

DATA SOURCES

INTRODUCTION

1 Information in this publication is drawn from many sources, including the Census of Population and Housing, a number of surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and other organisations, and from a variety of administrative data sources. A brief description of the most relevant surveys conducted by the ABS and some of the other data sources is provided in the following paragraphs. Terms and concepts used in this publication are explained in the Glossary. Additional sources referenced within the publication are listed in the list of references.

BETTERING THE EVALUATION AND CARE OF HEALTH (BEACH) SURVEY

2 The BEACH survey collects information about consultations with general practitioners (GPs), including GP and patient characteristics, patient reasons for the visit, problems managed and treatments provided. The survey has been conducted annually since April 1998. Information is collected from a random sample of approximately 1,000 GPs from across Australia each year. Each GP provides details of 100 consecutive consultations.

3 Although the questionnaire contains an Indigenous identifier, it is unknown whether all GPs ask their patients this question. In sub-study Supplementary Analysis of Nominated Data of approximately 9,000 patients, it was found that if the question on Indigenous status was asked within the context of a series of questions about origin and cultural background, 2.2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This is twice the rate routinely recorded in BEACH, indicating that BEACH may underestimate the number of Indigenous consultations. More information on the BEACH survey is available on the BEACH project web site <<http://www.fmrc.org.au/beach.htm>>.

CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

4 The Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS and is conducted every five years. Results from the 2001 Census are presented in this publication.

5 The Census is a count of the whole population at a given point in time, and provides a reliable basis for making future estimates of the population of each state, territory and local government area. These population estimates are used for the distribution of government funds, and to determine the number of seats per state and territory in the Commonwealth Parliament. In addition, the knowledge of the characteristics of the population gained through the Census is used to support the planning, administration and policy development activities of governments, businesses and other users.

COMMUNITY HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS SURVEY (CHINS)

6 The 2001 CHINS collected data about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing organisations and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia.

7 The survey was conducted throughout Australia between March and June 2001, and was the second in a series of surveys conducted by the ABS on behalf of, and with full funding from, the then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). The 2006 CHINS will be funded by the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services.

8 The 2001 CHINS was administered in conjunction with field preparations for the 2001 Census. Although called a survey, the 2001 CHINS was designed as an enumeration of all 1,216 discrete Indigenous communities in Australia that were occupied at the time of the CHINS or were intended to be reoccupied within 12 months, and of all 616

COMMUNITY HOUSING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS
SURVEY (CHINS) *continued*

Indigenous Housing Organisations managing housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

9 More information on the survey is available in ABS 2002a.

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY
(GSS)

10 The 2002 GSS collected information regarding health, housing, education, work, income, financial stress, assets and liabilities, transport, family and community, and crime.

11 The 2002 GSS was conducted throughout Australia from March to July 2002 by the ABS. It collected information from 15,500 people aged 18 years and over resident in private dwellings in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, except for very remote areas of Australia.

12 In this publication, non-Indigenous data from the GSS is used to provide comparisons with the Indigenous population for 2002. In most cases, these comparisons are based on age-standardised estimates in order to account for the differences in age structure between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Because age-standardised estimates do not represent any real population parameters, they should not be used to quantify the difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. They should be used as an indication of difference only.

13 For more information on the GSS, see ABS 2003b. A full list of the data items from the 2002 GSS is contained in the *2002 General Social Survey: Data Reference Package* (cat. no. 4159.0.55.001) available free of charge on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HEALTH SURVEY (NATSIHS)

14 The NATSIHS collected information relating to Indigenous health including health status, health actions taken, and lifestyle factors which may influence health.

15 The survey was conducted between August 2004 and July 2005 and information will be released in early 2006. Building on the 2001 National Health survey, the NATSIHS is a separate six-yearly survey that will be timed to coincide with every second (three-yearly) NHS.

16 While in 2001 information was collected from about 3,700 Indigenous persons, the sample size for the 2004–05 NATSIHS was approximately 11,000 persons. As in 2001, information was collected from both remote and non-remote areas throughout Australia.

17 The survey covers content similar to the NHS including: health service use; health risk factors; long-term conditions; and basic demographic information. In addition, the NATSIHS collected other information considered to be of high relevance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, including: social and emotional well-being; discrimination; unmet need (in relation to service access); oral health; and men's health activities. The survey has been field tested in urban, rural and remote areas of Australia with the cooperation of hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, their community councils and community-controlled health services.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
SOCIAL SURVEY (NATSISS)

18 The 2002 NATSISS collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, transport and mobility, as well as law and justice.

19 The 2002 NATSISS was conducted from August 2002 to April 2003 and is the second national social survey of Indigenous Australians conducted by the ABS, building on the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS). It is planned that the survey will be repeated at six-yearly intervals.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
SOCIAL SURVEY (NATSISS)

continued

20 The survey collected information from 9,400 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including people living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years or over who were usual residents of private dwellings in Australia. Usual residents of 'special' dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals and prisons were not included in the survey.

21 The survey was designed to provide reliable estimates at the national level and for each state and territory. The sample was therefore spread across the states and territories in order to produce estimates that have a relative standard error (RSE) of no greater than 20% for characteristics that are relatively common in the Indigenous population, say that at least 10% of the population would possess. In addition, the Torres Strait Islander population was over-sampled in order to produce data for the Torres Strait Area and the remainder of Queensland.

22 For more information on the NATSISS, see ABS 2004f. In addition, the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Data Reference Package, 2002* (cat. no. 4714.0.55.002) is available free of charge on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>. This package contains a complete listing of the data items collected in the survey, definitional material and sample copies of the questionnaires used in remote and non-remote areas.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
SURVEY (NATSIS)

23 The NATSIS was the first national survey of Australia's Indigenous people and was part of the government response to a recommendation by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. It was primarily designed to provide information at the national level on the social, demographic, economic and health status of Indigenous people.

24 Prior to, and during the development stages of the survey, there was widespread consultation with Indigenous people and organisations to ensure that the information collected was relevant to Indigenous people and was collected in a culturally appropriate manner.

25 The 1994 NATSIS questionnaire covered the areas of family and culture, health, housing, education and training, employment and income, and law and justice.

26 The survey was based on personal interviews with a sample of 15,700 Indigenous people within the 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) regions and the Torres Strait Area.

27 More information on the survey is available in ABS 1995.

NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
(NDSHS)

28 The NDSHS was managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and collected information from households on individual's drug use patterns, attitudes and behaviours.

29 The 2001 NDSHS represented the seventh in the National Drug Strategy series since the program's inception in 1985, and surveyed 27,000 persons aged 14 years or over. Of these, 415 persons identified as either Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both. The relatively small Indigenous sample limits the confidence with which analysis can take place.

30 More information on the survey is available in AIHW 2002a.

NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY
(NHS)

31 The NHS collected information relating to health and included topics such as long-term illnesses experienced, mental wellbeing, injuries, consultations with doctors and other health professionals, and health risk factors including alcohol consumption, smoking, exercise, body mass and dietary practices.

NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY
(NHS) *continued*

32 The 2001 NHS was conducted by the ABS from February to November 2001. This was the fifth in the series of health surveys conducted by the ABS; previous surveys were conducted in 1977–78, 1983, 1989–90 and 1995.

33 The 2001 NHS sample covered usual residents of private dwellings only. Usual residents of ‘special’ dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals and prisons were not included in the survey.

34 Approximately 26,900 people from all states and territories and across all age groups were included in the 2001 survey, including 483 Indigenous persons. To enhance the reliability of estimates for the Indigenous population, a supplementary sample of 3,200 Indigenous respondents was obtained for the survey. This was conducted throughout Australia from June to November 2001. The Indigenous results included in this publication are based on the total sample (known as the NHS(I)) of 3,700 Indigenous Australians comprising 1,853 adults and 1,828 children.

35 For more information of the 2001 NHS, see ABS 2002b and 2002c. In addition, the *National Health Survey: User’s Guide* (cat. no. 4363.0.55.001) is available free of charge from the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL
MORBIDITY DATABASE
(NHMD)

36 The NHMD is a national collection of de-identified hospital separation records (discharges, transfers, deaths or changes in type of episode of care) maintained by the AIHW. Information on the characteristics, diagnoses and care of admitted patients in public and private hospitals is provided to the AIHW by state and territory health departments. Further detail regarding the NHMD is available from the AIHW 2005b.

NATIONAL MORTALITY
DATABASE (NMD)

37 The National Mortality Database (NMD) is a national collection of de-identified information for all deaths in Australia. This Database, maintained by the AIHW, includes deaths registered in Australia from 1964 to the present. Information on the characteristics and causes of death of the deceased is provided by the Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and coded nationally by the ABS. Information on the cause of death is supplied by the medical practitioner certifying the death, or by a coroner. The data is updated each calendar year, towards the end of the year, with the previous calendar year’s data.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH
SURVEY (WAACHS)

38 The WAACHS collected information on child and youth development, health and wellbeing, functional impairment and disability, use and access to health, education and social services, and diet and nutrition. The survey was conducted by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in conjunction with the Kulunga Research Network.

39 The survey was administered between May 2000 and June 2002. It collected information from 5,300 Western Australian and Torres Strait Islander children aged between 0 and 17 years who lived in metropolitan, rural and remote regions of Western Australia.

40 For more information on the WAACHS, see Zubrick et al. 2004 and 2005, or the Institute’s website <www.ichr.uwa.edu.au>.

ABBREVIATIONS

AACR	Australasian Association of Cancer Registries
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACIR	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
ACRS	Aboriginal Child Rearing Strategy
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADC	Aboriginal Dental Clinic
ADL	activities of daily living
AHURI	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AIL	activities of independent living
AMD	age-related macular degeneration
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
ANZDATA	Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry
AODTS-NMDS	Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
ATSIHWIU	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Information Unit
Aust.	Australia
AWEC	activities of work, education and community living
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health
cat. no.	Catalogue number
CAP	Crisis Accommodation Program
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CHINS	Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CRA	Commonwealth Rent Assistance
CSHA	Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement
CSOM	chronic suppurative otitis media
CSTDA	Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement
dmft	decayed, missing and filled (deciduous) teeth
DASR	Drug and Alcohol Service Report
DEST	Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training
DHAC	Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
DMFT	decayed, missing and filled (permanent) teeth
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
DSP	Disability Support Pension
DSRU	Dental Statistics and Research Unit

ABBREVIATIONS

DTP	diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine
ERP	estimated resident population
ESRD	end-stage renal disease
FaCS	Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services
FTE	full-time equivalent
GP	General Medical Practitioner
GSS	General Social Survey
HACC	Home and Community Care
Hib	Haemophilus influenza type B
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMC	Housing Ministers' Conference
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision
ICD-10-AM	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification
ICD-9	International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision
ICH	Indigenous community housing
ICT	information and communication technology
IESIP	Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Programme
km	kilometre
m	million
MACS	Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs
MCHRDB	Maternal and Child Health Research Data Base
MDS	minimum data set
MMR	measles, mumps and rubella
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
no.	number
NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
NATSIS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NCHECR	National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
NCIRS	The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
NCMHCD	National Community Mental Health Care Database
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NHMD	National Hospital Morbidity Database
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHS	National Health Survey
NHS(I)	National Health Survey (Indigenous)
NIELNS	National Indigenous English Literacy and Numeracy Strategy
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NNDS	National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
NPHP	National Public Health Partnership
NPSU	National Perinatal Statistics Unit
NRF	National Reporting Framework

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NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OATSIH	Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPV	Oral Polio Vaccine
ppm	parts per million
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
Qld	Queensland
RRMAC	Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas Classification
SA	South Australia
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
SAR	Service Activity Reporting
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
SIGNAL	Strategic Inter-Governmental Nutrition Alliance
SMR	standardised mortality ratio
SOMIH	state and territory owned and managed Indigenous housing
STI	sexually transmissible infection
Tas.	Tasmania
TFR	total fertility rate
UWA	University of Western Australia
VET	vocational education and training
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WAACHS	Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey
WHO	World Health Organization