



1995

New  
Issue

4806.0

NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RESULTS

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 27 JAN 1999

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics on Darwin 08 8943 2190, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

## NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents selected data on the health of the Indigenous population of Australia, excluding those living in remote areas, derived from the 1995 National Health Survey (NHS). Equivalent data for the non-Indigenous population of Australia are also presented for comparison of results. More extensive analysis of Indigenous data from the survey is planned and is expected to be published in *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 1999* (Cat. no. 4704.0), which is due for release in June 1999.

Information contained in this publication is as reported by respondents and hence may differ from that which would be obtained from other sources. Reported information on medical conditions was not medically verified, and was not necessarily based on diagnosis by a medical practitioner.

### ABOUT THE SURVEY

The NHS was conducted during the 12-month period from February 1995 to January 1996. Approximately 54,000 people from all States and Territories and across all age groups provided information about their health and related topics.

The survey was designed to obtain benchmark information on a wide range of health issues, and to enable trends in health to be monitored over time. Objectives of the survey were to provide indicators of:

- the health status of the Australian population;
- use of health services; and
- other health-related behaviours (e.g. risk behaviours).

The Explanatory Notes provide a brief description of the survey, its concepts, definitions, methodology and procedures. More comprehensive information about the survey is provided in *National Health Survey: Users' Guide, 1995* (Cat. no. 4363.0) and *1995 National Health Survey Data Reference Package*.

W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

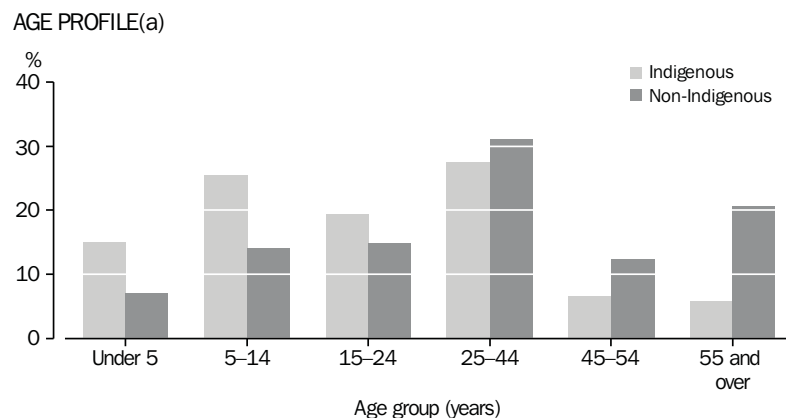
### INTRODUCTION

This publication presents selected data about the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians from the 1995 National Health Survey (NHS). Topics include measures of health status, health related actions taken, and lifestyle factors which may influence health.

Due to concerns about the quality of data collected for Indigenous people living in remote areas, results for all people (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) from remote areas have been excluded from this publication. (For more details, see the Explanatory Notes, Summary of Data Quality Investigations, and Glossary.) In addition, people who were inpatients in hospitals, or living in nursing homes or other institutions were not included in the survey. Thus the results reported here describe the health of non-institutionalised Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians living in predominantly urban and more densely populated rural areas.

Throughout this publication, data are presented separately for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to allow for comparison. Because the Indigenous population is considerably younger than the non-Indigenous population, and because health-related variables may differ according to sex, results for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are presented separately by age group and sex wherever possible. Data for people aged 55 years or more have been grouped together because there were too few older Indigenous respondents to allow for further age divisions.

The following graph displays the relative age profiles for the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. The corresponding population estimates can be found in the Appendix.



(a) of NHS survey respondents excluding those living in remote areas, 1995.

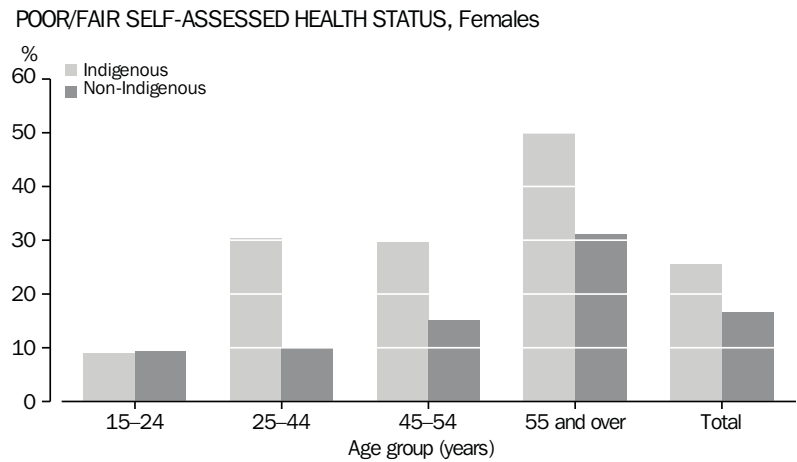
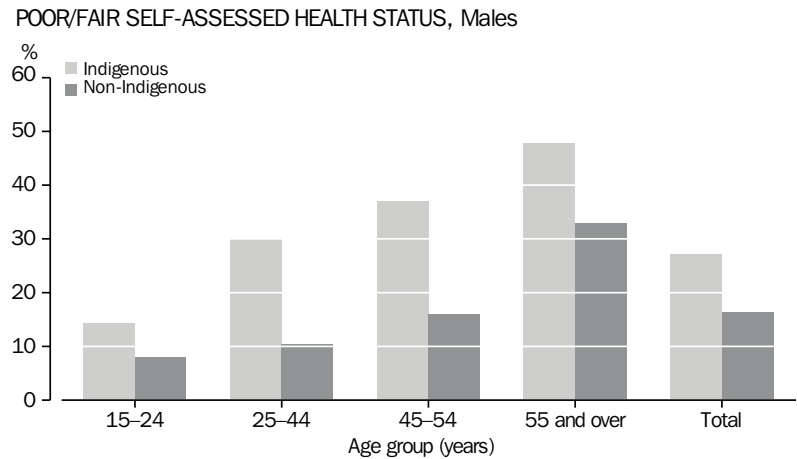
Although it is recognised that there is considerable diversity within the Indigenous population, separate estimates for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders could not be presented due to the small numbers of Torres Strait Islanders surveyed.

It should be noted that the results presented here are all based on information as reported by survey participants; they may not agree exactly with information collected in other ways, or from other sources, such as medical records. No attempt has been made in this publication to compare results from the NHS with results from other data sources.

HEALTH STATUS

**Self-assessed health status** The majority (73%) of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over reported their health to be 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' at the time of the survey, with the rest reporting their health as 'fair' or 'poor' (table 1). By comparison, 83% of non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over reported their health status as 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent'.

As can be seen in the graphs below, Indigenous males and females were more likely to report fair or poor health than their non-Indigenous counterparts in almost every age group. Reporting of fair or poor health increased with age among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, but the increase began earlier and was more pronounced among Indigenous people. After adjusting for age, Indigenous people were about twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to report poor or fair health.



Self-assessed health status  
*continued*

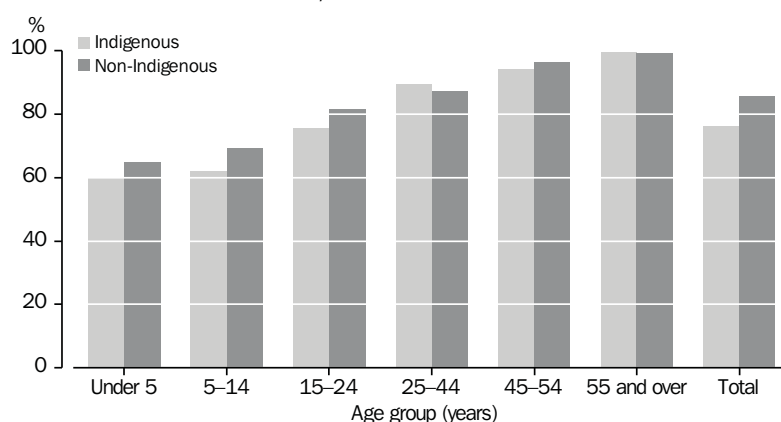
It should be noted that self-assessed health status may be affected by factors such as awareness of and expectations about health, access to health care and health information, and perceptions of one's own health relative to that of others in a person's community.

Reported recent and/or  
long-term conditions

Information on recent illnesses and long-term conditions was collected using different types of questions, and the distinction between the two may be somewhat artificial, partly due to the self-reported nature of the data. For example, some people reported typically chronic conditions, such as diabetes, as recent illnesses but did not report them as long-term conditions. Others reported coughs or sore throats as long-term conditions but not as recent illnesses. For most purposes, combining recent and long-term conditions will provide the most useful information, and the commentary in this publication is based on combined data. However, separate tables for recent illnesses and long-term conditions have also been included because these figures may be more appropriate indicators for some purposes.

The majority of Indigenous and non-Indigenous males and females in every age group reported at least one recent or long-term condition (table 2). In total, only 24% of Indigenous people and 14% of non-Indigenous people did not report any recent or long-term conditions.

PERSONS REPORTING A RECENT/LONG-TERM CONDITION



The proportion of people reporting conditions increased with age, from about 60–65% of children less than five years old to over 99% of people aged 55 or more. After adjusting for age, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people were similar in the proportion reporting conditions.

Type of condition    The most commonly reported types of conditions for Indigenous people were diseases of the respiratory system (reported by 37% overall) and diseases of the nervous system (34%) (table 5). These same two categories of diseases were also the most commonly reported overall for non-Indigenous people.

The proportion of people reporting respiratory diseases did not vary much with age for either Indigenous or non-Indigenous people, ranging from 31% to 41% across age groups (table 5). This category includes such conditions as asthma, sinusitis, hayfever, the common cold, bronchitis, emphysema and influenza. In contrast, diseases of the nervous system (primarily eye/vision problems and ear/hearing problems) increased markedly with age, from 12% of Indigenous children under five years, to 92% of those aged 55 years or over.

A large proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people reporting diseases of the nervous system cited eye/vision problems, the reporting of which ranged from under 4% in the youngest age group to over 90% in the oldest age group (table 5). Non-Indigenous people were more likely than Indigenous people to report eye problems in every age group except the youngest. The majority of eye problems reported were disorders of refraction and accommodation, such as far-sightedness, near-sightedness and astigmatism.

Ear/hearing problems were reported by between 5% and 29% of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, depending on age (table 5). The highest reporting was in the oldest age group, with partial or complete deafness being the most common problem. In the youngest age group, by contrast, otitis media (a type of ear infection) was responsible for the majority of ear/hearing problems. The differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people varied according to age group.

Among specific conditions, asthma was the most commonly reported condition for Indigenous children aged less than five years (17%) and 5–14 years (23%), and among young adults aged 15–24 years (20%) (table 5). Although not the most common condition in older age groups, it was still reported by 16–17% of Indigenous adults. Asthma was more commonly reported for Indigenous people than for non-Indigenous people in every age group.

Reporting of diabetes was 7–8 times higher among Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people among those aged 25–44 and 45–55 years, and more than twice as high among those 55 years or more (table 5). Diabetes was reported by 7% of Indigenous adults aged 25–44 years, 24% of those aged 45–54 and 17% of those 55 and over.

Hypertension was also reported by significant proportions of Indigenous adults, rising from 12% of those aged 25–44 years to 33% of those aged 45–54 years and 32% of those 55 years and over (table 5). Among non-Indigenous adults in the same age groups, hypertension was reported by 4%, 14% and 36%, respectively.

Type of condition *continued*

Arthritis was one of the most common conditions among those aged 55 or more, reported by 40% of Indigenous people and 45% of non-Indigenous people (table 5). About 8% of Indigenous people aged 25–44 years and 17% of those aged 45–54 years reported they had some form of arthritis.

Conditions reported to be the result of an accident or incident

Overall, the proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people reporting conditions as the result of an accident, incident or exposure to a harmful factor were very similar (about 16% in each group), but there were differences by age and sex (table 6). Males were generally more likely than females, and adults more likely than children, to report a condition resulting from an accident, incident or harmful exposure.

## HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS

Some 64% of Indigenous people and 76% of non-Indigenous people reported taking at least one health-related action in the two weeks prior to interview (table 7). Reports of health-related actions were more common among non-Indigenous people in all age groups for females and in many age groups for males. Indigenous and non-Indigenous males were less likely overall to report taking an action than their female counterparts.

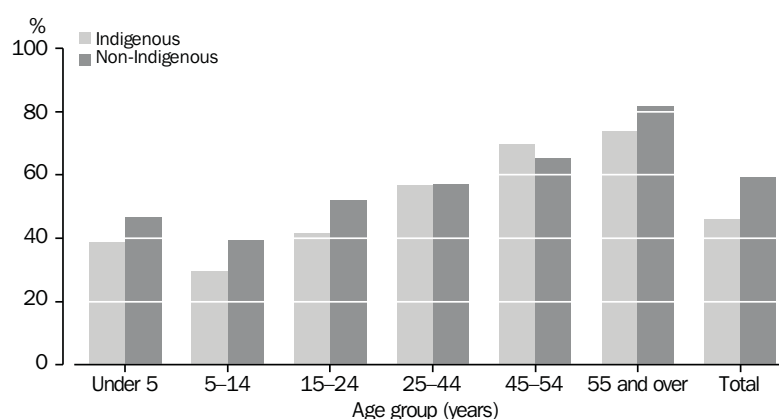
Type of action

The use of medication was the most common type of health-related action taken in the two weeks prior to interview by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons (table 7). Consultation with a doctor and the use of vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications were the second or third most common types of action among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. These three types of health-related actions were relatively common across all age groups and for both males and females.

Medication use

About 46% of Indigenous people and 59% of non-Indigenous people reported using medications in the two weeks prior to interview, although much of the difference was eliminated after accounting for age.

PERSONS REPORTING USE OF MEDICATION



Medication use *continued* Pain relievers were the most commonly used type of medication, reported by 16% of Indigenous people and 24% of non-Indigenous people overall (table 10). Although type of medication varied by age group, pain relievers were the first or second most commonly reported medication in every age group for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. For the Indigenous population as a whole, asthma medication ranked second (10%), followed by medication for coughs/colds (6%) and skin ointments (6%).

Use of medication for heart problems/blood pressure was reported by a lower proportion of Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people overall (6% and 11% respectively), but this difference is almost completely accounted for by the higher proportion of older people in the non-Indigenous population. Within every age group except the oldest one (55 years or more), Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to report using medication for heart problems/blood pressure. Almost one in three Indigenous people aged 45–54 years reported taking such medications, compared with one in eight non-Indigenous people. In the same age group, 15% of Indigenous people and 2% of non-Indigenous people reported taking medication for diabetes.

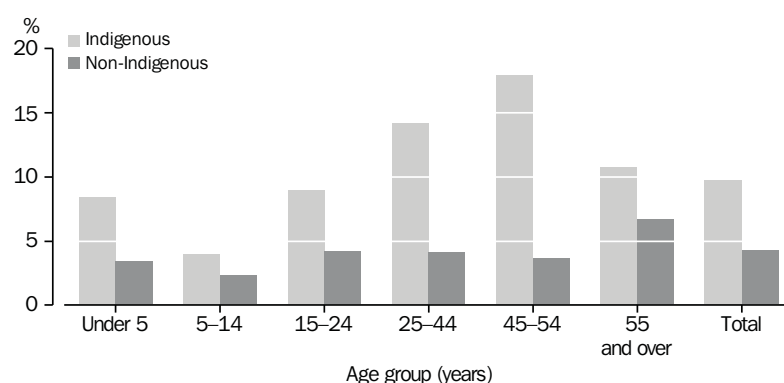
The use of vitamins, minerals, natural and herbal medicines was less commonly reported by Indigenous people than non-Indigenous people both overall and in every age group (table 7).

Doctor consultations and hospital visits Although Indigenous people overall were slightly less likely than non-Indigenous people to report consulting a doctor in the last two weeks, this was not true in every age group (table 7). Some 15% of Indigenous people reported visiting a doctor once and 5% reported visiting a doctor more than once in the two weeks prior to interview (table 8).

Indigenous people were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to report having contact with a hospital (including a hospital inpatient episode, a visit to a casualty, emergency or outpatients department and/or a visit to a hospital day clinic) in the past two weeks because of their health (table 7). The difference was present in every age group but was most pronounced among those aged 25–54 years.



PERSONS REPORTING RECENT HOSPITAL VISITS(a)



(a) Includes inpatient, casualty, emergency, outpatients and/or day clinic.

Different people may choose, or have access to, different service providers when they require treatment, and it can be useful to look at the combination of doctor consultations with hospital-based care. Indigenous males were more likely than non-Indigenous males to report recent doctor and/or hospital visits from about age 25 years (table 7). Among females, the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people were most marked among those less than 5 years and among those aged 25–44 years, with Indigenous females more likely to report such visits. About a third of Indigenous adults aged 25–54 years reported either a doctor consultation or hospital-based care, compared with less than a quarter of non-Indigenous people in the same age group.

#### Dental consultations

Indigenous people were less likely, both overall and in every age group, to report a visit to the dentist in the two weeks prior to interview (table 9). Dental consultations within the two years leading up to the interview were reported by similar proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children aged 5–14 years (83% and 87%, respectively), but large differences were apparent among adults. Indigenous adults were more likely than non-Indigenous adults to report that their last dental consultation was more than two years ago, or that they had never visited a dentist.

#### Days away from school or work

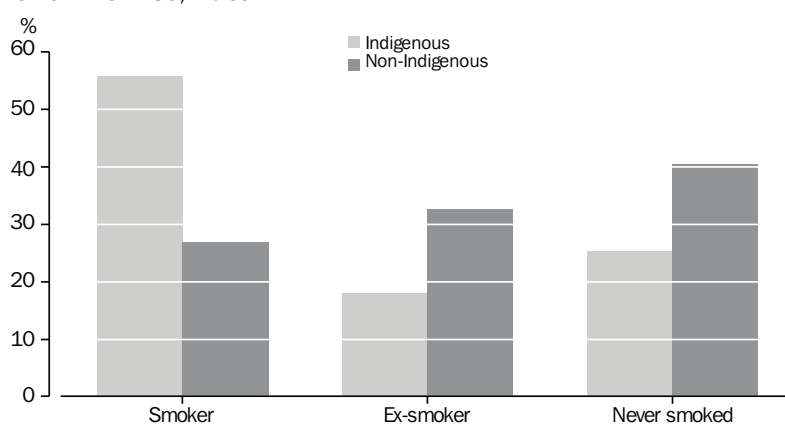
Indigenous people overall were slightly more likely than non-Indigenous people to report having days off school or work in the last two weeks due to their health (table 7), but the difference was largely confined to males aged 15–44 years.

Among employed persons aged 15–64 years, Indigenous people were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to report having one or more days off work due to illness or injury in the two weeks prior to interview (20% compared with 9%) (table 11). The majority of these absences were reported as being due to respiratory diseases (including influenza and colds), injury, musculoskeletal diseases (including back problems) or digestive diseases.

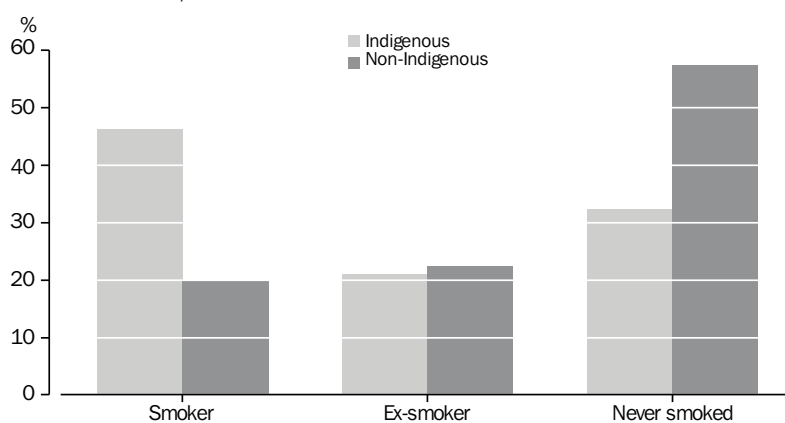
## LIFESTYLE FACTORS

**Smoking** Among adults aged 18 years and over, just over half (51%) of Indigenous people reported they were current smokers, compared with 23% of non-Indigenous adults (table 12). Smoking was reported by 56% of Indigenous males, 46% of Indigenous females, 27% of non-Indigenous males and 20% of non-Indigenous females. The differences are not explained by age. Smoking was more commonly reported by Indigenous adults than non-Indigenous adults in every age group for both males and females. As the graphs below show, Indigenous males and females were less likely than their non-Indigenous counterparts to report that they had never smoked.

SMOKER STATUS, Males



SMOKER STATUS, Females

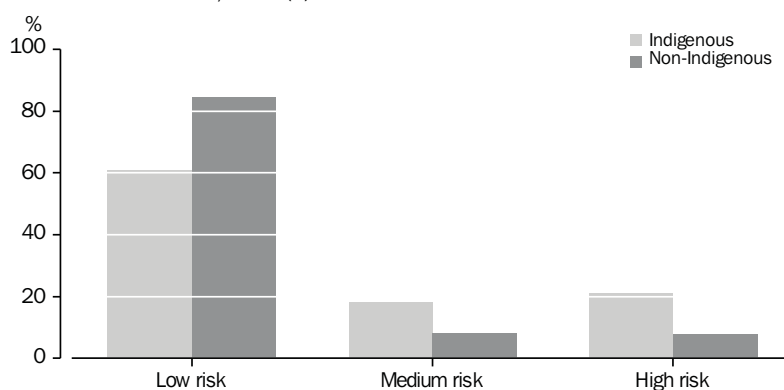


**Alcohol use** Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were less likely than non-Indigenous adults to report consuming alcohol in the week prior to interview (table 13). Recent alcohol consumption was reported by 59% of Indigenous males, 40% of Indigenous females, 66% of non-Indigenous males and 46% of non-Indigenous females. The differences were more pronounced in older age groups.

## Alcohol use *continued*

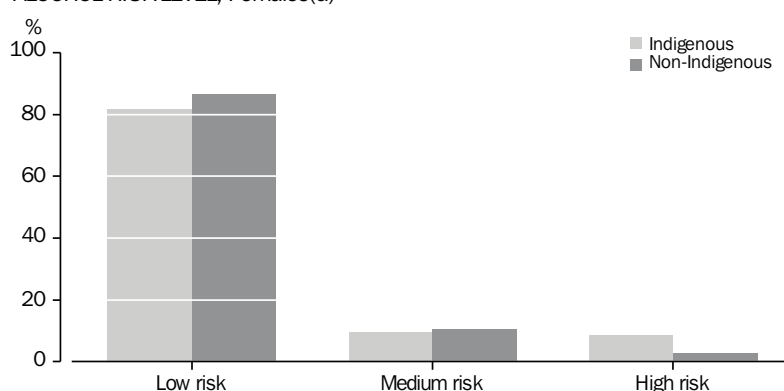
Among those who reported any recent alcohol use, 21% of Indigenous males were classified as being at a high level of risk with respect to alcohol use (based on their reported consumption levels) compared with 8% of non-Indigenous males. High risk drinking was less common among females, with 9% of Indigenous and 3% of non-Indigenous female recent drinkers in the high risk category.

ALCOHOL RISK LEVEL, Males(a)



(a) Those who consumed alcohol in the last week.

ALCOHOL RISK LEVEL, Females(a)



(a) Those who consumed alcohol in the last week.

## Physical activity

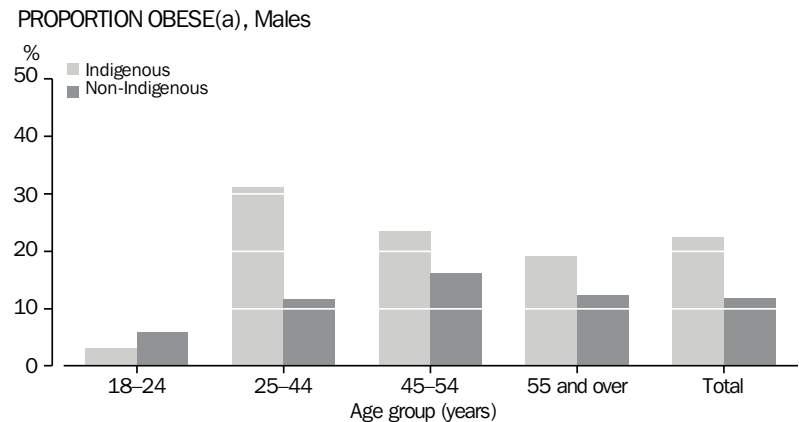
Among adults aged 18 years or more, Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to report taking no exercise for sport, recreation or fitness in the two weeks prior to interview (40% compared to 34%) (table 14). Indigenous females were more likely to report no exercise than their non-Indigenous counterparts in every age group. Among males, however, this was the case only for the 18–44 year olds.

## Body mass index

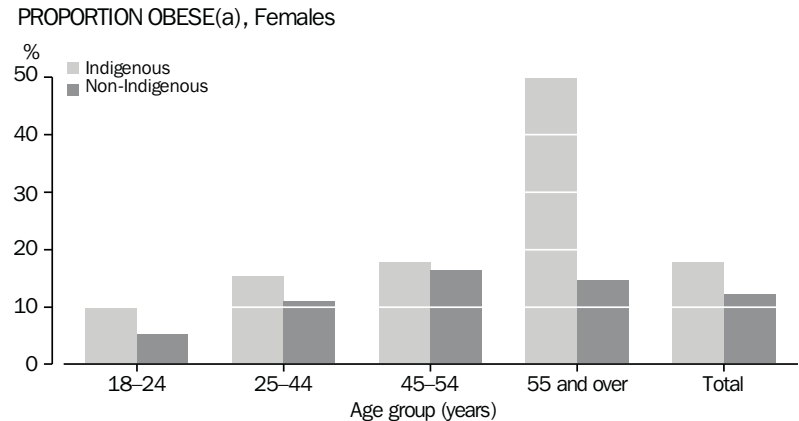
Based on self-reported measurements of height and weight, Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were about twice as likely to be categorised as obese as non-Indigenous people (table 15). Among those who provided enough information to allow their body mass index to be estimated, 22% of Indigenous males and 18% of Indigenous females could be categorised as obese, compared with 12% each for non-Indigenous males and females.

Body mass index *continued*

Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous people to be classified as obese in all age groups among females and in all except the youngest age group among males.



(a) Total excludes those with body mass index not stated/not known.



(a) Total excludes those with body mass index not stated/not known.

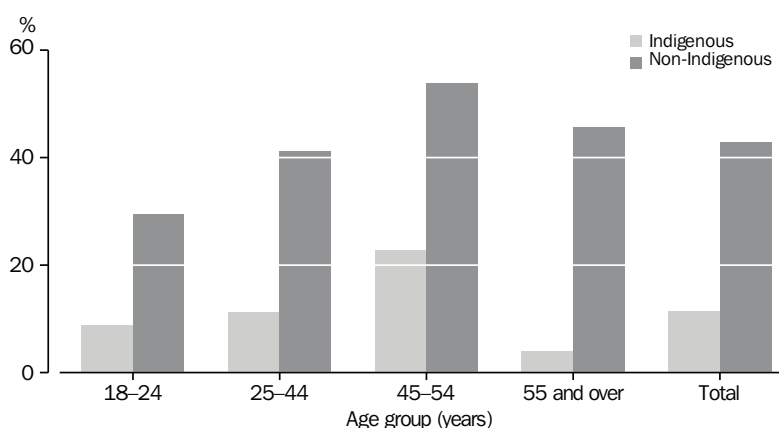
It should be noted that body mass index based on self-reported height and weight may underestimate actual body mass index (see, for example, *How Australians Measure Up, 1995* (Cat no. 4359.0)). In addition, Indigenous people were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to be missing the information needed to estimate body mass index. Both of these factors could have affected the results.

Sun protection measures

Indigenous people were only slightly less likely than non-Indigenous people to report taking measures to protect themselves from the sun in the month prior to interview (77% compared with 83%) (table 16).

Sun protection measures <i>continued</i>	The measures used varied by age and sex, but for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people overall, the most common form of sun protection employed was the use of a hat, which was reported by about 58% of people in both groups. Sunglasses, protective clothing and sunscreens were also relatively commonly used among both groups, reported by about a third to a half of people. About 15% of Indigenous people and 23% of non-Indigenous people said they had avoided the sun, and another 3% in each group said they had not been exposed to the sun in the previous month.
Breastfeeding	About 75% of Indigenous children aged less than four years were reported to have been breastfed, compared with about 86% of non-Indigenous children (table 17). Among those aged six months or more who had been breastfed, 60% of Indigenous children and 53% of non-Indigenous children had been breastfed for 24 weeks or more.
Type of health cover	Overall, non-Indigenous adults aged 18 years or more were nearly four times as likely to report having private health insurance as Indigenous adults (43% compared with 11%) (table 18). The highest level of private health insurance was reported by people aged 45–54 years.

PERSONS REPORTING PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE



Indigenous people were almost twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to report having some type of government health care card, such as a Pensioner Concession Card, Department of Veterans' Affairs Treatment Entitlement Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, Health Care Card or Health Benefits Card (table 18). Possession of a government health care card was reported by the majority of Indigenous people in all but the 45–54 year age group (47%). Almost nine out of ten Indigenous people aged 55 years or more reported they had a health care card of some kind. By contrast, the proportion of non-Indigenous people reporting a health care card only exceeded 30% in the oldest age group.

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# 1

## SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS(a)

	Age group (years)									
	15-24		25-44		45-54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very good/excellent	62.4	68.1	42.6	61.7	*21.6	53.7	*25.7	35.9	45.4	55.3
Good	20.7	23.8	27.1	28.0	*41.6	30.3	*26.5	31.1	26.5	28.3
Fair	*14.2	7.4	25.8	8.5	*24.6	12.1	*22.7	22.7	21.5	12.3
Poor	**0.0	0.7	*4.3	1.9	*12.3	3.9	*25.1	10.3	*5.7	4.0
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	29.5	1 332.4	40.0	2 728.5	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	87.4	6 845.8
FEMALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very good/excellent	43.5	61.9	40.4	63.2	*45.9	56.5	*20.9	38.0	40.0	55.0
Good	46.6	28.6	29.1	26.6	*22.6	28.3	*29.0	30.8	33.9	28.4
Fair	*6.8	8.3	26.5	8.4	*14.7	12.0	*35.7	22.3	19.9	12.8
Poor	**2.3	1.2	*4.0	1.8	*15.0	3.3	*14.4	8.9	5.7	3.9
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	30.3	1 281.4	45.0	2 732.5	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	95.8	7 037.9
PERSONS										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very good/excellent	52.9	65.1	41.5	62.4	34.1	55.1	*23.0	37.0	42.6	55.1
Good	33.8	26.1	28.2	27.3	31.8	29.3	*27.9	30.9	30.4	28.3
Fair	10.5	7.8	26.2	8.4	*19.5	12.0	29.9	22.5	20.7	12.6
Poor	**1.1	0.9	*4.2	1.8	*13.7	3.6	*19.2	9.6	5.7	4.0
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>183.2</b>	<b>13 883.7</b>

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Percentages may not add to 100% due to a small proportion of persons who did not answer the question.

## 2

## REPORTED RECENT AND/OR LONG-TERM CONDITIONS

	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5–14		15–24		25–44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No recent or long-term condition	38.3	33.6	41.9	30.9	33.9	22.4	*12.2	15.5
Recent condition only	23.2	32.5	*12.3	18.7	*16.3	16.5	*10.6	10.4
Long-term condition only	*8.9	7.5	18.5	15.8	18.2	19.5	22.2	21.7
Both recent and long-term condition	29.6	26.4	27.2	34.6	31.6	41.6	55.0	52.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	23.8	635.8	40.3	1 273.2	29.5	1 332.4	40.0	2 728.5
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No recent or long-term condition	42.0	36.7	34.3	30.6	*14.9	14.1	*9.3	10.4
Recent condition only	32.8	36.8	13.9	20.0	*15.2	15.0	*8.4	11.2
Long-term condition only	*5.9	5.9	19.2	13.6	20.0	16.8	17.4	16.5
Both recent and long-term condition	*19.4	20.6	32.6	35.7	49.9	54.1	64.9	61.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	22.7	603.2	38.8	1 210.6	30.3	1 281.4	45.0	2 732.5
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No recent or long-term condition	40.1	35.1	38.2	30.8	24.3	18.3	10.6	12.9
Recent condition only	27.9	34.6	13.1	19.3	15.7	15.8	9.4	10.8
Long-term condition only	*7.4	6.7	18.9	14.7	19.1	18.1	19.7	19.1
Both recent and long-term condition	24.6	23.6	29.9	35.2	40.9	47.7	60.2	57.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>



	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No recent or long-term condition	n.p.	5.0	n.p.	0.9	27.1	16.0
Recent condition only	n.p.	1.6	n.p.	*0.3	13.1	11.1
Long-term condition only	*8.5	26.6	*19.7	15.6	17.4	18.9
Both recent and long-term condition	89.7	66.8	76.5	83.3	42.5	54.0
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	151.4	8 754.7
FEMALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No recent or long-term condition	n.p.	2.3	**0.0	0.6	20.8	12.4
Recent condition only	**0.0	1.5	n.p.	*0.2	13.5	11.1
Long-term condition only	*20.0	16.8	*12.8	10.0	16.6	14.0
Both recent and long-term condition	69.1	79.3	87.1	89.2	49.2	62.5
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	157.3	8 851.7
PERSONS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No recent or long-term condition	n.p.	3.7	n.p.	0.7	23.9	14.2
Recent condition only	n.p.	1.6	n.p.	0.2	13.3	11.1
Long-term condition only	*14.4	21.8	*15.9	12.6	17.0	16.5
Both recent and long-term condition	79.1	73.0	82.4	86.5	45.9	58.3
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>17 606.4</b>

### 3

#### TYPE OF RECENT CONDITION(a)

	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5-14		15-24		25-44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	n.p.	0.7	*1.5	0.6	*3.7	2.1	16.0	7.4
Mental disorders	n.p.	1.3	*2.4	4.3	*3.2	3.7	9.8	5.8
Diseases of the nervous system	*9.6	8.7	8.4	12.9	19.8	25.5	32.7	34.6
Diseases of the circulatory system	n.p.	0.8	*2.3	0.8	*7.1	3.9	20.2	13.4
Diseases of the respiratory system	28.0	31.0	25.1	31.0	30.5	34.2	34.9	32.9
Diseases of the digestive system	*9.9	13.2	*5.2	8.2	9.3	8.6	13.8	11.8
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	n.p.	1.1	*1.4	1.7	*4.3	4.5	*5.4	5.9
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*9.9	10.2	*3.2	7.0	*4.4	12.2	6.7	9.4
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	n.p.	1.4	*3.8	3.5	15.7	11.9	24.0	20.6
Injuries and poisoning	**1.7	5.2	*5.3	6.6	9.2	8.9	6.3	6.2
Other(b)	15.3	15.6	17.3	20.0	28.2	28.7	28.9	33.8
Total persons who reported a recent condition	52.5	58.2	42.9	54.5	56.6	63.5	69.7	67.9
Total persons who did not report a recent condition	47.5	41.8	57.1	45.5	43.4	36.5	30.3	32.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) Persons may have reported more than one type of recent condition and therefore components do not add to the totals shown.

(b) Includes infectious and parasitic diseases, neoplasms, diseases of blood and blood-forming organs, conditions relating to pregnancy and childbirth, congenital anomalies, certain perinatal conditions, ill-defined conditions and disabilities not elsewhere classified.

### 3

#### TYPE OF RECENT CONDITION(a)—continued

	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	35.3	20.2	39.7	30.3	10.3	11.5
Mental disorders	*7.1	6.5	*7.4	7.2	5.5	5.3
Diseases of the nervous system	68.0	66.8	77.3	84.1	25.4	42.6
Diseases of the circulatory system	40.3	27.0	50.5	55.6	13.1	19.7
Diseases of the respiratory system	32.7	32.0	36.2	33.0	30.4	32.6
Diseases of the digestive system	*14.3	17.0	*22.5	25.8	10.7	14.4
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	*10.2	10.4	*6.6	9.9	3.9	6.1
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*10.6	8.6	*8.9	9.3	6.2	9.4
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	25.8	33.3	50.1	53.3	15.3	23.9
Injuries and poisoning	**3.0	5.0	*5.2	5.5	5.6	6.3
Other(b)	27.0	31.6	*27.9	30.3	23.6	28.8
Total persons who reported a recent condition	79.8	74.5	83.6	86.7	59.2	69.4
Total persons who did not report a recent condition	*20.2	25.5	*16.4	13.3	40.8	30.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>17 606.4</b>

(a) Persons may have reported more than one type of recent condition and therefore components do not add to the totals shown.

(b) Includes infectious and parasitic diseases, neoplasms, diseases of blood and blood-forming organs, conditions relating to pregnancy and childbirth, congenital anomalies, certain perinatal conditions, ill-defined conditions and disabilities not elsewhere classified.

	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5–14		15–24		25–44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	n.p.	0.9	*1.8	0.6	*4.2	2.2	18.0	8.3
Mental disorders	n.p.	1.5	*5.1	5.2	*2.6	4.2	11.6	6.0
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	*8.6	7.0	15.6	17.4	28.6	34.5	41.0	45.2
Diseases of the circulatory system	n.p.	0.9	*2.4	1.1	*8.0	4.8	23.1	16.1
Diseases of the respiratory system	19.8	18.9	31.3	31.4	35.1	37.2	38.3	36.3
Diseases of the digestive system	*4.4	5.1	*2.7	5.3	*7.9	7.0	14.3	11.5
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	n.p.	0.8	*1.4	1.6	*4.0	4.2	7.0	5.9
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*7.3	6.8	*3.5	6.2	*4.4	10.2	6.4	9.0
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	n.p.	1.2	*4.3	3.2	13.2	13.0	27.9	23.1
Injuries and poisoning	**1.3	2.4	*3.7	4.0	*7.3	6.6	*4.4	5.3
Other(b)	*10.2	10.3	15.5	16.8	24.5	25.3	28.3	31.2
Total persons who reported a long-term condition	32.0	30.3	48.7	49.9	60.0	65.9	79.9	76.3
Total persons who did not report a long-term condition	68.0	69.7	51.3	50.1	40.0	34.1	20.1	23.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) Persons may have reported more than one type of long-term condition and therefore components do not add to the totals shown.

(b) Includes infectious and parasitic diseases, neoplasms, diseases of blood and blood-forming organs, conditions relating to pregnancy and childbirth, congenital anomalies, certain perinatal conditions, ill-defined conditions and disabilities not elsewhere classified.

	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	35.3	21.9	41.3	31.3	11.1	12.2
Mental disorders	*7.1	6.7	*8.0	7.4	6.6	5.7
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	80.2	86.8	91.9	96.2	32.8	52.6
Diseases of the circulatory system	42.7	30.0	55.3	57.7	14.6	21.5
Diseases of the respiratory system	35.0	34.8	37.3	35.0	32.8	34.1
Diseases of the digestive system	*17.9	17.5	*24.8	26.7	9.4	13.4
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	*10.3	10.7	*7.0	10.2	4.3	6.2
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*10.6	8.8	*9.1	9.4	5.8	8.7
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	27.8	37.4	55.4	57.2	16.4	26.1
Injuries and poisoning	**3.0	4.9	*5.2	5.5	4.3	5.1
Other(b)	26.3	32.6	29.1	30.9	21.5	26.9
Total persons who reported a long-term condition	93.6	94.8	98.2	99.1	62.8	74.7
Total persons who did not report a long-term condition	*6.4	5.2	**1.8	0.9	37.2	25.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>17 606.4</b>

(a) Persons may have reported more than one type of long-term condition and therefore components do not add to the totals shown.

(b) Includes infectious and parasitic diseases, neoplasms, diseases of blood and blood-forming organs, conditions relating to pregnancy and childbirth, congenital anomalies, certain perinatal conditions, ill-defined conditions and disabilities not elsewhere classified.

## 5

## TYPE OF RECENT AND/OR LONG-TERM CONDITION(a)

Type of condition	Under 5		5-14		15-24		25-44	
	Non-Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Infectious and parasitic diseases	*5.2	3.2	*2.7	3.7	*2.4	4.1	*2.6	4.5
Neoplasms	**0.0	n.p.	**0.0	*0.2	n.p.	0.4	*2.3	1.2
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders								
Diabetes	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*0.1	*1.7	0.4	7.3	0.9
Total endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	**1.0	0.9	*1.8	0.6	*4.2	2.3	18.0	8.5
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs	n.p.	*0.4	*1.1	0.4	*2.8	2.1	*5.6	2.5
Mental disorders	n.p.	1.6	*5.3	5.4	*3.8	4.3	11.7	6.2
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs								
Disorders of the eye and adnexa	*3.6	3.2	7.2	14.4	25.1	32.5	34.4	40.9
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	*9.0	6.7	7.1	5.2	*4.9	4.7	15.1	8.9
Total diseases of the nervous system	11.6	9.7	15.8	18.3	28.6	35.3	42.0	45.7
Diseases of the circulatory system								
Hypertension	**0.0	n.p.	n.p.	*0.0	*2.4	1.2	12.0	4.4
Total diseases of the circulatory system	n.p.	1.0	*2.4	1.1	*8.0	4.8	23.3	16.2
Diseases of the respiratory system								
Asthma	16.8	10.2	23.4	19.2	20.0	14.8	16.8	9.0
Sinusitis	n.p.	1.2	*3.5	5.0	*5.1	9.5	11.8	13.3
Hayfever	n.p.	2.1	7.4	8.9	9.3	18.7	12.9	17.7
Total diseases of the respiratory system	31.3	34.2	34.9	38.0	38.7	41.1	40.8	38.5
Diseases of the digestive system	*9.9	13.5	*5.6	8.5	9.3	8.9	15.2	12.7
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	n.p.	1.2	*1.4	1.9	*5.7	4.8	7.5	6.3
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	..	..	**0.0	**0.0	n.p.	0.2	**0.5	0.7
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*10.6	11.1	*3.6	7.6	*4.4	12.9	6.7	10.0
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue								
Arthritis	**0.0	*0.1	**1.0	0.2	*1.5	2.1	7.5	8.2
Total diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	n.p.	1.5	*4.5	4.0	16.8	14.1	28.0	24.1
Congenital anomalies	n.p.	0.7	*1.9	0.5	n.p.	0.3	**0.0	0.4
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	*10.6	12.7	13.3	17.3	20.6	25.8	26.1	30.1
Injury and poisoning	**1.7	5.2	*5.5	6.7	9.2	9.0	6.3	6.3
Total persons reporting a recent or long-term condition(b)	59.9	64.9	61.8	69.2	75.7	81.7	89.4	87.1
Total persons not reporting a condition	40.1	35.1	38.2	30.8	24.3	18.3	10.6	12.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) Persons may have reported more than one type of recent and/or long-term condition and therefore components do not add to the totals shown.

(b) Includes disabilities not elsewhere classified.

Type of condition	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Infectious and parasitic diseases	n.p.	3.9	n.p.	2.4	3.0	3.7
Neoplasms	**0.0	2.8	n.p.	6.4	*0.8	2.1
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders						
Diabetes	*23.9	2.9	*17.3	7.3	5.1	2.2
Total endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	35.3	21.9	41.3	31.3	11.1	12.3
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs	**3.1	2.4	*5.4	2.9	3.0	2.0
Mental disorders	*7.1	6.8	*8.0	7.4	6.9	5.8
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs						
Disorders of the eye and adnexa	78.9	85.7	90.1	96.3	27.2	50.2
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	*13.6	15.7	28.7	28.5	10.9	12.5
Total diseases of the nervous system	80.2	86.8	91.9	96.2	33.5	53.3
Diseases of the circulatory system						
Hypertension	32.6	14.2	32.0	36.4	7.8	10.8
Total diseases of the circulatory system	42.7	30.0	55.3	57.8	14.6	21.6
Diseases of the respiratory system						
Asthma	*15.6	8.3	*15.8	8.4	19.0	11.2
Sinusitis	**2.9	13.6	*17.8	11.4	6.7	10.4
Hayfever	*12.1	14.7	*7.9	12.4	8.6	14.0
Total diseases of the respiratory system	35.0	35.1	37.3	35.0	36.9	37.4
Diseases of the digestive system	*17.9	17.8	*24.8	26.7	11.5	15.1
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	*10.3	10.8	*7.0	10.2	4.8	6.4
Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	**0.0	*0.0	**0.0	**0.0	*0.6	0.2
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	*10.6	9.0	*9.2	9.4	6.5	9.9
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue						
Arthritis	*17.1	21.7	40.2	45.2	6.1	14.9
Total diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	27.8	37.6	56.6	57.2	17.3	26.7
Congenital anomalies	**0.0	*0.1	**0.0	0.2	*0.9	0.4
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	*22.4	26.5	*24.3	21.7	19.1	24.2
Injury and poisoning	**3.0	5.1	*5.2	5.5	5.7	6.4
Total persons reporting a recent or long-term condition(b)	94.2	96.3	99.5	99.3	76.1	85.8
Total persons not reporting a condition	n.p.	3.7	n.p.	0.7	23.9	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>17 606.4</b>

(a) Persons may have reported more than one type of recent and/or long-term condition and therefore components do not add to the totals shown.

(b) Includes disabilities not elsewhere classified.

	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5-14		15-24		25-44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No conditions reported(a)	40.3	34.6	43.6	33.7	35.5	23.9	13.0	16.6
Reported a condition as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	*4.3	5.3	*7.0	9.6	*16.3	17.4	29.1	22.9
Reported a condition but not as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	55.4	60.1	49.4	56.7	48.2	58.7	57.9	60.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	23.8	635.8	40.3	1 273.2	29.5	1 332.4	40.0	2 728.5
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No conditions reported(a)	46.8	37.3	37.5	33.1	*15.2	14.3	*9.5	10.3
Reported a condition as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	n.p.	4.7	*8.9	8.1	*13.1	12.8	22.4	13.4
Reported a condition but not as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	49.4	58.0	53.6	58.8	71.6	73.0	68.0	76.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	22.7	603.2	38.8	1 210.6	30.3	1 281.4	45.0	2 732.5
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No conditions reported(a)	43.5	35.9	40.6	33.4	25.2	19.2	11.2	13.5
Reported a condition as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	*4.0	5.0	8.0	8.8	14.7	15.1	25.6	18.1
Reported a condition but not as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	52.5	59.1	51.5	57.7	60.1	65.7	63.3	68.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) Includes persons who reported no conditions, or reported cold or flu only.



	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No conditions reported(a)	n.p.	5.5	n.p.	0.9	28.3	17.1
Reported a condition as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	*18.1	24.6	*40.9	24.3	16.7	19.3
Reported a condition but not as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	81.5	69.9	*58.1	74.9	54.9	63.6
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	151.4	8 754.7
FEMALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No conditions reported(a)	n.p.	2.4	**0.0	0.6	22.4	12.8
Reported a condition as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	*22.6	14.3	*16.0	13.4	14.2	12.1
Reported a condition but not as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	66.5	83.3	84.0	85.9	63.4	75.1
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<i>Total</i>	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	157.3	8 851.7
PERSONS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No conditions reported(a)	n.p.	4.0	n.p.	0.7	25.3	14.9
Reported a condition as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	*20.4	19.5	*27.1	18.4	15.5	15.7
Reported a condition but not as a result of an accident, incident or exposure	73.8	76.5	72.5	80.8	59.2	69.4
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>17 606.4</b>

(a) Includes persons who reported no conditions, or reported cold or flu only.

	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5–14		15–24		25–44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hospital inpatient episode	**3.6	1.1	**1.3	0.5	n.p.	*0.3	**1.6	0.4
Visited casualty/emergency/outpatients	*5.6	3.5	*3.1	2.0	n.p.	2.6	*11.7	2.4
Hospital day clinic visits	n.p.	1.0	n.p.	*0.4	**0.0	1.2	**1.3	1.0
Any hospital visit	*6.2	4.7	*3.9	2.5	*6.8	4.0	13.8	3.5
Doctor consultation	25.7	30.7	*9.0	14.5	*5.9	14.6	14.4	16.3
Any hospital visit or doctor consultation	27.9	32.1	*12.0	15.8	*12.7	16.8	24.8	18.1
Dentist consultation(a)	n.p.	1.4	*5.3	8.5	*4.0	4.4	*4.3	4.3
Consulted other health professionals	*13.7	12.5	*7.3	6.1	*7.6	7.7	*11.1	8.6
Taken vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications	*16.4	16.1	*11.9	19.4	*11.5	23.3	20.8	25.5
Used medication	42.5	46.7	25.1	37.7	27.6	45.3	50.4	51.9
Had days away from work/school	n.p.	3.0	16.4	15.6	20.0	9.7	*12.5	7.7
Had other days of reduced activity	**2.8	3.0	*4.0	4.4	*6.1	4.0	*9.6	4.1
Seen or talked to anyone else	*4.6	5.2	*4.1	3.1	*11.0	5.4	*5.0	4.4
Total males taking action	58.0	65.2	48.0	58.5	48.5	64.0	71.1	68.9
Total males who took no action	42.0	34.8	52.0	41.5	51.5	36.0	28.9	31.1
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	23.8	635.8	40.3	1 273.2	29.5	1 322.4	40.0	2 728.5
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hospital inpatient episode	**1.6	*0.3	n.p.	*0.2	**1.4	0.6	*2.1	1.0
Visited casualty/emergency/outpatients	*9.0	1.7	*3.3	1.6	8.9	2.8	*10.9	2.6
Hospital day clinic visits	n.p.	*0.3	n.p.	*0.4	**2.1	1.4	*4.4	1.6
Any hospital visit	*10.8	2.2	*4.1	2.0	*11.2	4.4	14.5	4.7
Doctor consultation	34.6	27.0	*11.4	13.4	18.5	23.4	35.8	26.4
Any hospital visit or doctor consultation	37.0	27.8	14.3	14.4	24.2	25.3	41.4	28.3
Dentist consultation(a)	**0.0	1.0	*7.8	9.9	n.p.	6.0	*3.4	5.1
Consulted other health professionals	*15.9	12.4	*3.1	5.8	*7.8	11.2	11.9	13.1
Taken vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications	*9.3	14.9	*12.2	20.2	20.8	32.9	27.2	40.6
Used medication	35.3	46.8	34.1	41.0	55.5	58.9	62.8	62.8
Had days away from work/school	n.p.	1.9	14.0	16.2	*7.1	11.7	*10.4	7.8
Had other days of reduced activity	n.p.	2.8	*2.6	4.1	*9.4	5.5	12.0	6.3
Seen or talked to anyone else	*6.3	5.6	*5.5	3.9	*2.7	8.6	*10.1	5.6
Total females taking action	55.8	63.2	52.0	61.8	72.7	77.5	80.7	82.2
Total females who took no action	44.2	36.8	48.0	38.2	27.3	22.5	19.3	17.8
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	22.7	603.2	38.8	1 210.6	30.3	1 281.4	45.0	2 732.5

(a) This question was only asked for persons aged 2 years and over. Proportions in the 'Under 5' category are based on all children under 5, and proportions in the 'Total' category are for all persons aged 0 and over. Therefore these proportions differ from those shown in table 9, which only includes persons aged 2 years and over.

(b) Persons may have reported more than one type of action, therefore components do not add to totals.

	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hospital inpatient episode	n.p.	*0.4	n.p.	1.6	*2.1	0.7
Visited casualty/emergency outpatients	*17.8	2.1	*12.2	4.0	7.7	2.7
Hospital day clinic visits	n.p.	1.0	n.p.	2.2	*1.1	1.2
Any hospital visit	*25.1	3.1	*12.2	7.0	9.3	4.1
Doctor consultation	*32.8	19.7	*36.2	33.2	15.4	20.5
Any hospital visit or doctor consultation	*41.9	20.7	48.4	35.7	21.9	22.3
Dentist consultation(a)	n.p.	6.4	n.p.	5.7	3.8	5.3
Consulted other health professionals	*23.1	7.9	*16.1	8.6	10.9	8.3
Taken vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications	*17.4	29.5	*14.2	28.2	15.4	24.6
Used medication	82.5	59.4	73.3	78.0	41.3	54.4
Had days away from work/school	n.p.	5.7	n.p.	2.5	12.2	7.6
Had other days of reduced activity	*14.3	3.7	*14.3	8.2	6.9	4.8
Seen or talked to anyone else	n.p.	4.1	n.p.	3.3	5.6	4.2
Total males taking action	90.6	74.7	77.4	87.0	60.1	70.6
Total males who took no action	*9.4	25.3	*22.6	13.0	39.9	29.4
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	151.4	8 754.7
FEMALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hospital inpatient episode	n.p.	0.6	n.p.	1.4	*1.5	0.8
Visited casualty/emergency/ outpatients	**5.3	2.4	**7.2	3.6	7.8	2.6
Hospital day clinic visits	n.p.	1.9	n.p.	2.4	*2.2	1.5
Any hospital visit	*11.1	4.4	*9.6	6.5	10.2	4.5
Doctor consultation	*21.3	26.3	*37.5	35.8	25.4	26.3
Any hospital visit or doctor consultation	*25.8	27.8	*39.9	38.0	29.6	28.0
Dentist consultation(a)	n.p.	7.1	n.p.	5.4	3.3	5.9
Consulted other health professionals	**4.8	11.5	**6.2	12.9	8.7	11.5
Taken vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications	*29.7	45.7	*8.6	38.6	18.7	35.1
Used medication	58.0	71.7	74.5	85.0	50.8	64.1
Had days away from work/school	**4.3	5.8	n.p.	1.3	8.7	7.4
Had other days of reduced activity	*8.3	6.9	*15.7	10.8	7.5	6.7
Seen or talked to anyone else	n.p.	4.7	**4.4	3.3	6.2	5.2
Total females taking action	69.1	86.4	88.2	93.3	68.2	80.4
Total females who took no action	*30.9	13.6	*11.8	6.7	31.8	19.6
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	157.3	8 851.7

(a) This question was only asked for persons aged 2 years and over. Proportions in the 'Under 5' category are based on all children under 5, and proportions in the 'Total' category are for all persons aged 0 and over. Therefore these proportions differ from those shown in table 9, which only includes persons aged 2 years and over.

(b) Persons may have reported more than one type of action, therefore components do not add to totals.

	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5–14		15–24		25–44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hospital inpatient episode	*2.6	0.7	**0.8	0.3	**1.2	0.4	*1.9	0.7
Visited casualty/emergency/outpatients	*7.3	2.6	*3.2	1.8	*7.3	2.7	11.3	2.5
Hospital day clinic visits	n.p.	0.7	*1.0	0.4	**1.1	1.3	*2.9	1.3
Any hospital visit	*8.4	3.4	*4.0	2.3	9.0	4.2	14.2	4.1
Doctor consultation	30.1	28.9	10.2	14.0	12.3	18.9	25.7	21.4
Hospital visit and/or doctor consultation	32.3	30.0	13.1	15.1	18.5	21.0	33.6	23.2
Dentist consultation(a)	n.p.	1.2	6.5	9.2	*2.7	5.2	3.8	4.7
Consulted other health professionals	14.8	12.5	*5.3	6.0	*7.7	9.4	11.5	10.9
Taken vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications	12.9	15.5	12.1	19.8	16.2	28.0	24.2	33.1
Used medication	38.9	46.8	29.5	39.3	41.7	52.0	56.9	57.3
Had days away from work/school	**1.7	2.5	15.2	15.9	13.5	10.7	11.4	7.7
Had other days of reduced activity	*1.8	2.9	*3.3	4.3	*7.8	4.7	10.8	5.2
Seen or talked to anyone else	*5.4	5.4	*4.8	3.5	*6.8	7.0	7.7	5.0
Total persons taking action	57.0	64.2	49.9	60.1	60.8	70.6	76.2	75.6
Total persons who took no action	43.0	35.8	50.1	39.9	39.2	29.4	23.8	24.4
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) This question was only asked for persons aged 2 years and over. Proportions in the 'Under 5' category are based on all children under 5, and proportions in the 'Total' category are for all persons aged 0 and over. Therefore these proportions differ from those shown in table 9, which only includes persons aged 2 years and over.

(b) Persons may have reported more than one type of action, therefore components do not add to totals

	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
PERSONS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hospital inpatient episode	*5.7	0.5	**0.7	1.5	1.8	0.7
Visited casualty/emergency/outpatients	*11.4	2.2	*9.4	3.8	7.7	2.7
Hospital day clinic visits	**3.0	1.4	n.p.	2.3	*1.6	1.3
Any hospital visit	*17.9	3.7	*10.7	6.7	9.7	4.3
Doctor consultation	26.9	22.9	36.9	34.6	20.5	23.4
Any hospital visit or doctor consultation	33.6	24.2	43.7	36.9	25.8	25.2
Dentist consultation(a)	n.p.	6.7	*3.0	5.6	3.5	5.6
Consulted other health professionals	*13.6	9.7	*10.6	10.9	9.7	9.9
Taken vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications	*23.7	37.4	*11.1	33.8	17.0	29.9
Used medication	69.8	65.5	73.9	81.8	46.1	59.3
Had days away from work/school	*5.1	5.8	**3.5	1.9	10.4	7.5
Had other days of reduced activity	*11.2	5.3	*15.1	9.6	7.2	5.7
Seen or talked to anyone else	*4.0	4.4	**2.9	3.3	5.9	4.7
Total persons taking action	79.6	80.5	83.4	90.4	64.2	75.5
Total persons who took no action	*20.4	19.5	*16.6	9.6	35.8	24.5
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>17 606.4</b>

(a) This question was only asked for persons aged 2 years and over. Proportions in the 'Under 5' category are based on all children under 5, and proportions in the 'Total' category are for all persons aged 0 and over. Therefore these proportions differ from those shown in table 9, which only includes persons aged 2 years and over.

(b) Persons may have reported more than one type of action, therefore components do not add to totals.

## NUMBER OF DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS IN THE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO INTERVIEW

	Age groups (years)							
	Under 5		5-14		15-24		25-44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	74.3	69.3	91.0	85.5	94.1	85.4	85.6	83.7
One	22.4	24.0	*5.4	11.8	*5.9	11.3	*9.8	12.8
More than one	**3.3	6.8	*3.6	2.7	**0.0	3.4	*4.6	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	23.8	635.8	40.3	1 273.2	29.5	1 332.4	40.0	2 728.5
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	65.4	73.0	88.6	86.6	81.5	76.6	64.2	73.6
One	24.0	20.3	*9.8	11.2	*16.6	18.1	25.0	19.7
More than one	*10.7	6.7	**1.7	2.2	n.p.	5.3	*10.8	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	22.7	603.2	38.8	1 210.6	30.3	1 281.4	45.0	2 732.5
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	69.9	71.1	89.8	86.0	87.7	81.1	74.3	78.6
One	23.2	22.2	7.5	11.5	11.3	14.6	17.8	16.2
More than one	*6.9	6.7	*2.7	2.5	n.p.	4.3	7.8	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	46.5	1 239.0	79.1	2 483.8	59.8	2 613.8	85.0	5 461.0

	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	67.2	80.3	63.8	66.8	84.6	79.5
One	*23.2	14.7	*29.2	25.5	11.7	15.9
More than one	n.p.	4.9	**7.0	7.7	3.7	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	151.4	8 754.7
FEMALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	78.7	73.7	62.5	64.2	74.6	73.7
One	*15.8	20.2	*25.3	27.2	18.9	20.1
More than one	**5.5	6.0	*12.2	8.7	6.5	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	157.3	8 851.7
PERSONS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	73.1	77.1	63.1	65.4	79.5	76.6
One	*19.4	17.4	*27.0	26.4	15.4	18.0
More than one	*7.5	5.5	*9.9	8.2	5.1	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	20.3	2 186.4	18.1	3 622.5	308.7	17 606.4

	Age group (years)							
	2-4		5-14		15-24		25-44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Visited in previous 2 weeks	n.p.	2.4	*5.3	8.5	*4.0	4.4	*4.3	4.3
2 weeks to less than 6 months ago	*8.3	13.4	32.5	38.2	18.9	19.8	*10.5	19.7
6 months to less than 2 years	*11.0	10.7	44.3	40.6	22.2	36.5	31.6	35.1
2 years ago or more	**0.0	*1.1	*10.4	5.8	50.6	37.4	51.7	39.8
Never	77.7	72.2	*5.1	6.6	n.p.	1.3	**1.1	0.7
Don't know	n.p.	n.p.	*2.3	*0.3	n.p.	0.6	**0.8	0.4
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	17.4	378.2	40.3	1 273.2	29.5	1 332.4	40.0	2 728.5
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Visited in previous 2 weeks	**0.0	1.6	*7.8	9.9	*1.3	6.0	*3.4	5.1
2 weeks to less than 6 months ago	*22.6	12.3	42.3	39.1	*15.6	25.6	21.2	24.1
6 months to less than 2 years	*10.3	11.5	33.4	37.9	34.4	38.2	31.9	40.1
2 years ago or more	**0.0	*1.4	*6.6	6.1	43.5	29.2	41.9	30.0
Never	67.1	72.8	*4.8	6.8	*3.3	0.8	**0.8	0.5
Don't know	**0.0	*0.4	*5.1	*0.2	n.p.	*0.2	**0.7	0.3
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	11.7	363.7	38.8	1 210.6	30.3	1 281.4	45.0	2 732.5
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Visited in previous 2 weeks	n.p.	2.0	6.5	9.2	*2.7	5.2	3.8	4.7
2 weeks to less than 6 months ago	*14.1	12.8	37.3	38.7	17.2	22.6	16.1	21.9
6 months to less than 2 years	*10.7	11.1	39.0	39.3	28.4	37.4	31.8	37.6
2 years ago or more	**0.0	1.2	8.5	6.0	47.0	33.4	46.5	34.9
Never	73.4	72.5	*4.9	6.7	*2.1	1.0	*1.0	0.6
Don't know	n.p.	*0.3	*3.7	0.2	**1.0	0.4	**0.8	0.4
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>741.9</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) Persons aged two years or more.

(b) Percentages may not add to 100% due to a small proportion of persons who did not answer the question.



	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Visited in previous 2 weeks	n.p.	6.4	n.p.	5.7	4.0	5.4
2 weeks to less than 6 months ago	*10.6	19.9	n.p.	19.7	17.9	22.2
6 months to less than 2 years	*25.7	34.3	*16.3	24.4	29.5	32.8
2 years ago or more	54.3	38.3	66.7	48.6	34.8	34.1
Never	**7.9	0.8	n.p.	0.9	11.8	4.9
Don't know	**0.0	*0.4	n.p.	0.6	*1.3	0.5
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	145.1	8 497.1
FEMALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Visited in previous 2 weeks	n.p.	7.1	n.p.	5.4	3.5	6.1
2 weeks to less than 6 months ago	**4.3	25.3	*24.6	18.4	24.8	24.8
6 months to less than 2 years	*40.9	35.7	*21.3	23.3	31.0	34.0
2 years ago or more	49.1	31.4	51.5	51.8	30.7	30.4
Never	n.p.	*0.2	n.p.	0.5	7.7	4.4
Don't know	n.p.	0.3	n.p.	0.7	*2.0	0.4
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	146.3	8 612.2
PERSONS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Visited in previous 2 weeks	**0.8	6.7	**3.0	5.6	3.8	5.8
2 weeks to less than 6 months ago	*7.4	22.5	*17.1	19.0	21.3	23.5
6 months to less than 2 years	33.5	35.0	*19.1	23.8	30.3	33.4
2 years ago or more	51.6	34.9	58.2	50.3	32.7	32.3
Never	**4.4	0.5	n.p.	0.7	9.8	4.7
Don't know	n.p.	0.3	n.p.	0.6	*1.7	0.4
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>291.3</b>	<b>17 109.3</b>

(a) Persons aged two years or more.

(b) Percentages may not add to 100% due to a small proportion of persons who did not answer the question.

	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5–14		15–24		25–44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Pain relievers	*9.9	16.4	6.9	12.8	17.9	25.2	25.3	30.2
Asthma medications	*7.1	5.2	9.9	9.7	11.2	8.0	9.0	5.4
Medication for cough/colds	*9.7	16.8	6.9	8.8	*4.3	7.8	7.3	6.7
Skin ointments/creams	*10.0	8.9	*4.1	7.5	*7.3	12.0	*5.9	11.2
Medications for heart problems/blood pressure	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*0.0	*1.8	*0.2	*4.0	2.1
Stomach medications	**1.3	1.1	n.p.	0.5	n.p.	1.5	*3.3	3.0
Medication for diabetes	n.p.	**0.0	**0.0	*0.2	**0.0	0.4	*2.9	0.5
Medications for arthritis	**0.0	**0.0	n.p.	*0.1	**0.0	0.2	*1.8	1.1
Medications for allergies	*2.3	1.1	**0.8	2.2	n.p.	3.4	*1.7	4.0
Other medications	16.1	12.5	7.9	8.7	14.3	14.3	19.0	17.6
Total persons who used medications(a)	38.9	46.8	29.5	39.3	41.7	52.0	56.9	57.3
Total persons who did not use medications	61.1	53.2	70.5	60.7	58.3	48.0	43.1	42.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) Persons may have reported using more than one type of medication, therefore components do not add to totals.

	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Pain relievers	*15.3	26.7	*28.0	20.9	16.3	23.7
Asthma medications	*11.8	5.3	*10.7	6.4	9.7	6.6
Medication for cough/colds	*6.5	5.0	n.p.	4.0	6.5	7.1
Skin ointments/creams	*6.2	9.6	*6.5	7.9	6.4	9.8
Medications for heart problems/blood pressure	30.8	12.0	37.4	41.2	5.7	10.7
Stomach medications	*8.2	4.9	*13.6	10.5	2.9	4.1
Medication for diabetes	*15.2	1.8	*10.4	4.9	2.4	1.5
Medications for arthritis	*6.5	4.4	*13.8	12.3	1.9	3.5
Medications for allergies	n.p.	4.1	*7.6	2.7	1.7	3.2
Other medications	*23.6	28.5	35.0	45.5	16.0	22.6
Total persons who used medications(a)	69.8	65.5	73.9	81.8	46.1	59.3
Total persons who did not use medications	30.2	34.5	*26.1	18.2	53.9	40.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>17 606.4</b>

(a) Persons may have reported using more than one type of medication, therefore components do not add to totals.

# 11

## DAYS AWAY FROM WORK DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY IN THE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO INTERVIEW(a)

	Age group (years)									
	15-24		25-44		45-54		55 to 64		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Days off	*20.3	11.1	22.8	9.5	*8.9	7.4	**21.2	9.2	20.1	9.3
No days off	79.7	88.9	77.2	90.5	91.1	92.6	*78.8	90.8	79.9	90.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>1 452.8</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>4 315.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1 674.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>651.7</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>8 093.8</b>

(a) Employed persons aged 15-64 years.

Smoker status	Age group (years)									
	18-24		25-44		45-54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Current	53.5	31.8	63.1	31.7	*37.4	25.3	*47.2	17.6	55.8	26.9
Former	*4.2	10.3	17.5	25.8	*37.8	37.1	*28.7	53.1	18.0	32.6
Never	38.2	57.9	19.2	42.5	*24.8	37.6	*24.1	29.3	25.2	40.5
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	19.1	931.8	40.0	2 728.5	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	77.0	6 445.2
FEMALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Current	46.9	27.7	51.8	24.3	*32.1	18.2	*34.9	11.4	46.3	20.0
Former	*15	13.5	24.5	24.8	*14.2	24.1	*25.3	22.8	21.0	22.5
Never	37.0	58.8	23.7	50.9	51.9	57.7	*39.8	65.8	32.3	57.4
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	22.3	912.2	45.0	2 732.5	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	87.8	6 668.7
PERSONS										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Current	50.0	29.8	57.1	28.0	34.7	21.8	40.4	14.3	50.7	23.4
Former	*10.1	11.9	21.2	25.3	25.6	30.7	*26.8	36.8	19.6	27.5
Never	37.6	58.3	21.6	46.7	38.7	47.5	32.8	48.9	28.9	49.1
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>1 844.0</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>164.8</b>	<b>13 113.9</b>

(a) Persons aged 18 years or more.

(b) Percentages may not add up to 100% due to a small proportion of persons who did not answer the question.

	Age group (years)									
	18–24		25–44		45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Low	36.1	49.2	43.1	57.8	*17.4	58.1	*23.1	53.2	36.0	55.4
Medium	*7.7	4.1	12.9	5.8	**8.0	7.3	*10.7	4.3	10.7	5.4
High	*5.0	6.6	17.7	5.6	*13.3	5.0	**5.0	3.2	12.6	5.0
Total	48.7	59.9	73.7	69.2	*38.7	70.4	*38.8	60.7	59.3	65.8
Did not consume	51.3	40.1	26.3	30.8	61.3	29.6	61.2	39.3	40.7	34.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total(c)	20.0	957.6	40.0	2 728.6	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.4	77.9	6 471.1
FEMALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Low	39.8	40.8	39.5	43.5	*16.7	42.0	**5.7	31.7	32.9	39.4
Medium	*5.3	6.2	*4.3	4.5	**2.6	4.9	**0.8	4.6	*3.9	4.8
High	**2.4	*1.6	*5.0	1.3	**2.5	1.8	**0.0	*0.8	*3.5	1.3
Total	47.5	48.6	48.8	49.3	*21.8	48.7	**6.4	37.0	40.3	45.5
Did not consume	52.5	51.4	51.2	50.7	78.2	51.3	93.6	63.0	59.7	54.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total(c)	21.0	926.2	45.0	2 732.6	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.2	86.4	6 682.7
PERSONS										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Low	38.0	45.1	41.2	50.7	*17.0	50.2	*13.4	41.6	34.4	47.3
Medium	*6.4	5.1	8.3	5.1	*5.2	6.1	*5.2	4.5	7.1	5.1
High	*3.6	4.1	11.0	3.4	*7.7	3.4	**2.2	1.9	7.8	3.1
Total	48.1	54.3	60.5	59.2	30.0	59.7	*20.8	48.0	49.3	55.5
Did not consume	51.9	45.7	39.5	40.8	70.0	40.3	79.2	52.0	50.7	44.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>1 883.7</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.1</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>164.3</b>	<b>13 153.8</b>

(a) Persons aged 18 years or more.

(b) Refer to Glossary for definition of Alcohol risk level.

(c) Estimates of total persons may differ from those in other tables due to differences in sample structure.

Exercise level	Age group (years)									
	18-24		25-44		45-54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	36.0	23.6	39.0	32.5	*35.1	37.8	*37.2	38.2	37.6	33.6
Low	*18.3	28.9	23.9	31.2	*28.7	30.9	*32	28.2	24.0	30.0
Medium	*22.6	19.3	16.4	18.0	*25.1	16.8	*17.7	16.8	19.2	17.7
High	*23.1	28.2	20.7	18.3	*11.1	14.5	*13.2	16.7	19.3	18.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	19.1	931.8	40.0	2 728.5	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	77.0	6 445.2
FEMALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	41.0	27.1	39.3	30.9	*36	33.7	59.7	42.7	41.7	34.3
Low	33.5	40.2	41.5	41.0	*27.3	39.8	*30.5	32.6	36.5	38.2
Medium	*18.4	18.4	*7.4	16.9	*14.5	16.0	*7.9	15.5	11.1	16.6
High	*7.1	14.3	11.7	11.2	*22.2	10.5	n.p.	9.3	10.7	10.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	22.3	912.2	45.0	2 732.5	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	87.8	6 668.7
PERSONS										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	38.7	25.3	39.2	31.7	35.6	35.8	49.7	40.6	39.8	33.9
Low	26.5	34.5	33.2	36.1	28.0	35.3	31.2	30.6	30.6	34.2
Medium	20.3	18.8	11.6	17.5	*19.6	16.4	*12.2	16.1	14.9	17.1
High	14.5	21.4	16.0	14.8	*16.8	12.5	*6.9	12.7	14.7	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>1 844.0</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>164.8</b>	<b>13 113.9</b>

(a) Persons aged 18 years or more.

(b) Refers to exercise for sport, recreation and fitness only. See Glossary for more details.

	Age group (years)									
	18–24		25–44		45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Underweight	*7.6	9.4	*8.6	3.7	n.p.	1.9	n.p.	3.7	7.1	4.2
Acceptable weight	40.6	52.9	27.5	40.9	*34.1	33.3	*34.3	38.3	32.3	40.7
Overweight	30.1	22.1	25.5	38.5	*32.1	44.4	*30.6	40.6	28.0	37.7
Obese	n.p.	5.2	27.9	10.9	*20.8	15.3	*16.4	11.6	19.5	11.0
Not stated/ not known	*19.3	10.4	*10.4	6.0	*11.1	5.1	*14.4	5.8	13.1	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	19.1	931.8	40.0	2 728.5	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	77.0	6 445.2
FEMALES										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Underweight	*7.0	26.8	*11.2	14.5	n.p.	7.2	n.p.	9.1	9.7	13.4
Acceptable weight	43.2	43.0	27.7	47.0	**4.2	40.9	*8.3	37.4	26.6	42.7
Overweight	*13.9	11.6	23.9	19.0	*39.1	27.6	*16.0	27.3	22.2	21.8
Obese	*6.9	4.5	*11.3	9.8	*11.5	14.7	*32.7	12.7	12.6	10.7
Not stated/ not known	29.0	14.1	26.0	9.7	*35.2	9.7	*34.2	13.5	28.8	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	22.3	912.2	45.0	2 732.5	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	87.8	6 668.7
PERSONS										
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Underweight	*7.3	18.0	10.0	9.1	n.p.	4.5	*6.9	6.6	8.5	8.9
Acceptable weight	42.0	48.0	27.6	44.0	*18.7	37.0	*19.9	37.8	29.3	41.7
Overweight	21.3	16.9	24.7	28.7	35.7	36.1	*22.4	33.4	24.9	29.6
Obese	*4.9	4.9	19.1	10.4	*16	15.0	*25.4	12.2	15.8	10.9
Not stated/ not known	24.5	12.2	18.7	7.9	*23.5	7.4	*25.4	10.0	21.5	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>1 844.0</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>2 186.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3 622.5</b>	<b>164.8</b>	<b>13 113.9</b>

(a) Persons aged 18 years or more.

(b) Body mass index based on self-reported height and weight. See Glossary for more details.



	Age group (years)							
	Under 5		5–14		15–24		25–44	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sunscreen	40.0	61.3	43.2	61.7	14.5	39.2	15.7	37.7
Umbrella	**2.8	7.2	n.p.	2.5	**0.0	1.0	n.p.	2.6
Hat	73.2	76.8	84.0	85.5	63.5	57.3	50.5	59.8
Clothing	43.5	52.1	41.2	46.9	25.4	41.8	35.7	38.6
Sunglasses	12.8	15.1	12.9	17.9	39.3	50.4	45.8	62.4
Avoided sun	25.4	32.8	*7.5	17.5	*9.2	15.2	10.8	20.7
Other	n.p.	1.4	**0.0	*0.4	n.p.	0.4	n.p.	0.6
Total who used sun protection	79.6	84.5	87.0	89.7	73.5	80.2	74.3	82.4
Did not use in last month	*11.0	8.7	*11.9	9.4	23.9	18.4	24.1	15.8
Not exposed to sun	*9.0	6.7	**1.2	0.9	**0.0	1.4	n.p.	1.8
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	23.8	635.8	40.3	1 273.2	29.5	1 332.4	40.0	2 728.5
FEMALES								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sunscreen	44.2	61.7	55.8	68.8	21.5	54.3	34.1	52.7
Umbrella	n.p.	7.3	**0.0	4.0	*3.7	3.1	*2.5	6.7
Hat	61.2	75.1	76.2	76.9	26.1	37.2	34.2	45.2
Clothing	43.3	52.6	38.5	48.4	33.8	42.8	21.9	35.3
Sunglasses	11.9	18.2	20.8	25.6	41.5	62.0	58.0	71.5
Avoided sun	12.9	36.7	11.6	22.9	25.7	27.1	18.5	32.9
Other	n.p.	1.9	**0.0	0.5	n.p.	*0.4	**0.0	0.5
Total who used sun protection	77.6	84.0	86.1	87.4	68.6	85.0	71.1	85.4
Did not use in last month	*7.2	8.6	13.8	11.2	29.2	13.1	28.6	12.6
Not exposed to sun	*15.2	7.4	n.p.	1.4	n.p.	1.9	n.p.	2.0
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	22.7	603.2	38.8	1 210.6	30.3	1 281.4	45.0	2 732.5
PERSONS								
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sunscreen	42.1	61.5	49.4	65.2	18.0	46.6	25.4	45.2
Umbrella	*2.8	7.2	n.p.	3.2	*1.9	2.0	*1.5	4.7
Hat	67.3	76.0	80.2	81.3	44.6	47.5	41.9	52.5
Clothing	43.4	52.3	39.9	47.6	29.7	42.3	28.4	37.0
Sunglasses	12.4	16.6	16.8	21.6	40.4	56.1	52.2	66.9
Avoided sun	19.3	34.7	9.5	20.1	17.6	21.0	14.9	26.8
Other	**1.0	1.6	**0.0	0.5	n.p.	0.4	n.p.	0.6
Total who used sun protection	78.6	84.3	86.5	88.6	71.0	82.6	72.6	83.9
Did not use in last month	*9.1	8.7	12.8	10.3	26.5	15.8	26.5	14.2
Not exposed to sun	12.0	7.1	**0.7	1.1	n.p.	1.6	n.p.	1.9
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1 239.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>2 483.8</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>2 613.8</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>5 461.0</b>

(a) Persons may have reported using more than one type of protective method, therefore components do not add up to total.

(b) Percentages may not add to 100% due to a small proportion of persons who did not answer the question.

	Age group (years)					
	45–54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sunscreen	16.4	29.9	n.p.	21.9	26.3	39.1
Umbrella	**0.0	2.7	n.p.	1.6	*0.7	2.5
Hat	73.7	63.6	77.5	68.0	68.5	66.4
Clothing	24.0	33.6	28.1	26.2	35.2	38.3
Sunglasses	47.5	53.4	32.4	36.8	30.0	44.6
Avoided sun	n.p.	17.1	11.9	14.0	11.3	18.5
Other	**0.0	0.4	**0.0	0.5	*1.0	0.6
Total who used sun protection	78.6	80.1	82.8	78.0	79.1	82.1
Did not use in last month	*21.4	17.5	*15.7	18.9	18.1	15.6
Not exposed to sun	**0.0	2.3	n.p.	3.2	*2.2	2.3
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	151.4	8 754.7
FEMALES						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sunscreen	29.2	44.4	12.0	35.6	36.7	51.0
Umbrella	n.p.	6.5	**7.7	11.2	*2.4	6.8
Hat	42.4	46.1	45.7	49.6	48.2	51.5
Clothing	12.5	25.6	14.6	18.1	30.3	34.4
Sunglasses	38.0	64.4	22.1	44.9	35.4	53.5
Avoided sun	20.3	27.1	30.0	23.9	18.2	28.3
Other	**0.0	0.7	n.p.	0.4	**0.2	0.6
Total who used sun protection	62.6	82.1	68.8	76.0	74.5	83.1
Did not use sun protection	*24.4	15.2	*26.0	17.7	21.5	13.6
Not exposed to sun	n.p.	2.7	**5.2	6.2	3.7	3.3
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	157.3	8 851.7
TOTAL						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sunscreen	23.0	37.1	10.4	29.3	31.6	45.1
Umbrella	n.p.	4.6	**4.4	6.8	*1.6	4.7
Hat	57.6	55.0	59.9	58.1	58.1	58.9
Clothing	18.0	29.7	20.6	21.8	32.7	36.3
Sunglasses	42.6	58.8	26.7	41.1	32.7	49.1
Avoided sun	10.9	22.0	22.0	19.3	14.8	23.4
Other	**0.0	0.6	n.p.	0.5	*0.6	0.6
Total who used sun protection	70.4	81.1	75.0	76.9	76.8	82.6
Did not use in last month	*22.9	16.4	*21.4	18.3	19.8	14.6
Not exposed to sun	n.p.	2.5	**3.6	4.8	2.9	2.8
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	20.3	2 186.4	18.1	3 622.5	308.7	17 606.4

(a) Persons may have reported using more than one type of protective method, therefore components do not add up to total.

(b) Percentages may not add to 100% due to a small proportion of persons who did not answer the question.

	Age group					
	Less than six months		Six months to less than four years		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
WHETHER EVER BREASTFEED						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Child has been breastfed	*84.0	87.8	73.7	86.1	74.9	86.3
Child has not been breastfed	**16.0	12.2	26.3	13.9	25.1	13.7
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total children</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>114.9</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>876.1</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>991.0</b>
DURATION						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Child has been breastfed(c)						
Less than 4 weeks	n.p.	13.2	*8.6	10.7	*8.76	11.0
4–23 weeks	*90.5	86.8	28.6	35.1	36.8	41.2
24 weeks or more	..	..	60.5	53.4	52.5	47.1
Don't know how long breastfed	**0.0	**0.0	**2.3	0.8	**2.0	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Children under four years.

(b) Excludes children under one month old.

(c) Percentages based on number of children breastfed.

Insurance cover	Age group (years)									
	18-24		25-44		45-54		55 and over		Total	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
MALES										
Private										
Yes (%)	*4.5	26.5	13.0	39.1	*25.4	54.0	**6.5	45.0	11.7	41.3
No (%)	91.3	73.5	86.9	60.9	74.6	46.0	93.5	55.0	87.2	58.7
Total(b) (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total(c) ('000)	20.0	957.6	40.0	2 728.6	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.4	77.9	6 471.1
Government health card										
Yes (%)	55.4	22.0	55.3	18.3	*43.2	17.7	84.2	62.5	56.8	30.2
No (%)	40.6	78.0	44.6	81.7	56.8	82.3	*15.8	37.5	42.2	69.8
Total(b) (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total(c) ('000)	19.1	931.8	40.0	2 728.5	9.8	1 111.6	8.0	1 673.3	77.0	6 445.2
FEMALES										
Private										
Yes (%)	*13.2	32.5	*9.9	43.4	*20.6	53.8	**2.4	46.3	11.1	44.4
No (%)	85.7	67.5	90.1	56.6	76.1	46.2	97.6	53.7	88.2	55.6
Total(b) (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total(c) ('000)	21.0	926.2	45.0	2 732.6	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.2	86.4	6 682.7
Government health card										
Yes (%)	61.2	29.1	59.9	23.8	49.8	20.9	92.8	74.9	62.8	39.0
No (%)	37.7	70.9	40.1	76.2	*48.3	79.1	**7.2	25.1	36.7	61.0
Total(b) (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total(c) ('000)	22.3	912.2	45.0	2 732.5	10.4	1 074.8	10.0	1 949.1	87.8	6 668.7
PERSONS										
Private										
Yes (%)	*8.9	29.5	11.3	41.3	*22.9	53.9	**4.2	45.7	11.4	42.9
No (%)	88.4	70.5	88.6	58.7	75.4	46.1	95.8	54.3	87.7	57.1
Total(b) (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total(c) ('000)	41.0	1 883.7	85.0	5 461.1	20.3	2 186.4	18.1	3 622.5	164.3	13 153.8
Government health card										
Yes (%)	58.5	25.5	57.7	21.1	46.6	19.3	89.0	69.2	60.0	34.7
No (%)	39.0	74.5	42.2	78.9	52.4	80.7	*11.0	30.8	39.3	65.3
Total(b) (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total(c) ('000)	41.4	1 844.0	85.0	5 461.0	20.3	2 186.4	18.1	3 622.5	164.8	13 113.9

(a) Persons may have reported having both private health insurance and a health card.

(b) Percentages may not add to 100% due to a small proportion of persons who did not answer the question.

(c) Estimates of total persons may differ for health cards and private health insurance due to differences in sample structure.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The 1995 National Health Survey (NHS) was designed to obtain national benchmark information on a range of health-related issues and to enable the monitoring of trends in health over time. The survey was conducted throughout the 12-month period February 1995 to January 1996.

### SCOPE

**2** The estimates contained in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of over 54,000 residents of private dwellings and non-private dwellings. A private dwelling was defined as a house, flat, home unit, caravan, garage, tent and any other structure being used as a private place of residence at the time of the survey including improvised dwellings. Non-private dwellings included hotels and motels, hostels, boarding houses and caravan parks. Hospitals, nursing homes and convalescent homes were excluded from the survey as were prisons, reformatories and single quarters of military establishments.

**3** Households were selected at random using a stratified multistage area sample which ensured that persons within each State and Territory had a known and, in the main, equal chance of selection in the survey.

**4** At the request of health authorities in Victoria, South Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, the survey sample in those areas was increased to enhance the reliability of estimates.

**5** To enhance the reliability of estimates for the Indigenous population and facilitate direct comparisons with the health characteristics of non-Indigenous Australians, a supplementary sample of around 1,000 Indigenous respondents was obtained for the survey, bringing the total sample of Indigenous persons responding to the survey to approximately 2,000. The results reported here include records from all Indigenous respondents with adequately completed forms, with the exception of those living in remote areas, as described below. This is in contrast to results for the non-Indigenous sample where records that did not form part of fully responding households were deleted.

**6** Certain groups of persons such as non-Australian diplomatic personnel, persons from overseas holidaying in Australia, members of non-Australian defence forces and their dependants stationed in Australia, and students at boarding schools were excluded from the survey.

### METHODOLOGY

**7** Trained Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) interviewers conducted personal interviews with residents of selected dwellings. Each person aged 18 years or more was interviewed personally, with the exception of persons too old or sick. 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 (usually the mother).

**8** Not all sections of the survey were administered to the full sample and different sections were administered according to whether a person was Indigenous or non-Indigenous. A core set of questions was administered across the full sample. Of those people in the main sample who identified as non-Indigenous, half received the General Health and Well-Being Form (SF36) while questions on post-school educational qualifications, private health insurance, alcohol consumption and additional women's health issues were administered (appropriate to sex and age) to the other half (non-SF36).

**9** People in the main sample who identified as Indigenous received the complete questionnaire, i.e. the core questions plus the SF36 questions plus the non-SF36 questions (post-school educational qualifications, private health insurance, alcohol consumption and additional women's health issues, appropriate to sex and age). Respondents in the supplementary Indigenous sample received the core sections of the survey together with sections covering education, alcohol consumption and health insurance but did not receive the SF36 or the additional women's health issues questions.

**10** For the purposes of estimation all people, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, were assigned to either the SF36 or non-SF36 groupings. This meant that some people who had responded to both SF36 and non-SF36 sections of the survey were artificially assigned to one group or the other. In this publication, issues of sub-sampling are relevant to table 13 (alcohol consumption) and table 18 (health insurance), for which weightings were calculated separately and a separate set of standard errors produced (see Technical Notes for use of standard errors as this varies depending on whether the Indigenous or non-Indigenous population is the population of interest). Weighted estimates for all items, regardless of the particular sample in which they were included, relate to the total population of the appropriate group.

**11** Topics covered in the survey were:

- recent illness;
- long-term conditions;
- self-assessed health status;
- general health and wellbeing
- inpatient episodes in hospital;
- visits to casualty/emergency units and hospitals;
- visits to outpatients units at hospitals;
- visits to day clinics;
- doctor consultations;
- dental consultations;
- consultations with other health professionals;
- other persons/organisations consulted;
- use of natural/herbal medications;
- use of vitamins/minerals;
- use of other medications;
- days away from work/school due to illness;
- other days of reduced activity due to illness;
- smoking;
- alcohol consumption;
- exercise;
- height and weight;
- sun protection;
- breastfeeding;
- supplementary women's health issues; and
- injury/accidents.

**12** An extensive range of demographic and socioeconomic information was also obtained.

## METHODOLOGY *continued*

**13** The approaches used to collect this information varied as appropriate to the topic, and where possible, were similar to those used in previous surveys in order to minimise loss of comparability. The design of the survey enables linkages to be established between medical conditions, actions taken as a consequence of those conditions and lifestyle behaviours. For example, information about recent illness was obtained by asking whether a range of health-related actions had been taken in the two weeks prior to interview and by recording the various reasons for those actions, including the specific illness or injury involved, and other reasons such as preventive health measures. This 'action-based' approach is similar to that used in the 1983 Australian Health Survey, the 1989–90 NHS and the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

**14** Definitions for most of the items covered in this publication are provided in the Glossary. Comprehensive details of all the concepts, methodologies and procedures used in this survey are provided in *National Health Survey: Users' Guide, 1995* (Cat. no. 4363.0).

## CLASSIFICATION OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS

**15** All medical conditions (and other reasons for taking health-related actions) reported were classified to a list of selected conditions, symptoms, treatments, etc. developed for this survey. This classification is based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), 9th Revision, but was modified to take account of the type and quality of information likely to be reported in the survey. In general, broad classification groups have been used. 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 reliably coded to ICD categories because insufficient detail was provided at interview (e.g. back problems, virus, infection).

## ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

**16** Estimates from the survey are derived using a procedure which combines response information collected in the course of the survey with independently available information concerning the underlying populations. As a result, survey estimates conform to the published population estimates at age, sex and Indigenous status level (see Appendix).

**17** For the Indigenous population, survey estimates conform to the latest available national population estimates of the Indigenous population at age and sex level. For more information about estimating the Indigenous population, refer to *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 30 June 1996 to 30 June 2006* (Cat. no. 3231.0).



## ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

*continued*

**18** The estimation procedure developed for the 1995 survey uses information on the patterns of response to counter known biases in target variables resulting from partial response. This information, in the form of models, was used to adjust data for differential response by class, and also to specify weighting classes for applying benchmarks. Estimation procedures similar to those used for the main sample of the NHS (see *National Health Survey: Users' Guide, 1995*, (Cat. no. 4363.0)) were used to produce person level estimates for the combined main and supplementary samples. However due to the added requirement to produce separate estimates for the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, some additional procedures were used. The weighting was adjusted to allow for the inclusion of the supplementary sample, the inclusion of respondents with complete schedules from partially responding households (as discussed in paragraph 5), and to accord with the latest Indigenous and non-Indigenous population estimates.

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**19** Since the estimates are based on a sample they are subject to sampling variability (see Technical Notes for further details). In this publication only estimates with relative standard errors less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with relative standard errors 25% to 50% have been included and are preceded by a single asterisk (e.g. \*4.3). As these estimates are less reliable they should be used with caution. Estimates with a relative standard error over 50% are preceded with a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*5.8) and are considered too unreliable for general use.

**20** In addition to sampling error, the estimates are subject to non-sampling errors. These may be caused by errors in reporting (e.g. because some answers were based on memory, or because of misunderstanding or unwillingness of respondents to reveal all details) or errors arising during processing (e.g. coding, data recording). Such errors may occur in any statistical collection whether it is a full census count or a sample survey. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors in ABS surveys to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, by intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and by efficient operating procedures.

## EXCLUSION OF REMOTE PARTICIPANTS

**21** Due to concerns about the data quality of some of the responses from Indigenous participants living in remote areas, and after an extensive investigation into this issue, the statistics in this publication exclude responses from all people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, living in those areas identified by the ABS as being sparsely settled (see glossary). For more information refer to the section in this publication entitled Summary of Data Quality Investigations of the 1995 National Health Survey. Due to the exclusion of these remote-area respondents, estimates will differ from those previously published for the total Australian population. Estimates may also differ because the benchmarking undertaken for the combined main and supplementary sample differed slightly from that used for the main sample (see paragraph 18). In total, 539 records from remote-area participants were excluded, of which 78 were non-Indigenous and 461 were Indigenous. The tables in this publication are based on the remaining 54,438 records, of which 52,685 are non-Indigenous and 1,753 Indigenous.

## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

**22** Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or via other methodologies. This factor should be considered in interpreting the estimates in this publication.

**23** In particular, reported information on medical conditions was not medically verified, and was not necessarily based on diagnosis by a medical practitioner. Conditions which have a considerable effect on people are likely 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. There may also be some instances of under-reporting as a consequence of respondents being unwilling to talk about a particular condition at an interview. In addition, results of previous surveys of alcohol and tobacco consumption suggest a tendency for respondents to under-report actual consumption levels.

**24** The exclusion from the survey of people currently in hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions will have affected the results because these institutions are likely to include the sickest members of the community.

INTERPRETATION OF  
RESULTS *continued*

**25** For purposes of enabling comparisons between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, data in most tables are presented by age group and by sex. 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. Age-specific estimates have been used throughout this publication in order to provide the greatest amount of detail possible. Direct age standardisation was used as an aid in the preparation of commentary for this publication. Those who wish to use age standardisation can find the information they need to do so in the tables in the main section and in the Appendix of this publication. However, it should be noted that age standardisation may not be appropriate in some cases such as when the relationship between Indigenous status and a health factor varies across age groups.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**26** The *1995 National Health Survey Data Reference Package*, which is available from the ABS, contains the NHS questionnaires, data item listings, lists of standard unpublished table sets, comparison of 1995 and 1989–90 condition codes, 1995 condition codes list and sample counts. Information about products released from the 1995 NHS is contained in the brochure *National Health Survey: Guide to Products and Services* which is available free of charge from any office of the ABS.

**27** Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 1997* (Cat. no. 4704.0)

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

*National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 1995* (Cat. no. 4364.0)

*National Health Survey: Summary Results, Australian States and Territories, 1995* (Cat. no. 4368.0)

*Occasional Paper: Cigarette Smoking among Indigenous Australians, 1994–95* (Cat. no. 4701.0)

*Occasional Paper: Mortality of Indigenous Australians, 1994* (Cat. no. 3315.0)

*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)

RELATED PUBLICATIONS  
*continued*

**28** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications and products to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

**29** A selection of statistics, directories, and occasional papers, including some Indigenous statistics, are available on the ABS website:  
<http://www.abs.gov.au>

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

**30** Other relevant unpublished data may be available. Inquiries should be made to the contact shown at the front of this publication.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**31** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

SYMBOLS AND USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
NHS	National Health Survey
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error
SF36	Medical Outcomes Study Short Form 36 health status questionnaire
*	relative standard error of 25% to 50%
**	relative standard error over 50%
. .	not applicable

## APPENDIX—POPULATION ESTIMATES(a), 1995

	Age group (years)									Total
	2-5	18-24	15-64(b)	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-54	55 and over	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
INDIGENOUS										
Males	17.4	19.1	44.2	23.8	40.3	29.5	40.0	9.8	8.0	151.4
Females	11.7	22.3	32.4	22.7	38.8	30.3	45.0	10.4	10.0	157.3
Persons	29.1	41.4	76.6	46.5	79.1	59.8	85.0	20.3	18.1	308.7
NON-INDIGENOUS										
Males	378.2	931.8	4 566.5	635.8	1 273.2	1 332.4	2 728.5	1 111.6	1 673.3	8 754.7
Females	363.7	912.2	3 527.3	603.2	1 210.6	1 281.4	2 732.5	1 074.8	1 949.1	8 851.7
Persons	741.9	1 844.0	8 093.8	1 239.0	2 483.8	2 613.8	5 461.0	2 186.4	3 622.5	17 606.4
TOTAL										
Males	395.6	950.9	4 610.7	659.6	1 313.5	1 361.9	2 768.5	1 121.4	1 681.3	8 906.1
Females	375.4	934.5	3 559.7	625.9	1 249.4	1 311.7	2 777.5	1 085.2	1 959.1	9 009.0
<b>Persons</b>	<b>771.0</b>	<b>1 885.4</b>	<b>8 170.4</b>	<b>1 285.5</b>	<b>2 562.9</b>	<b>2 673.6</b>	<b>5 546.0</b>	<b>2 206.7</b>	<b>3 640.6</b>	<b>17 915.1</b>

(a) Excludes persons from sparsely settled areas. See Glossary for details. Small discrepancies in total are due to rounding.

(b) Employed persons only.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

Estimates from the survey are derived using a procedure which combines information collected in the course of the survey (in responses to the survey, and concerning propensity of selected sample units to respond), with independently available information concerning the underlying populations. As a result, survey estimates of population conform to population estimates at age-sex-Indigenous status level.

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. 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 only a sample of dwellings was included. 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 all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs. 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.

Space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs of all estimates in this publication. A table of SEs and RSEs for estimates of numbers of persons is given in table T1. These figures will not give a precise measure of the SE for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of its magnitude. An example of the calculation and use of SEs follows.

Table 7 shows the estimated percentage of Indigenous persons who reported consulting a doctor in the two weeks prior to interview (20.5%). This percentage corresponds to an estimate of approximately 63,284 Indigenous persons (308,700 times 20.5%). Since this estimate is between 50,000 and 100,000, the SE for the estimate will be between 4,270 and 5,870 (taken from table T1 on page 56) and can be approximated by interpolation to 4,700 (rounding to the nearest 10). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all non-remote Indigenous people had been included in the survey would fall in the range 58,584–67,984 (63,284  $\pm$  4,700) and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 53,884–72,684 (63,284  $\pm$  (4,700  $\times$  2)).

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 SEs (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses; in this publication, these estimates are marked \* or \*\*, where a single asterisk (e.g. \*4.3) represents an RSE of 25% to 50% and a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*5.8) represents an RSE over 50%.

RELIABILITY OF THE  
ESTIMATES *continued*

The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be in a full count or only a sample.

STANDARD ERRORS OF  
RATES AND PERCENTAGES

The SE of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the RSE of the estimated percentage or rate will generally be lower than the RSE of the estimate of the numerator.

Where the numerator is a subset of the denominator, the following approximation can be used:

$$RSE(x/y) = \sqrt{[(RSE(x))^2 - (RSE(y))^2]}$$

Whereas if the numerator is not a subset of the denominator, the approximate formula which should be used is:

$$RSE(x/y) = \sqrt{[(RSE(x))^2 + (RSE(y))^2]}$$

Published figures may also be used to estimate the difference between survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such a figure is itself an estimate and 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:

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

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

Standard errors table T1

Table T1 should be used for Indigenous persons for all variables, and for non-Indigenous persons for all variables except alcohol consumption and private health insurance (for which table T2 should be used).

T1 STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS(a)

	Standard error	Relative standard error(b)
Size of estimate	no.	%
100	(c)90	90.8
200	(c)150	76.1
300	(c)200	68.0
400	(c)250	62.4
500	(c)290	58.3
600	(c)330	55.0
700	(c)370	52.4
800	(c)400	50.1
900	(d)430	48.2
1 000	(d)460	46.5
1 100	(d)490	45.0
1 200	(d)520	43.6
1 300	(d)550	42.4
1 400	(d)580	41.3
1 500	(d)600	40.3
1 600	(d)630	39.3
1 700	(d)650	38.5
1 800	(d)680	37.7
1 900	(d)700	36.9
2 000	(d)720	36.2
2 100	(d)750	35.6
2 200	(d)770	34.9
2 300	(d)790	34.3
2 400	(d)810	33.8
2 500	(d)830	33.3
3 000	(d)930	31.0
3 500	(d)1 020	29.1
4 000	(d)1 100	27.6
4 500	(d)1 180	26.3
5 000	(d)1 260	25.2
6 000	1 400	23.3
8 000	1 650	20.6
10 000	1 870	18.7
20 000	2 700	13.5
30 000	3 320	11.1
40 000	3 830	9.6
50 000	4 270	8.5
100 000	5 870	5.9
200 000	7 910	4.0
300 000	9 320	3.1
400 000	10 430	2.6
500 000	11 340	2.3
1 000 000	14 520	1.5
2 000 000	18 180	0.9
5 000 000	26 050	0.5
10 000 000	34 500	0.3
20 000 000	45 150	0.2

(a) The standard errors and relative standard errors shown relate to person estimates for those items collected for the full survey sample. Excludes sparsely settled.

(b) Shows the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

(c) This standard error represents all relative standard errors of around 50% or more of the estimate: smaller estimates are considered too unreliable for most purposes.

(d) This standard error represents all relative standard errors of 25% to 50% of the estimate.

Standard errors table T2

For the non-Indigenous population only, a different set of SEs exists for the tables relating to alcohol consumption (table 13) and private health insurance (table 18). This is because the questions on alcohol and private



Standard errors table T2  
continued

health insurance were only administered to half the non-Indigenous sample and weightings were calculated differently as a result. See paragraphs 8 to 10 of the Explanatory Notes for more details.

T2 STANDARD AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS(a)

	Standard error	Relative standard error(b)
Size of estimate	no.	%
100	(c)470	472.1
200	(c)640	320.6
300	(c)770	255.1
400	(c)870	216.7
500	(c)950	190.9
600	(c)1 030	172.0
700	(c)1 100	157.5
800	(c)1 170	145.8
900	(c)1 230	136.3
1 000	(c)1 280	128.3
1 100	(c)1 340	121.4
1 200	(c)1 390	115.4
1 300	(c)1 430	110.2
1 400	(c)1 480	105.6
1 500	(c)1 520	101.4
1 600	(c)1 560	97.7
1 700	(c)1 600	94.3
1 800	(c)1 640	91.2
1 900	(c)1 680	88.4
2 000	(c)1 720	85.8
2 100	(c)1 750	83.4
2 200	(c)1 790	81.2
2 300	(c)1 820	79.1
2 400	(c)1 850	77.1
2 500	(c)1 880	75.3
3 000	(c)2 030	67.7
3 500	(c)2 160	61.8
4 000	(c)2 290	57.1
4 500	(c)2 400	53.3
5 000	(c)2 500	50.1
6 000	(d)2 700	44.9
8 000	(d)3 030	37.9
10 000	(d)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

(a) The standard errors and relative standard errors shown relate to non-Indigenous person estimates for those items collected for the non-SF36 part of the survey sample (see the Explanatory Notes). Excludes sparsely settled.

(b) Shows the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

(c) This standard error represents all relative standard errors of around 50% or more of the estimate: smaller estimates are considered too unreliable for most purposes.

(d) This standard error represents all relative standard error of 25% to 50% of the estimate.

## SUMMARY OF DATA QUALITY INVESTIGATIONS OF THE 1995 NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

Following the completion of the National Health Survey, concerns were expressed by various stakeholders regarding the appropriateness of using a survey instrument, designed for a mainstream population, for Indigenous people, especially those who live in remote locations and/or who do not speak English at home.

Anecdotal evidence and the results of a focus group interview with survey data collectors suggested that a range of cultural factors were likely to have impinged on data quality.

These cultural factors included:

- the length of time a respondent had been living in a rural or urban environment;
- the respondent's level of Western education; and
- the respondent's literacy in English.

An investigation was subsequently undertaken to ascertain whether the data from Indigenous people in the sample were of sufficient quality to allow useful comparisons with the non-Indigenous population and/or comparisons between subgroups of the Indigenous population.

In the analysis, responses for particular questions were compared for the following groups:

- Indigenous and non-Indigenous people according to whether or not English was spoken at home;
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous people according to the age at which they left school; and
- Indigenous people according to their place of residence.

The results of the investigation can be summarised as follows:

- Response rates were noticeably lower for Indigenous people in remote areas and/or those who did not speak English at home compared with other Indigenous people and with non-Indigenous people (regardless of location or language).
- There was a higher rate of incomplete survey schedules from Indigenous people in remote areas and/or those who did not speak English at home.
- A very high proportion of Indigenous people in remote areas and/or who did not speak English at home responded 'don't know' to the questions on height and weight.
- Other relatively straightforward questions were answered by different groups of respondents in ways that appeared to reflect differential access to health information, services and facilities between groups.

The data quality analysis confirmed concerns about the comparability of selected data from Indigenous people from remote areas and/or those who do not speak English at home, with data from the remaining Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Of further concern were indications from the analysis that survey results from this group may have the potential to mislead if taken at face value.

As a result of the data quality analysis, records from Indigenous and non-Indigenous respondents in remote areas (defined as those living in sparsely settled Statistical Local Areas; see Glossary for more details) have been excluded from the tables and analysis in this publication. Some 539 participants (461 Indigenous people and 78 non-Indigenous people) were excluded as a result.

More detailed results are available in the paper *Indigenous Health Data—A Summary of the Data Quality Investigations of the 1995 National Health Survey (NHS)* which is available on request from the Australian Bureau of Statistics by contacting the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics at the number indicated on the front cover of this publication.

## GLOSSARY

**Accidents** Refers to events identified by respondents which resulted in injury or another recent or long-term medical condition reported in the survey. The term accident is used in this publication to refer to events (accidents, exposures to harmful factors and other incidents) with or without intent, which resulted in injury or illness. This publication does not provide data indicating the number of accidents (either injury or otherwise) occurring over a period.

**Actions taken** As used in this publication this item refers to specific actions persons reported they had taken in relation to their health in the two weeks prior to interview. Actions covered in the survey were:

- inpatient episodes in hospital;
- visits to casualty/emergency units at hospitals;
- visits to outpatients units at hospitals;
- visits to day clinics;
- doctor consultations;
- dental consultations;
- consultations with other health professionals;
- other persons/organisations consulted;
- use of natural/herbal medications;
- use of vitamins/minerals;
- use of other medications;
- days away from work/school; and/or
- other days of reduced activity.

**Alcohol risk level** Derived from the average daily consumption of alcohol during the week prior to interview and grouped into relative risk levels as defined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) as follows:

### CONSUMPTION PER DAY

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
<i>Relative risk</i>	<i>mls</i>	<i>mls</i>
Low	Less than 50	Less than 25
Moderate	50–75	25–50
High	Greater than 75	Greater than 50

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

**Body mass index** Based on height and weight as reported by the respondent. Persons were categorised into four groups according to their body mass index, derived by dividing weight (kg) by the square of height (m<sup>2</sup>). The groups used are consistent with recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

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BODY MASS INDEX

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Underweight	Less than 20
Acceptable	20–25
Overweight	Greater than 25–30
Obese	Greater than 30

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**Conditions** See Type of conditions.

**Diseases of the circulatory system** Conditions coded under this classification include atherosclerosis, hypertension, heart disease and stroke.

**Diseases of the digestive system** Conditions coded under this classification include ulcer, hernia, constipation, dental problems, enteritis and diarrhoea.

**Diseases of the genito-urinary system** Conditions coded under this classification include kidney diseases and disorders of menstruation.

**Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue** Conditions coded under this classification include arthritis, sciatica, curvature of the spine, osteoporosis and back problems.

**Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs** Conditions coded under this classification include blindness (complete/partial not corrected by glasses), astigmatism, other vision problems, deafness (complete/partial), other diseases of the eyes and ears, epilepsy and migraine.

**Diseases of the respiratory system** Conditions coded under this classification include asthma, sinusitis, hayfever, influenza, the common cold, bronchitis and emphysema.

**Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous system** Conditions coded under this classification include eczema, dermatitis, acne and psoriasis.

**Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders** Conditions coded under this classification include diabetes mellitus (types 1 and 2), thyroid disease, gout, obesity and high cholesterol.

**Health card** Refers to a range of government health entitlement and concession cards consisting of:

- Department of Veterans Affairs Entitlement Card;
- pensioner concession card;
- Commonwealth seniors health card;
- health benefits card;
- health care card;
- safety net concession card; and
- safety net entitlement card.

These cards provide for medical and/or related services free of charge or at reduced rates to recipients of Commonwealth government pensions or benefits. The Commonwealth government Medicare card is excluded.

**Indigenous** Refers to people who identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

**Long-term conditions** Medical conditions (illness, injury or disability) which have lasted at least six months, or which the respondent expects to last for six months or more including:

- long-term conditions from which the respondent experienced infrequent or spasmodic attacks e.g. asthma;
- long-term conditions which may be under control through use of medications or other treatment, e.g. diabetes, epilepsy;
- conditions which, although present, may not be generally considered illness because they are not necessarily debilitating, e.g. reduced eyesight; and/or
- long-term and permanent impairments or disabilities.

**Medications** See Type of medication.

**Mental disorders** Diseases and conditions coded under this classification include depression, psychosis, nerves, alcohol and drug dependence, and eating disorders.

**Neoplasms** Diseases coded under this classification include skin cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer and other cancers.

**Other health professionals** Includes acupuncturists, audiologists/audiometrists, chiropractors, chemists, chiropodists/podiatrists, dieticians/nutritionists, herbalists, hypnotherapists, naturopaths, nurses, opticians/optometrists, osteopaths, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, social workers/welfare officers, speech therapists/pathologists.

<b>Physical activity</b>	This item relates to exercise undertaken for sport, recreation or fitness only, and hence does not reflect the level of total physical activity. Exercise level was derived from information about the number of times exercise was undertaken in the two weeks prior to interview, the average length of each session and the intensity (i.e. vigorous, moderate or walking). The item is intended as a guide to the relative exercise levels of persons, and should not be interpreted as necessarily indicative of level of fitness.
<b>Private health insurance</b>	Private health insurance is cover provided for a fee by private health insurance organisations to reimburse all or part of the cost of hospital and/or ancillary services. The range of services and the level of cover provided by private health insurance may vary for each service.
<b>Recent conditions</b>	Medical conditions (illness, injury or disability) experienced in the two weeks prior to interview. May include long-term conditions experienced in the period.
<b>Remote</b>	The term remote is used in this publication to indicate those living in sparsely settled areas. Results for people living in such areas are not included in this publication. See Sparsely settled area for more details.
<b>Self-assessed health status</b>	Refers to the respondent's perception of his or her general health status.
<b>Smoker status</b>	The topic describes smoking status (current smoker, ex-smoker or never smoker) at time of interview.
<b>Smoking</b>	Refers to the 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. The topic focused on 'regular smoking', where regular was defined as one or more cigarettes (or pipes or cigars) per day on average as reported by the respondent.
<b>Sparsely settled area</b>	<p>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 (or 57 dwellings per 100 square kilometres). In 1995, about 156,200 people lived in sparsely settled areas, of whom about 68,400 were Indigenous and 87,800 were non-Indigenous.</p> <p>Results for people from sparsely settled areas are not included in this publication. See Explanatory Notes and the Summary of Data Quality Investigations of the 1995 National Health Survey for more information.</p>
<b>Sun protection</b>	Refers to measures deliberately taken for protection from the sun, focused on measures taken in the month prior to interview. Measures covered include use of sunscreen, umbrella, hat, clothing and sunglasses, as well as deliberate avoidance of the sun.

<b>Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions</b>	Conditions coded under this classification include symptoms such as insomnia, fever, headache, pain and virus, which could not be coded to other categories due to insufficient detail.
<b>Type of conditions</b>	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 Australia Bureau of Statistics. This classification was based on the 9th Revision (1975) 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 1995 National Health Survey condition code list with approximate ICD code equivalent can be found in <i>National Health Survey: Users' Guide, 1995</i> (Cat. no. 4363.0).
<b>Type of medication</b>	Two classifications of type of medication are shown in this publication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reported type of medication, which refers to type of medication as categorised by the respondent, and tends to reflect the reason(s) for using the medication, rather than the type of ingredients or actions of the medication.</li> <li>■ Generic type of medication, based on the World Health Organisation's Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification, and adapted for use in the survey. This classification, although based on the ATC, covered selected types of medication only. A copy of this classification is included in the <i>National Health Survey: Users' Guide, 1995</i> (Cat. no. 4363.0).</li> </ul>
<b>Vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications</b>	Respondents were asked whether in the last two weeks they had taken any vitamins, minerals, natural or herbal medications. No questions were asked as to the type of vitamin, mineral, natural or herbal medicine taken. Whether or not these products were actually vitamin, mineral, herbal or natural type medicines was based on the respondents' perceptions only.
<b>Work-related conditions</b>	Medical conditions reported in the survey as due to an accident, incident or exposure, and which the respondent identified as work related, including accident at work.









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2480600001955

ISBN 0 642 25735 3

RRP \$21.00