54	45	60	60
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	*4	2	7	2	*9	4	*9	7
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	—	1	np	1	—	1	*2	1
Symptoms, signs and conditions not elsewhere classified								
Injuries	2	4	2	5	*8	5	*7	5
Other symptoms, signs and conditions not elsewhere classified	9	8	10	8	*10	9	*10	10
Total(a)	10	12	11	12	19	14	16	14
<b>Total persons who reported a long-term condition (a)</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>
Number of conditions								
One	24	26	19	25	*10	16	*6	7
Two	22	21	23	22	17	21	18	12
Three or more	31	31	44	38	71	59	75	80
Total persons with one or more long-term conditions	77	78	86	85	97	96	99	99
<b>Total persons who did not report a long-term condition</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>**1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total persons (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total persons who reported a long-term condition ('000)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>2 143</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2 433</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2 485</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3 981</b>

(a) Components may not add to total as persons may have reported more than one type of condition.

## 4

## PERSONS: WHETHER HAD LONG-TERM CONDITION BY SELECTED TYPE AND NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, AGE STANDARDISED RATES, AUSTRALIA, 2001

Type of condition	Males		Females		Persons	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Infectious and parasitic diseases	*1	1	*3	1	2	1
Neoplasms/cancer	*1	2	**1	1	*1	2
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs						
Anaemia	np	—	np	2	*1	1
Other diseases of the blood and blood forming organs	np	—	np	—	—	—
Total(a)	np	—	*2	3	1	2
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases						
Diabetes/high sugar levels	9	3	12	3	11	3
High cholesterol	np	6	8	5	7	6
Other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	np	—	*1	1	*1	1
Total(a)	13	9	16	8	15	9
Diseases of the nervous system						
Epilepsy	*1	1	*1	1	*1	1
Migraine	4	4	10	9	7	6
Other diseases of the nervous system	*1	1	*2	1	*2	1
Total(a)	6	5	13	10	10	8
Diseases of the eye and adnexa						
Cataract	5	1	2	2	3	2
Short sighted/myopia	15	18	20	23	17	21
Long sighted/hyperopia	21	20	25	24	23	22
Total/partial loss of vision	4	3	4	3	4	3
Other diseases of the eye and adnexa	9	14	7	2	8	15
Total(a)	40	48	48	54	45	51
Diseases of the ear and mastoid						
Total/partial hearing loss	15	14	12	7	13	10
Otitis media	1	1	2	1	2	1
Other diseases of the ear and mastoid	5	4	*4	2	4	3
Total(a)	20	17	16	10	18	14
Diseases of the circulatory system						
Hypertension	12	9	16	10	14	10
Other diseases of the circulatory system	11	8	11	11	11	10
Total(a)	18	15	21	18	19	17
Diseases of the respiratory system						
Bronchitis	*4	3	8	3	6	3
Asthma	14	10	20	12	17	12
Chronic sinusitis	9	9	11	12	10	11
Other diseases of the respiratory system	13	17	17	17	15	17
Total(a)	28	29	38	32	33	30

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

## 4

PERSONS: WHETHER HAD LONG-TERM CONDITION BY SELECTED TYPE AND NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, AGE STANDARDISED RATES, AUSTRALIA, 2001 — *continued*

Type of condition — <i>continued</i>	Males		Females		Persons	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Diseases of the digestive system	*8	7	6	7	7	7
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*2	3	3	4	2	3
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue						
Arthritis	14	6	18	7	16	7
Back problems	19	21	24	21	22	21
Other diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	9	8	10	7	9	7
Total(a)	33	31	37	32	35	32
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	3	2	7	4	5	3
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	—	1	*1	1	*1	1
Symptoms, signs and conditions not elsewhere classified						
Injuries	*4	4	*4	3	*4	4
Other symptoms, signs and conditions not elsewhere classified	6	8	10	9	8	8
Total(a)	10	12	13	12	12	12
<b>Total persons who reported a long-term condition</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>78</b>
Number of conditions						
One	19	21	18	20	18	21
Two	19	17	16	16	17	17
Three or more	38	38	46	42	42	40
Total persons with one or more long-term conditions	75	77	80	79	78	78
<b>Total persons who did not report a long-term condition</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total persons (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total persons who reported a long-term condition ('000)</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>7 062</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>7 354</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>14 418</b>

(a) Components may not add to total as persons may have reported more than one type of condition.

## 5

## PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS, AUSTRALIA, 2001

	Age group (years)									
	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55 and over	
	Non-Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES										
Excellent	22	29	17	24	*11	17	*10	16	**5	11
Very good	39	38	36	36	21	35	23	32	*9	23
Good	31	25	29	29	38	34	34	34	34	34
Fair	9	7	14	9	24	11	*22	13	32	23
Poor	np	1	*4	2	*7	3	*11	5	*20	10
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES										
Excellent	20	22	13	24	*12	22	*13	18	*6	13
Very good	27	40	31	37	17	39	*16	33	*16	25
Good	35	28	36	27	43	28	*17	29	25	33
Fair	16	8	14	8	19	10	33	15	39	21
Poor	*2	2	*6	2	*9	2	*20	5	*13	9
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS										
Excellent	21	25	15	24	11	19	12	17	*5	12
Very good	33	39	33	37	19	37	19	32	*13	24
Good	33	26	33	28	40	31	25	32	29	33
Fair	12	7	14	9	21	10	28	14	36	22
Poor	*1	2	*5	2	8	3	16	5	16	9
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Includes 'self-assessed health status' not known.

## 6

## PERSONS: CONDITIONS REPORTED TO BE THE RESULT OF AN INJURY OR ACCIDENT, AUSTRALIA, 2001

	Age group (years)							
	0-4		5-14		Total aged 0-14		15-24	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
Reported a condition								
As a result of an injury or accident	np	np	*3	2	*2	1	10	9
Not as a result of an injury or accident	31	29	47	53	42	45	54	61
<i>Total males reporting a condition(a)(b)</i>	33	29	50	54	44	46	58	66
No conditions reported	67	71	50	46	56	54	42	34
<b>Total males</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES								
Reported a condition								
As a result of an injury or accident	**2	np	**1	2	*1	1	17	9
Not as a result of an injury or accident	33	23	52	48	45	40	65	74
<i>Total females reporting a condition(a)(b)</i>	35	23	54	49	47	41	72	76
No conditions reported	65	77	46	51	53	59	28	24
<b>Total females</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS								
Reported a condition								
As a result of an injury or accident	*1	—	*2	2	*2	1	14	9
Not as a result of an injury or accident	32	26	49	51	43	43	59	68
<i>Total persons reporting a condition(a)(b)</i>	34	27	51	51	46	43	65	71
No conditions reported	66	73	49	49	54	57	35	29
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

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	Age group (years)							
	25-34		35-44		45-55		55 and over	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>MALES</b>								
Reported a condition								
As a result of an injury or accident	24	17	26	21	26	22	*24	19
Not as a result of an injury or accident	65	70	82	79	96	94	94	97
<i>Total males reporting a condition(a)(b)</i>	73	74	84	85	97	95	100	99
No conditions reported	27	26	16	15	*3	5	—	1
<b>Total males</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>								
Reported a condition								
As a result of an injury or accident	10	11	12	13	19	15	16	11
Not as a result of an injury or accident	77	80	87	82	97	95	98	98
<i>Total females reporting a condition(a)(b)</i>	81	81	89	85	97	97	98	99
No conditions reported	19	19	*11	15	**3	3	**2	*1
<b>Total females</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
Reported a condition								
As a result of an injury or accident	17	14	19	17	22	18	19	15
Not as a result of an injury or accident	71	75	85	81	97	95	96	97
<i>Total persons reporting a condition(a)(b)</i>	77	78	86	85	97	96	99	99
No conditions reported	23	22	14	15	*3	4	**1	1
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Includes 'cause of the condition' not known.

(b) Components may not add to total as persons may have reported more than one type of condition.

## 7

## PERSONS: TYPE OF HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS TAKEN(a), AGE STANDARDISED RATES, AUSTRALIA, 2001

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous
	Remote areas(b)	Non-remote areas(b)	Total	Total
<i>Health-related actions</i>	%	%	%	%
Admitted to hospital	21	19	20	12
Visited casualty/outpatients	9	5	6	3
Hospital day clinic visits(c)	na	4	na	2
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	24	27	27	24
Dental consultation	7	5	5	6
Consultation with other health professional				
Aboriginal health worker	13	4	6	np
Nurse	17	1	5	1
Chemist	—	5	4	4
Social worker/welfare officer	—	*2	*1	—
Other(d)	**1	6	5	8
Total(e)	27	16	18	13
Day(s) away from work or study(f)	11	9	10	10
Other day(s) of reduced activity(c)(g)	na	15	na	12
Total who took at least one of the listed actions(e)	57	51	53	47
Total who took no action	43	49	47	53
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Hospital admissions relate to the 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview.

(b) See Glossary for definitions.

(c) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(d) Includes Other health professionals such as accredited counsellor, acupuncturist, alcohol and drug worker, audiologist, chiroprapist/podiatrist, dietician/nutritionist, herbalist, hypnotherapist, naturopath, occupational therapist, osteopath, psychologist, speech therapist/pathologist.

(e) Components may not add to totals as persons may have reported more than one type of action.

(f) Persons aged 5–64 years.

(g) Persons aged 5 years and over.

	1995		2001	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
<i>Health-related actions</i>	%	%	%	%
Admitted to hospital(c)	na	na	19	12
Visited casualty/outpatients	7	3	5	3
Hospital day clinic visits	*2	1	4	2
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	26	24	27	25
Dental consultation	*3	6	5	6
Consultation with other health professional	10	10	16	13
Day(s) away from work or study(d)	12	9	9	10
Other day(s) of reduced activity(e)	10	6	15	12
<i>Total who took at least one of the listed actions(f)</i>	na	na	51	47
<i>Total who took no action</i>	na	na	49	53
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Hospital admissions relate to the 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview.

(b) Indigenous data for 1995 are only available for non-remote areas. As a result, non-Indigenous and time series comparisons are made on this basis.

(c) Hospital admissions were collected for different recall periods in 1995 (2 weeks) and 2001 (12 months). While 1995 data are available for a two week recall period, they are not presented here as comparisons with 2001 data are not meaningful.

(d) Persons aged 5–64 years.

(e) Persons aged 5 years and over.

(f) Components may not add to total as persons may have reported more than one type of action.



## 9

## PERSONS: TYPE OF HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS TAKEN(a), AUSTRALIA, 2001

	<i>Age group (years)</i>							
	<i>0-4</i>		<i>5-14</i>		<i>Total aged 0-14</i>		<i>15-24</i>	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
<i>Health-related actions</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Admitted to hospital	23	12	12	5	16	7	17	10
Visited casualty/outpatients	8	3	3	2	5	2	6	3
Hospital day clinic visits(b)	**2	*1	—	*1	*1	*1	*3	2
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	24	24	13	14	17	17	20	18
Dental consultation	*2	1	8	9	6	7	*5	7
Consultation with other health professional								
Aboriginal health worker	8	—	4	—	5	—	*3	—
Nurse	8	5	4	1	5	2	5	1
Chemist	*5	6	*2	2	3	3	*4	5
Social worker/welfare officer	np	np	np	1	—	—	*3	—
Other(c)	*2	3	*2	4	*2	4	*3	6
<i>Total(d)</i>	20	13	11	8	14	9	16	12
Day(s) away from work or study(e)	..	..	18	16	..	..	12	13
Other day(s) of reduced activity(b)(f)	..	..	10	10	..	..	15	11
<i>Total who took at least one of the listed actions(d)</i>	52	44	44	42	46	42	49	46
<i>Total who took no action</i>	48	56	56	58	54	58	51	54
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

	Age group (years)							
	25-34		35-44		45-54		55 and over	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
<i>Health-related actions</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Admitted to hospital	23	14	22	11	23	11	20	18
Visited casualty/outpatients	6	2	8	3	*6	2	*6	4
Hospital day clinic visits(b)	*2	2	*8	2	*5	3	*7	4
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	20	21	26	21	34	25	41	37
Dental consultation	6	4	*4	5	*5	7	*5	6
Consultation with other health professional								
Aboriginal health worker	*5	—	*6	—	*5	—	*10	—
Nurse	6	1	*4	1	*4	1	*5	2
Chemist	6	5	*4	4	*4	4	*3	3
Social worker/welfare officer	—	—	**2	—	**1	—	**2	—
Other(c)	*2	10	*5	10	*7	11	*9	9
Total(d)	17	17	16	15	19	14	26	14
Day(s) away from work or study(e)	10	9	*7	8	*11	7	np	5
Other day(s) of reduced activity(b)(f)	16	12	15	11	19	12	22	13
Total who took at least one of the listed actions(d)	54	48	51	45	57	48	60	58
Total who took no action	46	52	49	55	43	52	40	42
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Hospital admissions relate to the 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview.

(b) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(c) Includes Other health professionals such as accredited counsellor, acupuncturist, alcohol and drug worker, audiologist, chiroprapist/podiatrist, dietician/nutritionist, herbalist, hypnotherapist, naturopath, occupational therapist, osteopath, psychologist, speech therapist/pathologist.

(d) Components may not add to total as persons may have reported more than one type of action.

(e) Persons aged 5-64 years.

(f) Persons aged 5 years and over.

	Males		Females		Persons	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Admitted to hospital	20	11	20	13	20	12
Visited casualty/outpatients	6	3	7	3	6	3
Hospital day clinic visits(b)	*2	2	7	3	5	3
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	23	22	30	27	27	24
Dental consultation	4	6	7	7	5	6
Consultation with other health professional						
Aboriginal health worker	5	—	7	np	6	np
Nurse	4	1	6	2	5	1
Chemist	3	3	5	5	4	4
Social worker/welfare officer	**1	—	*1	—	*1	—
Other(c)	*4	7	5	9	5	8
Total(d)	15	11	21	15	18	13
Day(s) away from work or study(e)	11	10	8	10	10	10
Other day(s) of reduced activity(b)(f)	14	11	19	13	17	12
Total who took at least one of the listed actions(d)	47	43	58	52	53	47
Total who took no action	53	57	42	48	47	53
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Hospital admissions relate to the 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview.

(b) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(c) Includes Other health professionals such as accredited counsellor, acupuncturist, alcohol and drug worker, audiologist, chiropodist/podiatrist, dietician/nutritionist, herbalist, hypnotherapist, naturopath, occupational therapist, osteopath, psychologist, speech therapist/pathologist.

(d) Components may not add to total as persons may have reported more than one type of action.

(e) Persons aged 5–64 years.

(f) Persons aged 5 years and over.

	Age group (years)							
	0-4		5-14		Total aged 0-14		15-24	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
Visited in previous 2 weeks	26	26	12	16	17	19	16	14
2 weeks to less than 3 months	31	35	23	22	25	26	20	23
3 months to less than 6 months	15	18	17	19	17	18	17	19
6 months to less than 12 months	14	12	17	20	16	18	20	17
12 months or more	*7	7	23	22	17	17	22	26
Never	*6	*2	*4	—	4	1	*3	—
<b>Total males(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES								
Visited in previous 2 weeks	21	24	14	13	16	19	23	24
2 weeks to less than 3 months	36	36	22	21	27	26	25	32
3 months to less than 6 months	13	19	17	18	16	18	16	15
6 months to less than 12 months	13	11	17	24	16	18	11	14
12 months or more	*9	7	25	23	19	17	18	14
Never	*5	*3	*3	—	4	1	*4	—
<b>Total females(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS								
Visited in previous 2 weeks	24	25	13	14	17	18	20	19
2 weeks to less than 3 months	33	36	22	22	26	26	23	28
3 months to less than 6 months	14	19	17	18	16	18	16	17
6 months to less than 12 months	14	11	17	22	16	19	16	16
12 months or more	8	7	24	23	18	18	20	20
Never	*5	*2	3	—	4	1	*4	—
<b>Total persons(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

	Age group (years)							
	25-34		35-44		45-54		55 and over	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
Visited in previous 2 weeks	10	15	25	18	29	22	37	36
2 weeks to less than 3 months	27	22	19	22	28	25	*22	36
3 months to less than 6 months	9	18	14	18	*13	15	*9	12
6 months to less than 12 months	12	18	8	17	*9	14	*9	7
12 months or more	37	27	31	24	*20	22	*22	9
Never	3	—	2	—	np	np	**1	—
<b>Total males(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES								
Visited in previous 2 weeks	29	28	27	25	38	28	44	40
2 weeks to less than 3 months	31	34	30	29	28	33	31	37
3 months to less than 6 months	14	15	18	17	*10	16	*9	12
6 months to less than 12 months	13	13	11	15	*6	12	*7	5
12 months or more	12	10	11	14	*16	10	*8	6
Never	2	—	np	—	np	np	**1	—
<b>Total females(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS								
Visited in previous 2 weeks	20	22	26	22	34	25	41	38
2 weeks to less than 3 months	29	28	25	26	28	29	27	37
3 months to less than 6 months	11	17	16	17	12	16	*9	12
6 months to less than 12 months	12	15	10	16	*7	13	*8	6
12 months or more	24	18	20	19	18	16	14	7
Never	3	—	1	—	np	np	**1	—
<b>Total persons(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) General practitioners and specialists.

(b) Includes 'time since last doctor consultation' not known.

	Age group (years)							
	0-4		5-14		Total aged 0-14		15-24	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
Less than 6 months	*7	10	40	49	29	36	13	25
6 months to less than 2 years	4	8	39	40	27	30	36	36
2 years or more	—	—	6	6	4	4	46	37
Never	87	81	11	5	37	30	4	2
<b>Total males(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES								
Less than 6 months	*8	9	42	47	30	35	17	33
6 months to less than 2 years	*6	7	40	41	28	30	31	37
2 years or more	np	*1	8	6	5	4	46	29
Never	86	84	8	5	35	31	*5	*1
<b>Total females(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS								
Less than 6 months	7	9	41	48	30	35	15	29
6 months to less than 2 years	*5	8	39	41	28	30	33	36
2 years or more	np	—	7	6	5	4	46	33
Never	87	82	10	5	36	30	*5	1
<b>Total persons(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

	Age group (years)							
	25-34		35-44		45-54		55 and over	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
Less than 6 months	15	23	19	25	*22	29	*13	27
6 months to less than 2 years	23	33	27	36	*16	35	*18	27
2 years or more	53	43	49	37	59	36	62	45
Never	8	*1	*4	*1	**3	—	**4	*1
<b>Total males(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES								
Less than 6 months	24	27	24	33	26	33	16	25
6 months to less than 2 years	27	39	32	38	23	36	*23	28
2 years or more	43	32	43	28	48	30	57	46
Never	*6	*1	**1	—	**3	—	*4	*1
<b>Total females(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS								
Less than 6 months	20	25	21	29	24	31	15	26
6 months to less than 2 years	25	36	29	37	20	36	21	27
2 years or more	48	37	46	33	53	33	60	46
Never	7	1	*3	—	*3	—	*4	1
<b>Total persons(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Includes 'time since last dental consultation' not known.

<i>Risk factor</i>			<i>Indigenous</i>		<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	
	<i>Remote areas(a)</i>	<i>Non-remote areas(a)</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	%	%	%		%	
<b>Smoker status</b>						
Current daily smoker	53	47	49		22	
Currently smoke but not daily	*3	*2	2		2	
Ex-smoker	13	23	21		26	
Never smoked	31	27	28		50	
<i>Total(b)</i>	100	100	100		100	
<b>Alcohol risk level(a)</b>						
Did not consume alcohol(c)	63	56	58		38	
Low risk	19	34	30		51	
Risky	*6	4	5		7	
High risk	*12	6	7		4	
<i>Total(d)</i>	100	100	100		100	
<b>Exercise level(e)</b>						
Sedentary	na	43	na		30	
Low	na	30	na		39	
Moderate	na	24	na		24	
High	na	*4	na		6	
<i>Total</i>	na	100	na		100	
<b>Body mass index, WHO definitions(f)</b>						
Underweight	*7	*2	*3		3	
Acceptable weight	34	34	34		47	
Overweight	31	32	32		34	
Obese	28	31	31		16	
<i>Total(g)</i>	100	100	100		100	
<b>Body mass index, NHMRC definitions(f)</b>						
Underweight	13	6	8		9	
Acceptable weight	27	30	29		41	
Overweight	31	32	32		34	
Obese	28	31	31		16	
<i>Total(g)</i>	100	100	100		100	
<b>Diet(a)(e)</b>						
Doesn't eat fruit	na	11	na		6	
Low fruit intake	na	48	na		41	
Medium fruit intake	na	31	na		42	
High fruit intake	na	11	na		10	
<i>Total</i>	na	100	na		100	
Doesn't eat vegetables	na	*1	na		1	
Low vegetable intake	na	17	na		22	
Medium vegetable intake	na	46	na		47	
High vegetable intake	na	37	na		30	
<i>Total</i>	na	100	na		100	

(a) See Glossary for definitions.

(b) Includes 'smoker status' not known.

(c) Includes those who had not consumed alcohol in the week prior to interview.

(d) Includes 'period since last consumed alcohol' not known.

(e) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(f) Body Mass Index is presented firstly by World Health Organisation (WHO) standards and secondly by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) standards. See Glossary for definitions.

(g) Proportions are calculated excluding 'Body Mass Index' not known.



Risk factor	1995		2001	
	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %
<b>Smoker status</b>				
Smoker	46	23	49	24
Ex-smoker	24	28	23	26
Never smoked	30	49	27	50
Total(b)	100	100	100	100
<b>Alcohol risk level(c)</b>				
Did not consume alcohol(d)	58	45	56	38
Low risk	30	47	34	51
Risky	6	5	4	7
High risk	7	3	6	4
Total(e)	100	100	100	100
<b>Exercise level</b>				
Sedentary	41	35	43	30
Low	32	35	30	39
Moderate	23	24	24	24
High	*4	6	*4	6
Total	100	100	100	100
<b>Body mass index, WHO definitions(f)</b>				
Underweight	*3	3	*2	3
Acceptable weight	41	52	34	47
Overweight	32	32	32	34
Obese	24	12	31	16
Total(g)	100	100	100	100
<b>Body mass index, NHMRC definitions(f)</b>				
Underweight	10	10	6	9
Acceptable weight	34	46	30	42
Overweight	32	32	32	34
Obese	24	12	31	16
Total(g)	100	100	100	100

(a) Indigenous data for 1995 are only available for non-remote areas. As a result, non-Indigenous and time series comparisons are made on this basis.

(b) Includes 'smoker status' not known.

(c) See Glossary for definitions.

(d) Includes those who had not consumed alcohol in the week prior to interview.

(e) Includes 'period since last consumed alcohol' not known.

(f) Body Mass Index is presented firstly by World Health Organisation (WHO) standards and secondly by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) standards. See Glossary for definitions.

(g) Proportions are calculated excluding 'Body Mass Index' not known.

	Age group (years)									
	18-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55 and over	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES										
Current daily smoker	52	30	51	33	57	30	51	23	46	15
Currently smoke but not daily	np	4	*4	3	*7	2	np	2	**1	*1
Ex-smoker	*7	9	13	16	*15	27	27	33	39	52
Never smoked	38	56	32	48	21	41	*22	42	*14	32
<b>Total males(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES										
Current daily smoker	54	25	46	25	61	23	41	19	38	10
Currently smoke but not daily	**2	2	*4	2	**1	2	np	*1	—	*1
Ex-smoker	9	14	14	19	13	25	34	24	25	25
Never smoked	34	59	36	53	25	49	24	56	37	65
<b>Total females(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS										
Current daily smoker	53	28	48	29	60	27	46	21	42	12
Currently smoke but not daily	*3	3	*4	3	*4	2	—	1	**1	1
Ex-smoker	8	11	14	18	14	26	30	29	31	38
Never smoked	36	58	34	50	23	45	23	49	26	50
<b>Total persons(a)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Includes 'smoker status' not known.

	Age group (years)					
	18-24		25-34		35-44	
	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %
MALES						
Did not consume alcohol						
Never consumed	**2	7	*5	6	**2	5
Not consumed in last week	37	25	40	21	35	18
Consumed alcohol in last week						
Low risk level	55	54	33	59	40	62
Risky level	*3	8	*8	6	*10	8
High risk level	*3	7	*11	8	*13	6
<b>Total males(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES						
Did not consume alcohol						
Never consumed	19	6	16	8	*9	11
Not consumed in last week	40	35	43	37	44	33
Consumed alcohol in last week						
Low risk level	27	50	31	47	31	46
Risky level	*6	7	*6	6	*5	7
High risk level	*7	*1	*3	1	*11	2
<b>Total females(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS						
Did not consume alcohol						
Never consumed	10	7	12	7	*5	8
Not consumed in last week	39	30	42	29	40	26
Consumed alcohol in last week						
Low risk level	41	52	32	53	36	54
Risky level	5	7	7	6	*7	8
High risk level	5	4	7	5	12	4
<b>Total persons(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

	Age group (years)			
	45-54		55 and over	
	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %
MALES				
Did not consume alcohol				
Never consumed	*13	5	*12	8
Not consumed in last week	33	18	59	25
Consumed alcohol in last week				
Low risk level	36	61	*19	55
Risky level	**4	7	**3	6
High risk level	*14	7	*8	5
<b>Total males(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES				
Did not consume alcohol				
Never consumed	22	12	37	22
Not consumed in last week	40	31	38	30
Consumed alcohol in last week				
Low risk level	31	46	*15	38
Risky level	**3	8	**2	6
High risk level	*4	3	*3	1
<b>Total females(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS				
Did not consume alcohol				
Never consumed	18	8	26	16
Not consumed in last week	36	25	47	28
Consumed alcohol in last week				
Low risk level	33	54	17	46
Risky level	*3	*7	**2	**6
High risk level	9	*5	*5	*3
<b>Total persons(b)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) See Glossary for definitions.

(b) Includes 'period since last consumed alcohol' not known.

	Age group (years)									
	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55 and over	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES										
Underweight(a)										
WHO definition	*8	7	*3	*1	*3	*1	**1	np	**1	1
NHMRC definition	17	15	*6	3	*9	3	**1	2	**4	2
Acceptable weight(a)										
WHO definition	41	56	38	45	22	35	*19	31	30	34
NHMRC definition	31	48	35	42	16	33	*19	30	*27	33
Overweight(b)	23	21	25	37	34	41	38	44	*26	44
Obese(b)	10	7	20	12	29	18	30	19	32	15
Not known	19	9	15	5	*12	5	*12	np	*11	6
<b>Total males</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
FEMALES										
Underweight(a)										
WHO definition	11	12	*5	5	**2	4	**2	2	**1	3
NHMRC definition	16	28	13	15	*7	12	**3	8	**2	8
Acceptable weight(a)										
WHO definition	30	59	33	55	29	51	*15	45	25	38
NHMRC definition	25	43	25	45	25	43	*14	39	24	33
Overweight(b)	18	11	19	18	21	21	29	25	*22	30
Obese(b)	11	5	19	14	23	14	39	19	*22	18
Not known	30	12	24	8	25	9	*15	10	30	11
<b>Total females</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PERSONS										
Underweight(a)										
WHO definition	9	9	*4	3	*3	2	*1	1	*1	2
NHMRC definition	17	22	10	9	8	8	*2	5	*3	5
Acceptable weight(a)										
WHO definition	35	58	35	50	26	43	17	38	27	37
NHMRC definition	28	45	30	44	20	38	16	34	25	33
Overweight(b)	21	16	22	28	27	31	33	35	23	36
Obese(b)	10	6	19	13	26	16	35	19	27	17
Not known	24	11	20	7	19	7	14	7	21	9
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Underweight and Acceptable weight categories for Body Mass Index are presented firstly by World Health Organisation (WHO) standards and secondly by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) standards. See Glossary for definitions.

(b) The definitions for Overweight and Obese categories are the same for both WHO and NHMRC standards.

<i>Dietary behaviours</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>					
	<i>12-14</i>		<i>15-24</i>		<i>25-34</i>	
	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Usual daily serves of vegetables</i>						
Doesn't eat vegetables	*14	23	21	29	21	27
1 serve or less	59	53	42	48	42	48
2-3 serves	22	20	33	19	31	21
4-5 serves	np	2	np	3	*5	4
6 serves or more	np	1	np	2	**1	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Usual daily serves of fruit</i>						
Doesn't eat fruit	39	41	42	46	45	46
1 serve or less	41	47	38	36	33	37
2-3 serves	*10	7	8	8	*7	7
4-5 serves	*5	1	**1	2	*3	1
6 serves or more	*5	4	12	8	12	9
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Usual type of milk</i>						
Whole	92	70	86	58	77	52
Low/reduced fat	**3	21	10	26	11	29
Skim	**2	5	*3	10	*5	11
Soy	np	1	np	2	*5	4
None of the above(a)	**3	3	np	4	*2	4
<i>Total(b)</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Salt added after cooking</i>						
Never/rarely	42	67	47	58	36	56
Sometimes	40	19	19	23	21	21
Usually	*17	14	34	19	43	23
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

For footnotes see end of table.

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<i>Dietary behaviours</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>					
	35-44		45-54		55 and over	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Usual daily serves of vegetables</i>						
Doesn't eat vegetables	16	23	*10	19	17	15
1 serve or less	50	48	47	48	47	48
2-3 serves	28	24	36	27	33	31
4-5 serves	*6	5	np	6	np	6
6 serves or more	—	—	np	1	np	—
<i>Total</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Usual daily serves of fruit</i>						
Doesn't eat fruit	49	44	46	40	50	33
1 serve or less	25	40	23	42	37	51
2-3 serves	11	7	17	9	*6	10
4-5 serves	**1	2	**2	2	**1	2
6 serves or more	14	7	*12	6	*6	3
<i>Total</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Usual type of milk</i>						
Whole	67	50	61	39	49	40
Low/reduced fat	16	30	23	34	28	33
Skim	*9	12	*8	15	*7	16
Soy	*3	4	**2	5	np	5
None of the above(a)	*5	5	*7	6	*13	6
<i>Total(b)</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Salt added after cooking</i>						
Never/rarely	40	55	31	54	37	51
Sometimes	14	20	*14	18	22	17
Usually	46	26	55	27	41	31
<i>Total</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) Includes 'evaporated or sweetened condensed milk'.

(b) Includes 'usual type of milk consumed' not known.

<i>Immunisation status</i>			<i>Indigenous</i>		<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	
	<i>Remote areas(a)</i>	<i>Non-remote areas(a)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Had vaccination for influenza in last 12 months	75	45	51		47	
Had vaccination for influenza but not in last 12 months	**6	11	10		11	
Never had vaccination for influenza	*16	43	37		41	
<i>Total persons aged 50 years and over(b)</i>	100	100	100		100	
Had vaccination for pneumonia in last 5 years	48	19	25		14	
Had vaccination for pneumonia but not in last 5 years	np	*4	*3		1	
Never had vaccination for pneumonia	38	75	67		84	
<i>Total persons aged 50 years and over(c)</i>	100	100	100		100	

(a) See Glossary for definitions.

(b) Includes 'whether had influenza vaccination in the 12 months prior to interview' and 'whether had influenza vaccination' not known.

(c) Includes 'whether had pneumonia vaccination in the 5 years prior to interview' and 'whether had pneumonia vaccination' not known.



<i>Immunisation status</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>
	%	%
Diphtheria, Tetanus		
Fully immunised	66	78
Partially immunised	20	14
Not immunised	*2	2
<i>Total(a)</i>	100	100
Whooping cough		
Fully immunised	60	73
Partially immunised	26	19
Not immunised	*2	2
<i>Total(a)</i>	100	100
Hepatitis B(b)		
Fully immunised	12	12
Partially immunised	*2	2
Not immunised	np	*1
<i>Total(a)(c)</i>	100	100
Polio		
Fully immunised	71	84
Partially immunised	14	8
Not immunised	*2	2
<i>Total(a)</i>	100	100
HIB		
Fully immunised	46	73
Partially immunised	14	10
Not immunised	16	7
<i>Total(a)</i>	100	100
Measles, Mumps, Rubella		
Fully immunised	78	87
Partially immunised	7	7
Not immunised	7	4
<i>Total(a)</i>	100	100
<b>Total children aged under 7 years ('000)</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1 686</b>

(a) Includes 'immunisation status' not known.

(b) Introduced in the recommended immunisation schedule in May 2000. Therefore, data only apply to children under 18 months of age.

(c) Includes 'immunisation status' not applicable.

	1995		2001	
	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>
<i>Breastfeeding status</i>	%	%	%	%
Child has been breastfed				
For less than 1 month	**11	13	15	11
For 1 to less than 6 months	*18	25	25	24
For 6 to less than 12 months	*15	21	12	19
For 12 months or more	14	13	12	16
<i>Total(b)</i>	59	72	64	71
Child currently being breastfed	16	14	13	16
Child has never been breastfed	25	14	23	12
<b>Total children aged under 4 years(c)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total children aged under 4 years ('000)</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>962</b>

(a) Indigenous data for 1995 are only available for non-remote areas. As a result, non-Indigenous and time series comparisons are made on this basis.

(b) Includes 'length of time child has been breastfed' not known.

(c) Includes 'child breastfeeding status' not known.

			Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	Remote areas(a)	Non-remote areas(a)	Total	Total
Women's health characteristics	%	%	%	%
<b>Mammograms(b)</b>				
Has regular mammograms				
At least annually(c)	na	*17	na	13
More than 1, up to 2 years(c)	na	27	na	31
More than 2 years apart(c)	na	np	na	1
Total(d)	*36	45	43	46
Does not have regular mammograms(e)	*12	20	18	18
Never had a mammogram	41	20	25	25
Total(f)	100	100	100	100
<b>Pap smear test(g)</b>				
Has regular pap smear test				
At least annually(c)	na	22	na	21
More than 1, up to 2 years(c)	na	24	na	32
More than 2 years apart(c)	na	*1	na	1
Total(h)	56	48	50	55
Does not have regular pap smear tests(e)	15	31	27	24
Never had a pap smear test	19	8	11	12
Total(f)	100	100	100	100
<b>Hysterectomy(c)(g)</b>				
Age had hysterectomy				
Less than 30 years	na	*2	na	1
30–39 years	na	*6	na	4
40–49 years	na	*6	na	5
50 years and over	na	*3	na	3
Total(i)	na	17	na	13
Has not had hysterectomy	na	71	na	77
Total(f)	na	100	na	100
<b>Breastfeeding history(j)</b>				
Children breastfed	77	59	63	53
Children not breastfed	*4	12	11	9
Has not had children	13	15	14	29
Total(f)	100	100	100	100

(a) See Glossary for definitions.

(b) Women aged 40 years and over.

(c) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(d) Includes 'frequency of regular mammograms' not known.

(e) Includes those women who have only ever had one mammogram or pap smear test.

(f) Includes not known responses.

(g) Women aged 18 years and over.

(h) Includes 'frequency of regular pap smear tests' not known.

(i) Includes 'age had hysterectomy' not known.

(j) Women aged 18–64 years.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents selected summary information about the health of Indigenous Australians from the 2001 National Health Survey (NHS). Estimates for the non-Indigenous population from the 2001 NHS are included for comparison purposes. While the publication has a focus on results for 2001, it also includes data from the 1995 NHS to allow comparisons over time to be made. Some data are presented separately for remote and non-remote areas at a national level. However, State and Territory estimates for Indigenous Australians are not available due to the limited sample size for Indigenous Australians. Results from the NHS for the total Australian population are published in *National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2001* (cat. no. 4364.0).

### SCOPE

**2** A total of 3,198 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children from across Australia were included in a supplementary Indigenous sample to the 2001 NHS which was conducted throughout Australia from June to November 2001. In addition, 483 Indigenous Australians were enumerated in the 2001 NHS sample of 26,863 people. The Indigenous results included in this publication are based on the total sample (known as the NHS(I)) of 3,681 Indigenous Australians comprising 1,853 adults and 1,828 children. The NHS(I) included respondents from both remote and non-remote areas of Australia.

**3** The NHS sample covered usual residents of private dwellings only. Usual residents of 'special' dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels and hospitals were not included in the survey.

The following groups of people were also excluded from the survey:

- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census and estimated resident population figures
- persons whose usual place of residence was outside Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia
- visitors to private dwellings.

**4** Non-Indigenous people were not eligible for selection in the supplementary Indigenous sample unless they were the parent or guardian of an Indigenous child and acted as spokesperson for the child (see below for further details).

### SAMPLE DESIGN

**5** The NHS(I) was designed to produce reliable estimates at the national level for persons in scope of the survey. The sample design was based on a broad dissection of Australia into non-sparsely settled and sparsely settled areas (see Glossary for definitions). The samples for non-sparsely settled areas and sparsely settled areas were designed separately with each involving a multistage sampling process. The 2001 NHS was designed to cover only non-sparsely settled areas. Therefore the Indigenous supplement provided both additional selections in these areas as well as the total Indigenous sample in sparsely settled areas.

SAMPLE DESIGN *continued*

**6** Dwellings in non-sparsely settled areas were selected using a stratified multistage area sample. A number of Census collection districts (CDs) were randomly selected based on the number of dwellings containing Indigenous persons in the area as at the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. A random selection of dwellings within selected CDs were then screened to assess their usual residents' Indigenous status. Where a dwelling contained one or more Indigenous usual residents aged 18 years or more, one Indigenous adult (18 years of age or more) and up to two Indigenous children (0–17 years of age) were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

**7** In sparsely settled areas, the sample was obtained from a random selection of discrete Indigenous communities and outstations across Australia using information collected in the 1999 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS). Within selected communities and outstations a random selection of dwellings was made. Within selected dwellings, one Indigenous adult (18 years of age or more) and up to one Indigenous child (0–17 years of age) were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

**8** For the non-sparsely settled area component of the supplementary survey, approximately 91% of households identified with in-scope Indigenous residents responded to the survey. This response rate does not take into account the 6.5% of households in the screened component of the sample that were unable to be contacted to establish the Indigenous status of the occupants. For the sparsely settled area component, approximately 87% of in-scope households responded to the survey.

DATA COLLECTION

**9** Data collection was undertaken by ABS interviewers. Persons aged 18 years or more were interviewed personally, with the exception of persons who were too sick or otherwise unable to respond personally. Persons aged 15–17 years were interviewed with the consent of a parent or guardian; otherwise a parent or guardian was interviewed on their behalf. For persons aged less than 15 years, information was obtained from a person responsible for the child.

**10** There were, however, a number of differences in the data collection methods in sparse and non-sparse areas. In non-sparsely settled areas, adult females were invited to complete a small additional questionnaire covering specific supplementary women's health topics. This additional questionnaire was voluntary and self-enumerated. Of the women invited to complete the supplementary questionnaire in non-sparsely settled areas, 91% responded.

DATA COLLECTION *continued*

**11** In sparsely settled areas, standard household survey approaches were modified to take account of language and cultural issues. In addition, interviewers worked in teams of two, one male and one female, to collect the survey information. Male interviewers collected personal information from male respondents, and female interviewers collected personal information from female respondents. The interviewers were accompanied, wherever possible, by local Indigenous facilitators, preferably one male and one female, who assisted in the conduct and completion of the interviews. The Indigenous facilitators explained the purpose of the survey to respondents, introduced the interviewers, assisted in identifying the usual residents of a household and in locating residents who were not at home, and assisted respondent understanding of the questions where necessary.

**12** In addition, the survey content in sparsely settled areas was limited to those topics for which data of acceptable quality could be collected. Some questions were reworded to assist respondents in understanding the concepts. Of the supplementary women's health topics that were collected with a self enumerated questionnaire in non-sparsely settled areas, in sparsely settled areas a subset was collected through personal interview with adult female respondents who were informed of the potential sensitivity and voluntary nature of these additional questions.

SURVEY CONTENT

**13** The NHS Indigenous supplementary sample was designed to obtain data on a wide range of health issues and to enable comparisons between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

The survey collected information about:

- health status, including long-term medical conditions and recent injuries
- use of health services such as consultations with health practitioners and visits to hospitals, and other health-related actions
- health-related lifestyle aspects, such as smoking, diet, exercise and alcohol consumption
- demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

**14** Specific topics included in the survey were:

- self-assessed health status
- long-term medical conditions (e.g. asthma, injuries, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular conditions, hearing and sight problems)
- admissions to hospitals
- visits to casualty/outpatient facilities
- visits to hospital day clinics
- doctor consultations
- dental consultations

SURVEY CONTENT *continued*

- consultations with other health professionals
- days away from work/school due to illness
- other days of reduced activity due to illness
- use of medications
- smoking
- alcohol consumption
- exercise
- body mass
- dietary behaviours
- adult immunisation
- child immunisation
- child breastfeeding status
- supplementary women's health issues (e.g. mammograms, pap smear tests, hysterectomy, breastfeeding history and use of contraceptives).

**15** The survey content for the Indigenous supplement to the NHS in non-sparsely settled areas is the same as the content included in the 2001 NHS, with the exception of mental health information which was not collected from the supplementary Indigenous sample. The Kessler Psychological Distress Scale 10 (K-10) module of questions used in the 2001 NHS was not considered to be culturally appropriate for the Indigenous population.

**16** The content for the Indigenous supplement to the NHS in sparsely settled areas is a subset (approximately 50%) of the content collected in non-sparsely settled areas. The sparsely settled content was confined to those items for which acceptable data quality levels could be achieved.

**17** For a full list of data items collected in non-sparsely settled and sparsely settled areas, refer to the *National Health Survey: Users Guide, 2001*, which is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**18** The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

**19** Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included.

Sampling error *continued* **20** In this publication, estimates with a relative standard error of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*3.4) to indicate that the estimate should be used with caution. Estimates with a relative standard error over 50% are indicated by a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*0.6) and should be considered unreliable for most purposes. For more information on sampling error and its impact on interpreting results in this publication refer to the Technical Notes.

Non-sampling error **21** Non-sampling error may occur in any data collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a Census. Sources of non-sampling error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording of answers by interviewers, and errors in coding and processing data.

**22** Non-response occurs when people cannot or will not cooperate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce a bias. The magnitude of any bias depends upon the rate of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those people who responded to the survey and those who did not.

**23** The following methods were adopted to reduce the level and impact of non-response:

- face-to-face interviews with respondents
- the use of Indigenous facilitators to assist with survey interviews
- follow-up of respondents if there was initially no response
- weighting to population benchmarks to reduce non-response bias.

For details about the steps taken to minimise other non-sampling error, see paragraph 9 of the Technical Notes.

**24** For more details about non-sampling error see paragraphs 25 to 35 of these Explanatory Notes.

## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

**25** Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

**26** Reported information on long-term medical conditions was not medically verified, and was not necessarily based on diagnosis by a medical practitioner. Conditions which have a considerable effect on well-being or lifestyle are expected to be better reported than those which have little effect. Some people may be unaware of minor conditions, and occasionally may have serious conditions which have not been diagnosed.



**27** There may be some instances of under-reporting as a consequence of respondents being unwilling to talk about a particular condition at an interview. Results of previous health surveys conducted by the ABS also suggest a tendency for respondents in the general population to under-report alcohol and tobacco consumption levels, underestimate their weight, and to over-estimate their height.

**28** Information in this publication is presented by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. Non-remote area estimates have been derived from data collected in non-sparsely settled areas by excluding a small component of non-sparse areas which are defined as remote in the ASGC Remoteness Structure. Similarly, estimates from remote areas have been derived from data collected in sparsely settled areas together with the small component of non-sparsely settled areas which are defined as remote.

**29** As the content collected in sparsely settled areas was a subset of that collected in non-sparsely settled areas, not all data items are available for the total Indigenous population. In addition, no 1995 NHS data are available for remote areas, restricting comparisons between Indigenous estimates for 1995 and 2001 to non-remote areas.

**30** In both 1995 and 2001, all children of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin living in households in non-sparsely settled areas had a random chance of selection in the main NHS. Similarly, all such Indigenous children had a chance of selection in the Indigenous supplement to the 1995 NHS, as selected households in non-sparsely settled areas identified to have at least one usual resident of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin were enumerated.

**31** However, in the 2001 Indigenous supplement to the NHS, selected households were screened to identify only those households where at least one adult (18 years or over) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin was usually resident. Therefore, Indigenous children living in households in non-remote areas where there was no Indigenous adult usually resident (up to one quarter of all Indigenous children in non-remote areas reside in such households) did not have a chance of selection in the supplement.

**32** Responses from the main sample and from the Indigenous supplement are weighted and then benchmarked to Indigenous population estimates (for age, sex, and area of usual residence) so that final survey estimates will be representative of the age and sex characteristics of the Indigenous population in different areas. However, it is possible that the health characteristics of Indigenous children living in households where there are no Indigenous adults may be different to those of Indigenous children of the same age and sex living in the same non-remote areas, but in households where Indigenous adults are resident. If such differences exist, it may mean that the survey results for Indigenous children under-represent these differences. However, in context of the relative standard errors for the estimates from the Indigenous component of the 2001 NHS, any differences due to such under-representation could in some cases affect the interpretation of results.

**33** In the 2004–05 Indigenous Health Survey, field procedures will be changed to provide for adequate representation of Indigenous children in households with no resident Indigenous adult.

**34** Other issues to be aware of when interpreting results from the NHS(I) include:

- Respondents were asked to refer to children's immunisation records and to medication packets/bottles when answering related questions. However, reference was not possible in all cases which may have reduced the reliability of the information reported.
- Different data items were collected for different timeframes, e.g. health-related actions taken in the 2 weeks prior to interview; whether a person was injured in the 4 weeks prior to interview; or whether a person was immunised in the 5 years prior to interview. The reliability and accuracy of data related to timeframes is dependent upon the respondent's ability to recall the timing of events.
- The reliability of data on fruit and vegetable intake may be affected by the respondent's understanding of what constitutes a usual serving size.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS *continued*

**35** Many results presented in this publication have been adjusted for differences in the age structure between the Indigenous, non-Indigenous and total Australian populations to take account of the younger age profile of the Indigenous population. This age-standardisation has been undertaken using the direct method (see Technical Notes). Data which have been tabulated according to broad age groupings have not been age-standardised and hence the rates apply to the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations without adjustments to account for the differing age structures. These rates, together with the total estimates presented in Appendix 1, can be used to calculate the actual population estimate for an item of interest. The ABS considers that comparisons of unadjusted rates within the broad age groups presented in this publication would be little different if standardised within the age ranges.

**36** Further information on the interpretation of results is contained in the *National Health Survey: Users Guide, 2001*, which is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

CLASSIFICATIONS

**37** Major classifications used for items shown in this publication are:

- The broad geographical regions defined as remote and non-remote are based on the ASGC Remoteness Structure. See Glossary for definitions of these areas.
- All reported long-term medical conditions were coded to a list of approximately 1,000 condition categories which were prepared for this survey. Information about medical conditions classified at this level of detail is not available for output from the survey. However, the detailed classification categories can be regrouped in various ways for output. The standard output developed by the ABS for this survey and which are included in this publication are:
  - A classification based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision (ICD-10). See Glossary for definitions of ICD-10 based output categories used in this publication.
  - A classification based on the International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision (ICD-9), which is similar to the classification of conditions used in the 1995 NHS, and has been retained to assist data users in comparing 2001 and 1995 results.

**38** Further information about these classifications is contained in the *National Health Survey: Users Guide, 2001*, which is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

COMPARABILITY WITH 1995 NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

**39** This publication contains selected results from the Indigenous component of the 1995 NHS. These results are limited to topics where a reasonable level of comparability between the 1995 and 2001 data is expected. While the 2001 NHS is similar to the 1995 survey in many ways, there are important differences in sample design and coverage, survey methodology and content, definitions, classifications, etc. which affect the degree to which data are directly comparable between the surveys.

**40** The main differences between the 1995 and 2001 collections, apart from the differences in field procedures discussed in paragraphs 30–32 above, which may affect the comparability of data presented in this publication are outlined below.

- Data relating to asthma, cancer and cardiovascular conditions were collected in detailed topic-specific question modules in 2001, whereas in 1995 the topics were covered in the context of general long-term conditions. There is expected to be a greater tendency among respondents to report conditions in response to the direct questions used in 2001 rather than in response to the more general questions used in 1995.
- Data relating to asthma, cancer, cardiovascular conditions and diabetes/high sugar levels were primarily collected in 2001 through questions which screened out conditions which had not been medically diagnosed. This was not the case in the 1995 survey. Although the data are therefore conceptually different between surveys, the nature of the conditions involved is such that most cases reported in the 1995 survey are expected to have been medically diagnosed and therefore effects on the comparability of data are expected to be relatively small.
- The coding systems and classifications used for long-term conditions and alcohol consumption differed between the surveys.
- Care should be taken in interpreting apparent changes over time in the prevalence of certain long-term conditions. Some movements between 1995 and 2001 estimates can, at least in part, be attributed to conceptual, methodological and/or classification differences. However, there are some instances where other factors may be contributing to the movements; for example changes in community awareness or attitudes to certain conditions, changes in common terminology for conditions, improvements in diagnosis, etc. The degree of change attributable to all these factors relative to actual change in the prevalence of conditions cannot be determined from information collected in this survey.
- The types of other health professionals (OHP) covered by the survey have expanded. Types introduced in the 2001 collection were Aboriginal health worker, accredited counsellor and alcohol and drug worker. As a result, data for OHP at the aggregate level are not directly comparable.
- Alcohol consumption was collected for a sub-sample of non-Indigenous adult respondents in 1995, but for all adults in 2001.

**41** Due to the small size of the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 NHS, the Indigenous results from these surveys are not available below the national level and have a larger associated sampling error than results from many other ABS surveys. For this reason, differences in reported rates for 1995 and 2001 may or may not be statistically significant. Significance testing has been undertaken on selected Indigenous and non-Indigenous comparisons (table 1) and time series data (table 2) presented in the publication to assist readers with understanding the level of significance that should be attributed to apparent differences in rates. For further information about significance testing, please see the Technical Notes section of this publication.

**42** Time series information for 1995 and 2001 presented in this publication is based on data for non-remote areas only due to concerns about the quality of remote area data collected in the 1995 survey. After an extensive investigation into Indigenous results from the 1995 collection, responses from people living in remote areas were excluded.

**43** For further information about comparability between the 1995 and 2001 NHS see *National Health Survey, Users Guide, 2001* which can be accessed on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### WEIGHTING

**1** Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

**2** The first step in calculating weights for the total sample of Indigenous persons in the NHS was to assign an initial weight. Initial weights were based on whether the respondent was selected in the main NHS or the supplementary Indigenous sample. A person's initial weight was calculated as the inverse of the probability of being selected in their respective sample. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the supplementary sample was 1 in 600, then the person would have an initial weight of 600 (i.e. they represent 600 others).

### BENCHMARKING

**3** The initial weights were calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks', in designated sex by age and area of usual residence categories. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks compensate for over- or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons and ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex and area of usual residence, rather than to the distribution within the sample itself.

**4** The 2001 NHS(I) was benchmarked to the estimated Indigenous population at 30 June 2001 based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

### ESTIMATION

**5** Survey estimates of counts of persons are obtained by summing the weights of persons with the characteristic of interest. Estimates of non-person counts (e.g. days away from work, millilitres of alcohol consumed) are obtained by multiplying the characteristic of interest with the weight of the reporting person and aggregating.

### STANDARDISATION

**6** Age standardisation techniques have been used in this publication to remove the effect of the differing age structures in the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations for 2001, and over time. The age structure of the Indigenous population is considerably younger than that of the non-Indigenous population, and age is strongly related to many health measures. Therefore, estimates of prevalence which do not take account of age may be misleading. The age standardised estimate of prevalence is that which would have prevailed should the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations have the standard age composition. In this publication, the standard population is the total Australian population at 30 June 2001 based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, adjusted for the scope of the survey.

**7** For this publication, the direct age standardisation method was used. The formula for direct standardisation is as follows:

$$C_{direct} = \sum_a (C_a \times P_{sa})$$

where  $C_{direct}$  = the age standardised estimate of prevalence for the population of interest,  $a$  = the age categories that have been used in the age standardisation,  $C_a$  = the estimate of prevalence for the population being standardised in age category  $a$ , and  $P_{sa}$  = the proportion of the standard population in age category  $a$ . The age categories used in the standardisation for this publication were 5 year age groups to age 44, 45–54, and 55+ years of age.

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

### Non-sampling error

**8** In addition to sampling error, survey estimates are subject to non-sampling errors. Sources of non-sampling error include:

- non-response, when people are unable or unwilling to provide the information being sought
- errors in reporting by respondents, e.g. answers were based on memory, or because of misunderstanding or unwillingness of respondents to reveal all details
- mistakes by interviewers when recording answers
- errors in the coding and processing of data.

**9** Every effort is made to keep non-sampling errors in ABS surveys to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, training of interviewers, asking respondents to refer to records where appropriate, and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

### Sampling error

**10** Since the survey estimates presented in this publication are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling error. Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if the entire population had been surveyed.

**11** One measure of the likely difference is given by the Standard Error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because a sample of the population was taken. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if the entire population had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs.

**12** Another measure of the likely difference is the Relative Standard Error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. A table of SEs and RSEs for estimates of numbers of persons has been included in these Technical Notes. These figures will not give a precise measure of the SE for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of its magnitude.



Sampling error *continued*

**13** As can be seen from the SE table, the smaller the estimate the higher the RSE. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs as to detract seriously from their value for most uses. In this publication, estimates with a RSE of 25%–50% are preceded by a single asterisk (e.g. \*2.7) to indicate the estimate is subject to high RSEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with a RSE over 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*4.2) to indicate they are subject to very high sampling error and should be considered too unreliable for most purposes.

**14** An example of the calculation and use of SEs follows. Table 3 shows the estimated proportion of Indigenous persons aged 45–54 years who reported having diseases of the respiratory system (35%). This percentage corresponds to an estimate of approximately 12,124 Indigenous persons (34,641 x 35%). Since this estimate is between 10,000 and 20,000, the SE for the estimate will be between 1,550 and 2,130 (taken from T3 on page 59). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced for Indigenous persons aged 45–54 years who reported having diseases of the respiratory system, if all Indigenous Australians had been included in the survey, would fall in the range 10,451 to 13,797 (i.e. 12,124 +/- 1,673), and about 19 chances in 20 that the value would fall within the range 8,778 to 15,470 (i.e. 12,124 +/- (1,673 x 2)).

#### STANDARD ERRORS OF RATES AND PERCENTAGES

Comparisons of estimates

**15** Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of number or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x–y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE (x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**16** While the above formula will be exact only for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics of subpopulations, it is expected that it will provide a reasonable approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

#### SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

**17** Significance testing has been undertaken for the comparison of estimates included in table 1 (between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations) and table 2 (between Indigenous estimates for 1995 and 2001). The statistical significance test for any of the comparisons between estimates was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in paragraph 15.



SIGNIFICANCE TESTING  
continued

**18** This standard error is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\frac{|x-y|}{SE(x-y)}$$

**19** If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96, then there are 19 chances in 20 that there is a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it can not be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations.

POPULATION TABLES

**20** The estimates in this publication are presented as proportions. However, the populations presented in the following tables can be used to calculate the estimates as numbers.

## T1

### POPULATION ESTIMATES BY AGE AND SEX, AUSTRALIA, 2001

	Age group (years)								
	0-4	5-14	Total aged 0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Total
INDIGENOUS									
Males	30 332	60 283	90 615	39 785	32 101	25 336	16 652	13 404	217 893
Females	29 458	56 420	85 878	40 237	36 395	28 436	17 989	16 167	225 102
<b>Persons</b>	<b>59 790</b>	<b>116 703</b>	<b>176 493</b>	<b>80 022</b>	<b>68 496</b>	<b>53 772</b>	<b>34 641</b>	<b>29 571</b>	<b>442 995</b>
NON-INDIGENOUS									
Males	630 473	1 316 420	1 946 893	1 274 603	1 359 541	1 419 292	1 287 476	1 903 579	9 191 384
Females	600 571	1 253 655	1 854 226	1 236 681	1 391 323	1 457 380	1 301 630	2 112 959	9 354 199
<b>Persons</b>	<b>1 231 044</b>	<b>2 570 075</b>	<b>3 801 119</b>	<b>2 511 284</b>	<b>2 750 865</b>	<b>2 876 671</b>	<b>2 589 106</b>	<b>4 016 538</b>	<b>18 545 583</b>
TOTAL(a)									
Males	654 164	1 369 906	2 024 070	1 305 884	1 378 787	1 436 047	1 297 328	192 790	9 364 906
Females	621 414	1 301 887	1 923 301	1 262 610	1 425 135	1 484 568	1 318 232	2 137 512	9 551 358
<b>Persons</b>	<b>1 275 578</b>	<b>2 671 793</b>	<b>3 947 371</b>	<b>2 568 495</b>	<b>2 803 921</b>	<b>2 920 615</b>	<b>2 615 560</b>	<b>4 060 302</b>	<b>18 916 264</b>

(a) Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimates will not add to totals due to different weighting strategies.

## T2

### POPULATION ESTIMATES, AUSTRALIA, 2001

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous	
	Remote areas(a)	Non-remote areas(a)	Total	Non-remote areas(a)	Total
Children aged under 7 years	24 590	60 981	85 571	1 686 048	1 719 220
Persons aged 5 years and over	104 750	278 455	383 205	17 025 191	17 314 539
Persons aged 5-64 years	102 594	271 585	374 178	14 801 386	15 060 387
Persons aged 12 years and over	79 308	217 537	296 845	15 247 386	15 506 552
Persons aged 15 years and over	69 416	197 086	266 502	14 495 235	14 744 464
Persons aged 18 years and over	62 486	177 845	240 331	13 744 559	13 984 642
Persons aged 50 years and over	10 219	37 878	48 097	5 193 401	5 282 094
Women aged 18-64 years	31 369	88 947	120 316	..	5 998 699
Women aged 18 years and over	32 702	92 179	124 880	..	7 238 328
Women aged 40 years and over	9 995	36 942	46 937	..	4 195 121
<b>All persons</b>	<b>121 678</b>	<b>321 317</b>	<b>442 995</b>	<b>18 231 208</b>	<b>18 545 583</b>

(a) See Glossary for definitions.

## STANDARD ERROR TABLES

**21** The following table should be used for Indigenous persons for all variables. Where Indigenous estimates from the 2001 collection have been age standardised, the standard errors are, on average, between 10% and 30% higher than the corresponding standard error of unstandardised estimates. Therefore, an adjustment factor of approximately 1.2 should be applied to the estimated RSE of 2001 Indigenous age standardised estimates. Where Indigenous estimates from the 1995 collection have been age standardised, the RSE factors presented in T4 should be applied to the estimated RSE of the Indigenous age standardised estimates. More precise estimates of the RSEs for all 2001 age standardised estimates included in this publication can be found on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

# T3

## STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR 1995 AND 2001 INDIGENOUS ESTIMATES

1995			2001		
Size of Estimate	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error	Size of Estimate	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error
	no.	%		no.	%
500	290	58.3	500	270	54.3
600	330	55.0	600	310	51.2
700	370	52.4	700	340	48.6
800	400	50.1	800	370	46.4
900	430	48.2	900	400	44.5
1 000	460	46.5	1 000	430	42.8
1 100	490	45.0	1 100	450	41.3
1 200	520	43.6	1 200	480	40.0
1 300	550	42.4	1 300	500	38.8
1 400	580	41.3	1 400	530	37.7
1 500	600	40.3	1 500	550	36.7
1 600	630	39.3	1 600	570	35.8
1 700	650	38.5	1 700	590	34.9
1 800	680	37.7	1 800	610	34.1
1 900	700	36.9	1 900	630	33.4
2 000	720	36.2	2 000	650	32.7
2 100	750	35.6	2 100	670	32.0
2 200	770	34.9	2 200	690	31.4
2 300	790	34.3	2 300	710	30.8
2 400	810	33.8	2 400	730	30.3
2 500	830	33.3	2 500	740	29.8
3 000	930	31.0	3 000	830	27.5
3 500	1 020	29.1	3 500	900	25.7
4 000	1 100	27.6	4 000	970	24.2
4 500	1 180	26.3	4 500	1 030	22.9
5 000	1 260	25.2	5 000	1 090	21.8
6 000	1 400	23.3	6 000	1 200	20.0
7 000	1 530	21.8	7 000	1 300	18.6
8 000	1 650	20.6	8 000	1 390	17.4
9 000	1 760	19.6	9 000	1 470	16.4
10 000	1 870	18.7	10 000	1 550	15.5
20 000	2 700	13.5	20 000	2 130	10.7
30 000	3 320	11.1	30 000	2 540	8.5
40 000	3 830	9.6	40 000	2 850	7.1
50 000	4 270	8.5	50 000	3 110	6.2
100 000	5 870	5.9	100 000	3 980	4.0
200 000	7 910	4.0	200 000	4 940	2.5
300 000	9 320	3.1	300 000	5 520	1.8
400 000	10 430	2.6	400 000	5 940	1.5

# T4

## STANDARD ERROR FACTORS FOR AGE STANDARDISED 1995 INDIGENOUS ESTIMATES

Population	Factor
All persons	1.261
All persons aged 5 years and over	1.233
All persons aged 15 years and over	1.189
All persons aged 18 years and over	1.181

STANDARD ERROR TABLES  
continued

**22** The following table should be used for non-Indigenous persons for all variables except alcohol consumption (where T6 should be used). Although all 1995 estimates have been age standardised, the RSE factors for the non-Indigenous population are very close to 1 since this population is very similar in age structure to the standard population. As a result, no RSE factors for the non-Indigenous population have been provided in this publication. However, the RSE factors for 1995 non-Indigenous age standardised estimates can be found on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

## T5

### STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR 1995 AND 2001 NON-INDIGENOUS ESTIMATES

1995			2001		
Size of Estimate	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error	Size of Estimate	Standard Error	Relative Standard Error
	no.	%		no.	%
500	230	46.1	500	468	93.7
1 000	350	35.1	1 000	750	75.0
1 500	450	29.8	1 500	978	65.2
2 000	530	26.5	2 000	1 174	58.7
2 500	600	24.1	2 500	1 350	54.0
3 000	670	22.3	3 000	1 512	50.4
3 500	730	20.9	3 500	1 659	47.4
4 000	790	19.8	4 000	1 800	45.0
4 500	850	18.8	4 500	1 930	42.9
5 000	900	17.9	5 000	2 055	41.1
6 000	990	16.6	6 000	2 286	38.1
8 000	1 170	14.6	8 000	2 696	33.7
10 000	1 320	13.2	10 000	3 060	30.6
20 000	1 920	9.6	20 000	4 440	22.2
30 000	2 380	7.9	30 000	5 490	18.3
40 000	2 770	6.9	40 000	6 320	15.8
50 000	3 100	6.2	50 000	7 050	14.1
100 000	4 400	4.4	100 000	9 700	9.7
200 000	6 190	3.1	200 000	13 200	6.6
300 000	7 510	2.5	300 000	15 600	5.2
400 000	8 600	2.1	400 000	17 600	4.4
500 000	9 540	1.9	500 000	19 000	3.8
1 000 000	13 070	1.3	1 000 000	24 000	2.4
2 000 000	17 720	0.9	2 000 000	30 000	1.5
5 000 000	26 070	0.5	5 000 000	40 000	0.8
10 000 000	34 480	0.3	10 000 000	50 000	0.5
20 000 000	45 150	0.2	20 000 000	60 000	0.3

**23** For the 1995 non-Indigenous population, a different set of SEs exists for the tables relating to alcohol consumption. This is because the questions on alcohol consumption were only administered to half the non-Indigenous sample and weightings were calculated differently as a result.

**T6**STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR 1995  
NON-INDIGENOUS ESTIMATES OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

<i>Size of Estimate</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>Relative Standard Error</i>
	<i>no.</i>	<i>%</i>
100	470	472.1
200	640	320.6
300	770	255.1
400	870	216.7
500	950	190.9
600	1 030	172.0
700	1 100	157.5
800	1 170	145.8
900	1 230	136.3
1 000	1 280	128.3
1 100	1 340	121.4
1 200	1 390	115.4
1 300	1 430	110.2
1 400	1 480	105.6
1 500	1 520	101.4
1 600	1 560	97.7
1 700	1 600	94.3
1 800	1 640	91.2
1 900	1 680	88.4
2 000	1 720	85.8
2 100	1 750	83.4
2 200	1 790	81.2
2 300	1 820	79.1
2 400	1 850	77.1
2 500	1 880	75.3
3 000	2 030	67.7
3 500	2 160	61.8
4 000	2 290	57.1
4 500	2 400	53.3
5 000	2 500	50.1
6 000	2 700	44.9
8 000	3 030	37.9
10 000	3 320	33.2
20 000	4 370	21.8
30 000	5 120	17.1
40 000	5 730	14.3
50 000	6 250	12.5
100 000	8 150	8.2
200 000	10 590	5.3
300 000	12 310	4.1
400 000	13 680	3.4
500 000	14 850	3.0
1 000 000	19 080	1.9
2 000 000	24 400	1.2
5 000 000	33 550	0.7
10 000 000	42 470	0.4
20 000 000	53 520	0.3

## APPENDIX 1

## POPULATION ESTIMATES

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PERSONS: SUMMARY HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS, AUSTRALIA, 1995 AND 2001(a)

<i>Health characteristic</i>	1995		2001	
	<i>Non-remote areas(a)</i>	<i>Remote areas(b)</i>	<i>Non-remote areas(b)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Self-assessed health status(c)				
Excellent/very good	68 788	24 283	83 578	107 861
Good	47 309	29 726	58 207	87 933
Fair/poor	42 224	15 145	55 301	70 445
Selected long-term conditions(d)(e)				
Neoplasms/cancer	1 950	**442	*3 024	*3 466
Diabetes	11 917	8 792	14 355	23 147
Eye/sight problems	74 818	23 864	105 338	129 202
Ear/hearing problems	24 690	19 293	45 367	64 660
Circulatory problems/diseases	39 324	14 928	31 649	46 577
Asthma	52 084	13 470	59 461	72 931
Back problems	na	14 275	53 163	67 438
No long-term condition	93 102	50 578	97 779	148 357
Health-related actions(f)				
Admitted to hospital(g)	na	24 397	58 735	83 132
Visited casualty/outpatients	17 579	10 490	15 581	26 071
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	57 164	23 625	72 949	96 574
Dental consultation	9 187	8 917	15 725	24 642
Consultation with other health professional	26 848	28 909	43 368	72 277
Day(s) away from work/study(h)	28 918	13 473	31 799	45 272
Risk behaviour/characteristics				
Current daily smokers(i)	71 507	35 686	86 061	121 747
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption(i)	20 588	10 381	20 611	30 991
Sedentary/low level exercise(c)(j)	110 554	na	133 174	na
Overweight/obese BMI(c)	60 973	29 566	90 114	119 680
Low usual daily fruit intake(b)(j)(k)	na	na	122 239	na
Low usual daily vegetable intake(b)(j)(k)	na	na	39 490	na

(a) Indigenous data for 1995 are only available for non-remote areas. As a result, non-Indigenous and time series comparisons are made on this basis.

(b) See Glossary for definitions.

(c) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(d) For 1995 data, ICD-9 based output classification (see Explanatory Notes and Glossary for further details).

(e) For 2001 data, ICD-10 based output classification (see Explanatory Notes and Glossary for further details).

(f) Hospital admissions relate to 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to the interview.

(g) Hospital admissions collected for different recall periods in 1995 (2 weeks) and 2001 (12 months). While 1995 data are available for a two week period, they are not presented here as comparisons with 2001 data are not meaningful.

(h) Persons aged 5–64 years.

(i) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(j) Data collected for non-remote areas only.

(k) Persons aged 12 years and over.

## APPENDIX 2

## SURVEY OUTPUT AND DISSEMINATION

**1** This appendix describes the range of data available from the Indigenous component of the 2001 National Health Survey. The program of publications and other releases and the prices quoted in this section are subject to change. For further information or requests for data, contact Client Services in the ABS Darwin office on: 1800 633 216.

### SUPPORTING MATERIAL

**2** It is not feasible in a summary publication like this to include data on all topics, nor is it feasible to include any data analysis beyond very basic indicators in the summary of findings. However, the *National Health Survey: Users Guide, 2001*, has been compiled to assist clients in analysing the 2001 NHS. It contains a complete listing of the data items collected in the survey, definitional material and sample copies of the questionnaires used for the Indigenous supplement to the 2001 NHS. The guide is available free of charge on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

### SPECIAL DATA SERVICES

**3** Tables can be produced incorporating data items and populations as requested by clients. However, as the level of detail or disaggregation increases, the number of contributors to data cells decreases. This may result in some requested information not being able to be released due to confidentiality or sampling variability constraints. Given the relatively small sample size of the 2001 NHS Indigenous component (NHS(I)), the geographic breakdown of the Indigenous information is limited. Data are not available for states or territories.

**4** Tables can be made available electronically or in printed form. All special tabulations attract a service charge in addition to charges arising from the table production. Clients will be provided with a quote before information is supplied. See paragraph 1 for contact details.

### STATISTICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

**5** The ABS offers a specialist consultancy service to assist clients with more complex statistical information needs. Clients may wish to have the unit record data analysed according to their own needs. This consultancy attracts a service charge. For further information, contact the Statistical Consultancy Service on 1300 135 070.

### INTERNET RELEASES

**6** Selected text and tabular information from this summary publication are available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

### UNIT RECORD FILE

**7** Investigations are being undertaken into the feasibility of making access to unit record information available through the ABS data laboratory which is under development. Inquiries should be made on the contact number listed in paragraph 1.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**8** Other ABS publications which may be of interest are outlined below. Please note, older publications may no longer be available through ABS bookshops but are available through ABS libraries. All publications released from 1998 onwards are available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (charges apply).

*Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 4710.0

*National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2001*, cat. no. 4364.0

*The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2001*, cat. no. 4704.0

*Occasional Paper: Mortality of Indigenous Australians, 1997*,  
cat. no. 3315.0

*Occasional Paper: Population Issues, Indigenous Australians, 1996*,  
cat. no. 4708.0

*National Health Survey: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results, 1995*, cat. no. 4806.0

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings, 1994*, cat. no. 4190.0

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Health of Indigenous Australians, 1994*, cat. no. 4395.0

*Occasional Paper: Cigarette Smoking among Indigenous Australians, 1994-95*, cat. no. 4701.0

*Occasional Paper: Overweight and Obesity, Indigenous Australians, 1994*, cat. no. 4702.0

*Occasional Paper: Self-Assessed Health Status, Indigenous Australians, 1994*, cat. no. 4707.0

**9** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.



## GLOSSARY

**Actions taken** Refers to specific health-related action(s) respondents reported they had taken in the two weeks prior to interview, including:

- Discharge from a stay in hospital as an admitted patient
- Visits to casualty/emergency units at hospitals
- Visits to outpatients units at hospitals
- Visits to day clinics (collected in non-remote areas only)
- Consultation with general practitioner (GP) or specialist
- Dental consultation
- Consultations with other health professionals (OHP)
- Use of other pharmaceutical medications
- Days away from work or school (due to own illness or injury)
- Other days of reduced activity.

**Age standardisation** To allow for the comparison of populations with different age structures, estimates in this publication are age standardised to the age composition of the total estimated resident population of Australia as at 30 June 2001. The age standardised rate is that which would have prevailed if the studied population had the standard age composition. For more details, refer to the Explanatory Notes and Technical Notes of this publication.

**Alcohol risk level** These levels were derived from the average daily consumption of alcohol in the seven days prior to interview and are grouped into relative risk levels as defined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as follows:

### CONSUMPTION PER DAY

<i>Relative risk</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Low risk	50 ml or less	25 ml or less
Risky	More than 50, up to 75 ml	More than 25, up to 50 ml
High risk	More than 75 ml	More than 50 ml

It should be noted that risk level as defined by the NHMRC is based on regular consumption levels of alcohol, whereas indicators derived in the National Health Survey (NHS) do not take into account whether consumption in the reference week was more, less or the same as usual, or whether consumption was regular.

**ASGC Remoteness Structure** The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure has five categories based on an aggregation of geographical areas which share common characteristics of remoteness, determined in the context of Australia as a whole. The delimitation criteria for these categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the National Key Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA). ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. These five categories were aggregated into two groups — Remote and Non-remote — for the purposes of the Indigenous component of the National Health Survey (NHS). For more information on the ASGC, see *Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001* (cat. no. 1216.0).

**Back problems** Includes back pain, disc disorders and curvature of the spine.

**Body Mass Index (BMI)** Calculated from reported height and weight by dividing weight (kg) by the square of the height (m). This publication presents BMI in groups which are consistent with recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) (1985) and those of the World Health Organisation (WHO) (1995).

BODY MASS INDEX (NHMRC)

Underweight	Less than 20
Acceptable	20 to less than 25
Overweight	25 to less than 30
Obese	30 and greater

BODY MASS INDEX (WHO)

Underweight	Less than 18.5
Acceptable	18.5 to less than 25
Overweight	25 to less than 30
Obese	30 and greater

**Breastfeeding status** Refers to past or current breastfeeding status of children aged 0–3 years, including duration of breastfeeding.

**Cancer** See Neoplasms.

**Cardiovascular conditions** See Circulatory problems/diseases.

**Circulatory problems/diseases** Covers all diseases and related problems of the circulatory system. Includes specific conditions such as hypertension, angina, tachycardia, oedema, haemorrhoids, varicose veins and cardiac murmurs.

**Conditions** See Type of conditions.

**Days away from work or study** Refers to days in the two weeks prior to the interview on which the respondent was away from work, school or other educational institution (as appropriate) for at least half the day. Absences include days away due to the respondent's own illness or injury. Employed persons away from both work and school/study have been included under days away from work only. Data were collected from respondents aged 5–64 years.

**Diabetes** Includes diabetes mellitus (types 1 and 2), gestational and unknown.

**Diet** See 'Usual daily serves of fruit' and 'Usual daily serves of vegetables'.

**Ear/hearing problems** Covers all diseases of the ear and mastoid. Includes specific conditions such as deafness (total and partial), otitis media and Meniere's disease.

**Exercise level** Derived from the frequency, intensity and duration of exercise (for recreation, sport or fitness) in the two weeks prior to the interview. From these components, an exercise score was derived using factors to represent the intensity of the exercise. Scores were grouped into the following four categories:

EXERCISE LEVEL

Sedentary	Less than 100 (includes no exercise)
Low	100 to less than 1600
Moderate	1600–3200, or more than 3200 but less than 2 hours of vigorous exercise
High	More than 3200 and 2 hours or more of vigorous exercise

**Eye/sight problems** Covers all diseases of the eye and adnexa. Includes specific conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, astigmatism, presbyopia (vision impairment due to ageing), myopia (short-sightedness), hyperopia (long-sightedness), blindness (total or partial) and other loss of vision.

**Hearing problems** See Ear/hearing problems.

**Hypertension** An arterial disease of which the elevation of blood pressure is the outstanding sign.

**ICD-9** International Classification of Diseases: 9th revision (ICD-9). In this publication, all long-term medical conditions for time series analysis (1995 and 2001) are coded to a classification developed by the ABS based on the ICD-9.

**ICD-10** International Classification of Diseases: 10th revision (ICD-10). In this publication, all long-term medical conditions presented in tables without a time series component are coded to a classification developed by the ABS for 2001 based on the ICD-10.

**Immunisation status** The degree to which the recommended course of vaccinations for a particular disease has been received (as appropriate to the age of the individual). The NHMRC Standard Childhood Vaccination Schedules were used to derive immunisation status of children. Immunisation status, which can refer to status against individual vaccines or diseases (e.g. pertussis/whooping cough, tetanus) and to status relative to the whole schedule, is categorised as:

- Fully immunised
- Partially immunised
- Not immunised
- Not known if fully or partially immunised and
- Not known if immunised.

**Indigenous** Refers to people who identified themselves, or were identified by another household member, as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin in response to the following question:

Is anyone who usually lives here of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

(For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.)

- No
- Yes, Aboriginal
- Yes, Torres Strait Islander

**Injury** An event that was an accident, harmful incident, exposure to harmful factors or other incident which resulted in an injury. The injury must have occurred in the four weeks prior to the survey and have resulted in one or more of the following actions being taken:

- consulting a health professional
- seeking medical advice
- receiving medical treatment
- other treatment of injury or
- reduced usual activities.

**Long-term condition** A medical condition (illness, injury or disability) which has lasted at least six months, or which the respondent expects to last for six months or more. Some conditions reported were assumed to be long-term, including asthma, cancer, diabetes mellitus types 1 and 2, rheumatic heart disease, heart attack and stroke.

<b>Neoplasms</b>	The International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) cannot easily distinguish Cancer from other Neoplasms and these are combined in output tables in this publication. Includes both malignant neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain nature. Diseases coded under this classification include skin cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer and other cancers.
<b>Non-remote</b>	See Remote.
<b>Other health professionals (OHP)</b>	Includes consultation, for own health reasons, in the two weeks prior to interview with one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aboriginal health worker</li> <li>▪ Accredited counsellor</li> <li>▪ Acupuncturist</li> <li>▪ Alcohol and drug worker</li> <li>▪ Audiologist/audiometrist</li> <li>▪ Chemist</li> <li>▪ Chiropodist/podiatrist</li> <li>▪ Chiropractor</li> <li>▪ Dietitian/nutritionist</li> <li>▪ Herbalist</li> <li>▪ Hypnotherapist</li> <li>▪ Naturopath</li> <li>▪ Nurse</li> <li>▪ Occupational therapist</li> <li>▪ Optician/optometrist</li> <li>▪ Osteopath</li> <li>▪ Physiotherapist/hydrotherapist</li> <li>▪ Psychologist</li> <li>▪ Social worker/welfare officer</li> <li>▪ Speech therapist/pathologist.</li> </ul>
<b>Pharmaceutical medications</b>	Any medication used in the two weeks prior to interview for asthma, cancer, heart and circulatory conditions or diabetes. Does not include medications identified by respondents as vitamins or minerals, or natural or herbal medications.
<b>Remote</b>	The term 'Remote' is used in this publication to indicate those respondents living in areas that lie within either the 'Very Remote Australia' or 'Remote Australia' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. Non-Remote areas are those that lie within the 'Major Cities of Australia', the 'Inner Regional Australia' and the 'Outer Regional Australia' categories.
<b>Risky/high risk alcohol consumption</b>	Is a combination of Moderate (or 'Risky') and High alcohol risk levels. See Alcohol risk level.

<b>Self-assessed health status</b>	Refers to the respondent's general assessment of their own health against a five status point scale from excellent through to poor.
<b>Sight problems</b>	See Eye/sight problems.
<b>Smoker status</b>	<p>Refers to the smoking status of adults at the time of the interview, and refers to regular smoking of tobacco, including manufactured (packet) cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes, cigars and pipes, but excludes chewing tobacco and smoking of non-tobacco products. Categorised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current regular (daily) smoker</li> <li>▪ Current smoker not regular</li> <li>▪ Ex-regular smoker</li> <li>▪ Never smoked regularly.</li> </ul> <p>'Regular smoking' was defined as one or more cigarettes (or pipes or cigars) per day on average as reported by the respondent.</p>
<b>Sparsely settled areas</b>	Refers to Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in which the dwelling density for the SLA as a whole was less than 0.057 dwellings per square kilometre.
<b>Type of conditions</b>	<p>All reported recent and long-term medical conditions and other reasons for health-related actions were coded to a list of 134 selected conditions/reasons for action developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This classification was based on the 10th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), but was modified to take account of the fact that information obtained is 'as reported' by respondents. Special codes were created for some non-illness reasons for action (e.g. check-up, preventive measures) and for some frequently reported conditions which could not be readily coded to ICD categories because insufficient detail was provided (e.g. back problems, virus infection). A complete 2001 National Health Survey condition code list with approximate ICD code equivalent can be found in <i>National Health Survey: Users Guide, 2001</i> available on the ABS web site &lt;<a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">http://www.abs.gov.au</a>&gt;.</p>
<b>Usual daily serves of fruit</b>	Refers to the number of serves of fruit (excluding drinks and beverages) usually consumed each day, as reported by the respondent. A serve is approximately 150 grams of fresh fruit or 50 grams of dried fruit. Low usual daily fruit intake is defined as eating one serve or less per day, which includes not eating fruit at all. Data were collected from respondents aged 12 years and over.
<b>Usual daily serves of vegetables</b>	Refers to the number of serves of vegetables (excluding drinks and beverages) usually consumed each day, as reported by the respondent. A serve is approximately half a cup of cooked vegetables or one cup of salad vegetables — equivalent to approximately 75 grams. Low usual daily vegetable intake is defined as eating one serve or less per day, which includes not eating vegetables at all. Data were collected from respondents aged 12 years and over.



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