



# National framework for protecting Australia's children indicators

Web report | Last updated: 15 Jun 2022 | Topic: [Child protection](#) |

## Citation

AIHW

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [National framework for protecting Australia's children indicators](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 31 May 2022.

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Last updated 26/05/2022 v2.0

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## About

The *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* includes measures that report on the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.

The *National Standards for Out-of-Home Care* are a priority under the *National Framework* and aim to drive improvements and consistency in the quality of out-of-home care.

This release updates data under these two indicator sets. It includes updated child protection indicators, along with a variety of other measures that focus on the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.

DOI: [10.25816/fhx2-p370](https://doi.org/10.25816/fhx2-p370)

Cat. no: CWS 62

- [National Framework indicators](#)
- [National Standards indicators](#)
- [Data](#)

### Findings from this report:

- [8 per 1,000 children aged 0-17 are in out-of-home care](#)
  - [91% of children in out-of-home care at 30 June had 1 or 2 placements during the year](#)
  - [54% of children aged 0-17 in out-of-home care are placed with relatives or kin](#)
  - [63% of children aged 4-5 attended preschool programs](#)
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Last updated 5/04/2022 v3.0

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## Summary

According to the  [National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020](#), all children have the right to have a safe, healthy, and happy childhood. Over 46,500 children and young people aged 0-17 were the subject of child protection substantiation in 2020-21. The National Framework represents a level of collaboration between Australian, State and Territory governments and non-government organisations to protect children.

There are two sets of indicators presented within this report that sit under the National Framework; the National Framework indicators and the National Standards indicators.

### Measuring progress

The [indicator quick reference guide](#) summarises progress against all National Framework and National Standards indicators.

### Related documents

The following related documents are also available:

- Data visualisations are presented for all indicators with data available. The displays allow exploration of each indicator through customisable charts and tables. The displays allow you to explore each indicator through customisable charts and tables. Displays are currently available for 28 of the [National Framework indicators](#) and 21 of the [National Standards indicators](#)—use the links in the indicator lists to open the data visualisations (those listed in italics do not currently have a display available).
- The [supplementary data tables](#) contain all data for the indicators, along with important notes on the scope and quality of data.
- The [indicator data availability document](#) shows the most recent data for each indicator. This document also includes information about which indicators include data specific to Indigenous children.

All data available from 2009 are included in each release.

Additional information on the National Framework and National Standards, including the annual report series, is available on the Department of Social Services web page [Protecting Australia's children](#).

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Last updated 11/05/2022 v39.0

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## Policy framework

The National Framework, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2009, commits Commonwealth, state and territory governments, collaborating with the community sector, to an ambitious long-term plan to promote and enhance the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.

The  [National Standards for Out-of-Home Care](#) (the National Standards) are a priority under the National Framework 2009-2020. The National Standards have been designed to drive improvements and deliver consistency in the quality of care so that children in out-of-home care have the same opportunities as their peers to reach their potential in life wherever they live in Australia. The National Standards focus on children and young people under 18 whose care arrangements were ordered through the relevant children's court and parental responsibility for the child was transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive. This will be the last update of the indicator set reported under this framework.

The successor to the National Framework - Safe & Supported:  [The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031](#) (Safe and Supported) was endorsed by Community Services Ministers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group and released in December 2021.

Safe and Supported is a 10-year whole-of-nation strategy that aims to reduce rates of child abuse and neglect by transforming systems and services that support vulnerable and/or disadvantaged children and families and improve the way governments partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Indicator reporting related to Safe and Supported is currently being developed and is planned for release in 2022.

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Last updated 11/05/2022 v8.0

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## National Framework indicators

High level outcome: Australia's children and young people are safe and well

Number	Name
0.1	<a href="#">Child protection substantiations</a>
0.2	<a href="#">Out-of-home care</a>
0.3	<a href="#">Teenage births</a>
0.4	<a href="#">Low birthweight</a>
0.5	<a href="#">Child homicide</a>
0.6	<a href="#">Early childhood development</a>
0.7	<a href="#">Child social and emotional wellbeing</a>
0.8	<a href="#">Family economic situation</a>

Supporting Outcome 1: Children live in safe and supportive families and communities

Number	Name
1.1	<a href="#">Family functioning</a>
1.2	<a href="#">Perceived safety</a>

Supporting Outcome 2: Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early

Number	Name
2.1	<a href="#">Family support service use</a>
2.2	<a href="#">Early childhood education</a>
2.3	<a href="#">Antenatal care</a>

Supporting Outcome 3: Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed

Number	Name
3.1	<a href="#">Parental substance use (drugs)</a>
3.2	<a href="#">Parental substance use (alcohol)</a>
3.3	<a href="#">Parental mental health</a>
3.4	<a href="#">Homelessness</a>
3.5	<a href="#">Domestic violence</a>

Supporting Outcome 4: Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing

Number	Name
4.1	<a href="#">Child protection resubstantiations</a>
4.2	<a href="#">Placement stability</a>
4.3	<a href="#">Carer retention</a>
4.4	<a href="#">Rebuilding resilience of abuse survivors*</a>
4.5	<a href="#">Literacy and numeracy</a>

4.6	<u>Leaving care plans</u>
4.7	<u>Cross-sector clients</u> (a) Child protection clients in youth justice

Supporting Outcome 5: Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities

Number	Name
5.1	<i>Placement of Indigenous children (compliance)*</i>
5.2	<u>Placement of Indigenous children (relatives/kin)</u>
5.3	<i>Placement of Indigenous children (agency)*</i>
5.4	<u>Cultural support plans</u>

Supporting Outcome 6: Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support

Number	Name
6.1	<u>Sexual abuse substantiations</u>
6.2	<u>Child sexual assault</u>

\* Indicator not currently reportable due to limitations in data availability/quality.

Last updated 7/07/2021 v32.0

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## National Framework indicators

### NFPAC quick reference guide

The quick reference guide shows the current reported values of all National Framework indicators, years of trend data available and change from baseline year data.

Domain	Indicator	Current year	Value (current)	Years of trend data	Change from ..	
High level outcome: Australia's children and young people are safe and well	0.1 Child protection substant..	2020-21	8.8 (per 1,000)	NA	No time serie..	●●
	0.2 Out-of-home care	2021	8.2 (per 1,000)	2017 to 2021	Increase	↑
	0.3 Teenage births	2019	7.7 (per 1,000)	2012 to 2019	Decrease	↓
	0.4 Low birthweight	2019	6.6%	2010 to 2019	Increase	↑
	0.5 Child homicide	2018-20	0.5 (per 100,000)	2008-10 to 2018-..	Steady or no ..	~
	0.6 Early childhood developm..	2018	21.7%	2009 to 2018	Steady or no ..	~
	0.7 Child social and emotional..	2014	10.2%	NA	No time serie..	●●
	0.8 Family economic situation	2017-18	12.0%	2009-10 to 2017-..	Decrease	↓
Supporting Outcome 1: Children live in safe and supportive families and communities	1.1 Family functioning—Birth..	2016-17	88.7%	2010-11 to 2016-..	Steady or no ..	~
	1.1 Family functioning—Kind..	2016-17	77.8%	2010-11 to 2016-..	Steady or no ..	~
	1.2 Perceived safety—at hom..	2014	88.8%	NA	No time serie..	●●
	1.2 Perceived safety—local ar..	2014	64.9%	NA	No time serie..	●●
Supporting Outcome 2: Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early	2.1 Family support service use	2019-20	40159	NA	No time serie..	●●
	2.2 Early childhood education..	2020	62.5%	2016 to 2020	Steady or no ..	~
	2.2 Early childhood education..	2020	69.4%	2016 to 2020	Decrease	↓
	2.2 Early childhood education..	2020	17.3%	2016 to 2020	Steady or no ..	~
	2.3 Antenatal care	2019	94.1%	2016 to 2019	Increase	↑
Supporting Outcome 3: Risk factors for abuse and neglect are addressed	3.1 Parental substance use—..	2019	14.5%	NA	No time serie..	●●
	3.2 Parental substance use—..	2019	42.2%	2010 to 2019	Decrease	↓
	3.3 Parental mental health	2020	17.0%	2009 to 2020	Steady or no ..	~
	3.4 Homelessness	2020-21	13.8 (per 1,000)	2016-17 to 2020-..	Steady or no ..	~
	3.5 Domestic violence	2016	86.8%	NA	No time serie..	●●
Supporting Outcome 4: Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing	4.1 Child protection resubsta..	2019-20	20.9%	NA	No time serie..	●●
	4.2 Placement stability	2020-21	65.8%	2016-17 to 2020-..	Steady or no ..	~
	4.3 Carer retention	2020-21	86.4%	2016-17 to 2020-..	Steady or no ..	~
	4.4 Rebuilding resilience of a...	..	..	NA	No data	●●
	4.5 Literacy and numeracy—R..	2013	82.7%	NA	No time serie..	●●
	4.5 Literacy and numeracy—N..	2013	71.3%	NA	No time serie..	●●
	4.6 Leaving care plans	2021	80.8%	NA	No time serie..	●●
Supporting Outcome 5: Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and co..	5.1 Placement of Indigenous ..	..	..	NA	No data	●●
	5.2 Placement of Indigenous ..	2021	63.1%	NA	No time serie..	●●
	5.3 Placement of Indigenous ..	..	..	NA	No data	●●
	5.4 Cultural support plans	2021	73.7%	NA	No time serie..	●●
Supporting Outcome 6: Child sexual abus..	6.1 Sexual abuse substantiati..	2020-21	1.2 (per 1,000)	NA	No time serie..	●●
	6.2 Child sexual assault	2020	222.4 (per 100,0..	2010 to 2020	Steady or no ..	~

1. For each indicator, 'Years of trend data' denote the earliest and latest year of comparable time series data available within the 2009-2021 lifetime of the National Framework (data for additional non-comparable years may be included in the Supplementary tables). Data availability and frequency varies across indicators. 'No time series data' indicates less than 3 years of comparable time series data, including the current year, are currently available for that indicator. 'No data' indicates the indicator is not currently reportable due to limitation in data availability/quality.

2. Trend analysis has been undertaken using a t-test between the year and the indicator value. Statistically significant findings are reported as 'increase' or 'decrease', while non-statistically significant findings are reported as 'steady or no clear trend'. Trend analysis is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data.

See the [quick reference guide](#) for further information.

Last updated 22/04/2022 v10.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 0.1 Child protection substantiations

Children who have been abused or neglected often have poor social, behavioural and health outcomes in childhood and later life.

Child protection substantiations capture cases that have been reported to the state and territory departments responsible for child protection. A substantiation of a notification is the conclusion (following an investigation) that there was reasonable cause to believe that a child had been, was being, or was likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed.

When interpreting 'abuse type' data, it should be noted that if a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, the abuse and/or neglect reported is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child.

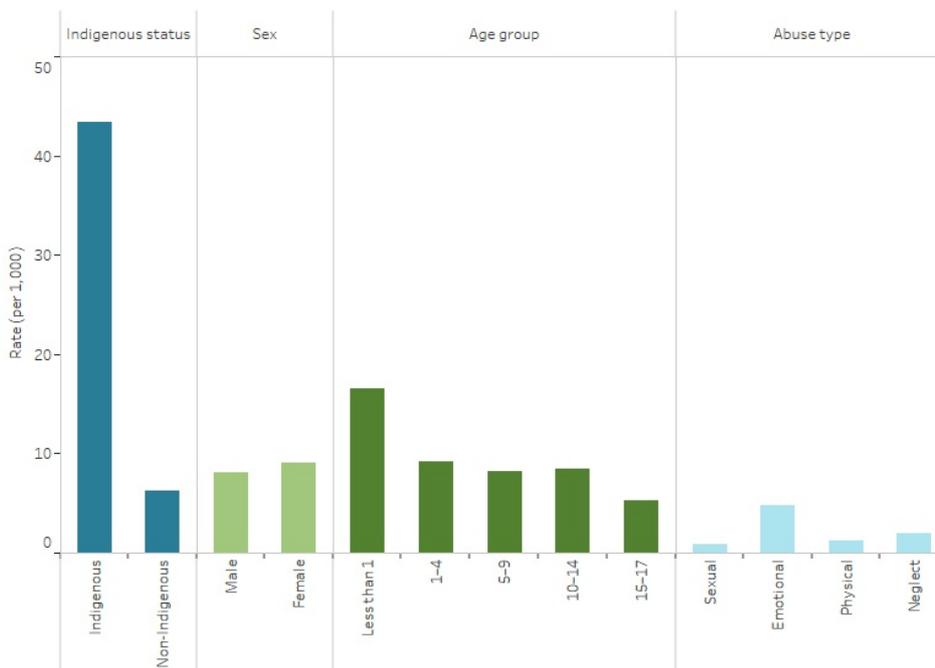
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who were the subject of a child protection substantiation disaggregated by Indigenous status, sex, age group and abuse type.

**NFPAC indicator 0.1: Rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who were the subject of a child protection substantiation in selected financial year**

Select year  
2020-21

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 0.1 Child protection substantiations: Rate of children aged 0-17 years who were the subject of child protection substantiation

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who were the subject of child protection substantiations of notifications received in the reference period	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years at 31 December	AIHW Population Database (sourced from ABS Australian Demographic Statistics)

## Explanatory notes

### Substantiated abuse

Child abuse may include neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional or psychological abuse. Abuse is substantiated if, in the professional opinion of officers of the child protection authority, there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been, is being, or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed.

The administrative data reported to the AIHW on child protection substantiations reflects departmental activity. Differences in child protection legislation, policies and practices across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in substantiations and so caution must be used when interpreting the data.

Administrative data captures incidence of substantiations of harm, or risk of harm, rather than prevalence of abuse and neglect.

Substantiations reported for this indicator refer to investigations of notifications received during the financial year (e.g. 1 July to 30 June of the following year) for which an outcome of 'substantiated' was recorded within two months of the end of the financial year (i.e. by 31 August).

Substantiated data generally capture maltreatment by a parent/guardian. Extra-familial maltreatment (i.e. by someone other than a child's parent or guardian) is not within the mandate of most jurisdictions unless the child's parents are not acting to protect the child.

### Population data

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

Accordingly, in the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

Last updated 12/05/2022 v27.0

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# National Framework indicators

## 0.2 Out-of-home care

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Out-of-home care is provided across Australia for children who are unable to live with their families, generally because of child abuse or neglect or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration).

Although out-of-home care may be beneficial for children who are unsafe living with their families of origin, it is generally viewed as an intervention of last resort, and there is a preference for children to be reunited with their birth parents wherever possible.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

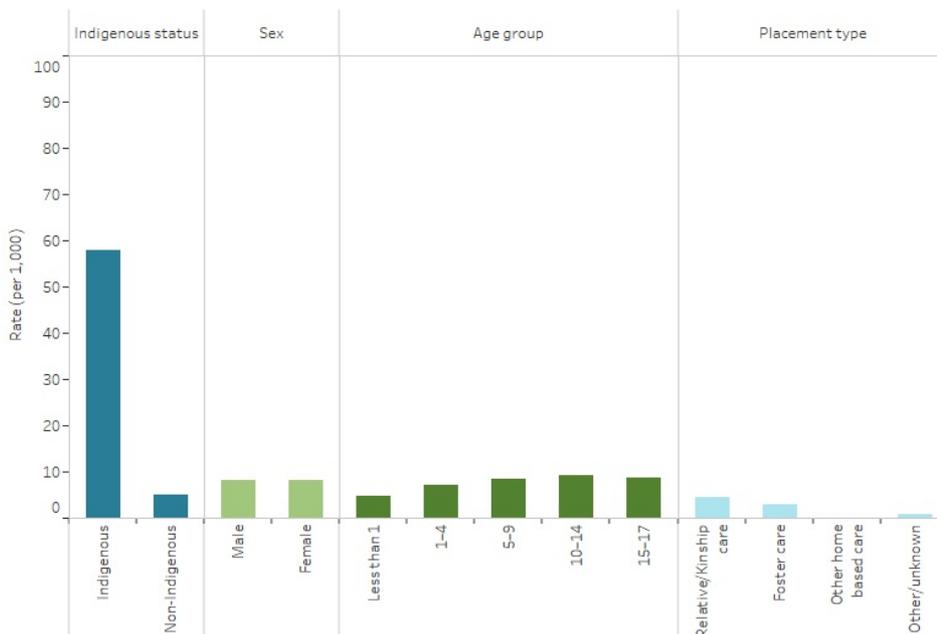
The first figure is a bar graph showing the rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who were in out-of-home care, by Indigenous status, sex, age group and placement type. Data can be displayed for select years, 2010 to 2021.

The second figure is a line graph showing the rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who were in out-of-home care at 30 June, 2017 to 2021. Data can be displayed by selected disaggregations: Indigenous status, age group, sex and placement type.

### NFPAC indicator 0.2: Rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who were in out-of-home care at 30 June

Select year  
2021

Yearly Trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

## Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

### National Framework Indicator 0.2 Out-of-home care: Rate of children aged 0-17 years who are in out-of-home care

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who were in out-of-home care the night of 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years at 31 March	AIHW Population Database (sourced from ABS Australian Demographic Statistics)

### Explanatory notes

Out-of-home care arrangements include overnight care for children aged 0-17, where the state makes a financial payment or where a financial payment has been offered but declined by the carer. Placement types include foster care, placements with relatives or kin, residential care, family group homes, independent living, and other funded placements not otherwise categorised. In most cases, children in out-of-home care are also on a care and protection order.

National reporting based on a consistent definition of out-of-home care was agreed in 2019; it excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care. Out-of-home care trend data in this report have been back cast to 2016-17 with the national definition for out-of-home care adopted in 2018-19. Out-of-home care data in this report should not be compared with data published prior to 2018-19 when the reporting of out-of-home care was not nationally consistent.

Only children in care on the night of 30 June are reflected in the data reported for this indicator.

Differences in legislation, policies and practices in relation to out-of-home care across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in out-of-home care so caution must be taken when interpreting the data.

March population estimates are usually the most recent data available for the denominator at the time the rates are calculated (i.e. June estimates are not yet available).

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

Accordingly, in the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v39.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 0.3 Teenage births

Teenage motherhood is associated with poorer health and wellbeing outcomes for both the mother and her children. Teenage mothers face increased risk of physical and psychological difficulties while having their children. They are also more likely to be socioeconomically disadvantaged and to have lower levels of education, and are less likely to attend antenatal classes, than older mothers (AIHW 2018).

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

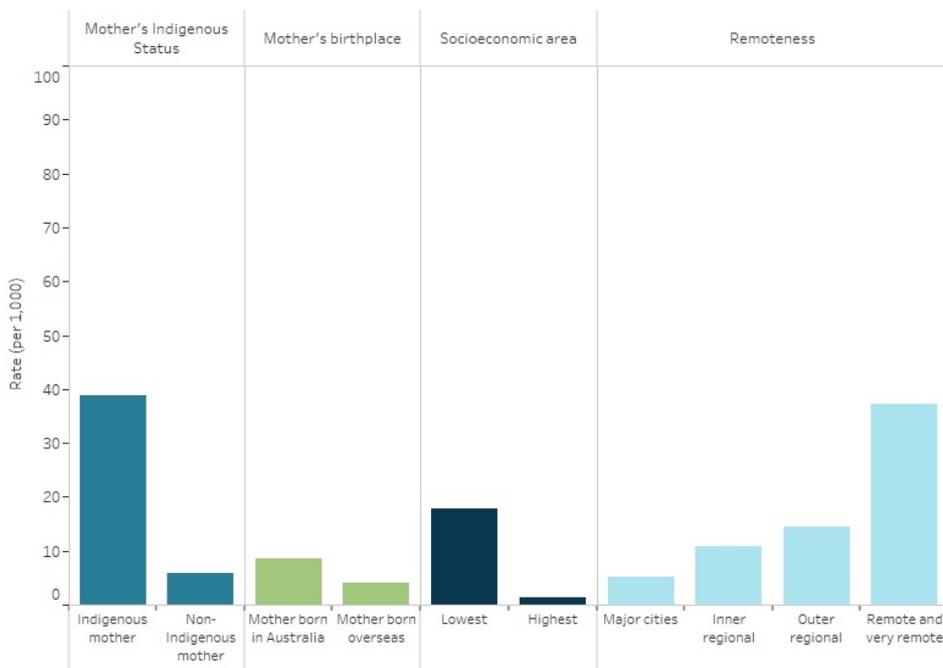
The first figure is a bar graph showing the age-specific birth rate for women aged 15-19, by mother’s Indigenous status, mother’s birthplace, socioeconomic area and remoteness. Data can be displayed for select years, 2009 to 2019.

The second figure is a line graph showing the age-specific birth rate for women aged 15-19, 2012 to 2019. Data can be displayed by mother’s Indigenous status, mother’s birthplace, socioeconomic area and remoteness.

**NFPAC indicator 0.3: Age-specific birth rate for women aged 15–19 in selected calendar year**

Select year  
2019

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [National Perinatal Data Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

For further information on teenage births see [Australia’s mothers and babies reporting](#).

### References

AIHW (2018) [Teenage mothers in Australia 2015](#), AIHW, Australian Government.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of live births to women aged less than 20 years in the reference period	AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection
Denominator	Female estimated resident population aged 15-19 years at 30 June	AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

The indicator numerator reflects the number of births, not the number of mothers. Some mothers may have had multiple births during the reference period.

Mother's age is at the time of birth. Due to the small number of births occurring among women aged less than 15 years, births to mothers aged under 15 years are included in the numerator but not the denominator.

The teenage birth rate is distinct from the teenage pregnancy rate. The birth rate includes only live births and is therefore lower than the pregnancy rate, which would include stillbirths, miscarriages and terminations.

Last updated 12/05/2022 v35.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 0.4 Low birthweight

Babies who are born with low birth weight are at greater risk of poor health and disability than other babies.

A baby may be small through being born early (pre-term) or may be small for their gestational age. Factors that may contribute to low birth weight include:

- maternal experiences of illness, trauma or injury during pregnancy
- inadequate prenatal care
- smoking, alcohol, and drug use during pregnancy
- poor maternal nutrition, physical and mental health

Low birth weight is defined as <2,500 grams.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a horizontal bar graph showing the proportion of live born infants, by mother’s Indigenous status and birth weight category (high, normal and low). Data can be presented for select years, 2010 to 2019.

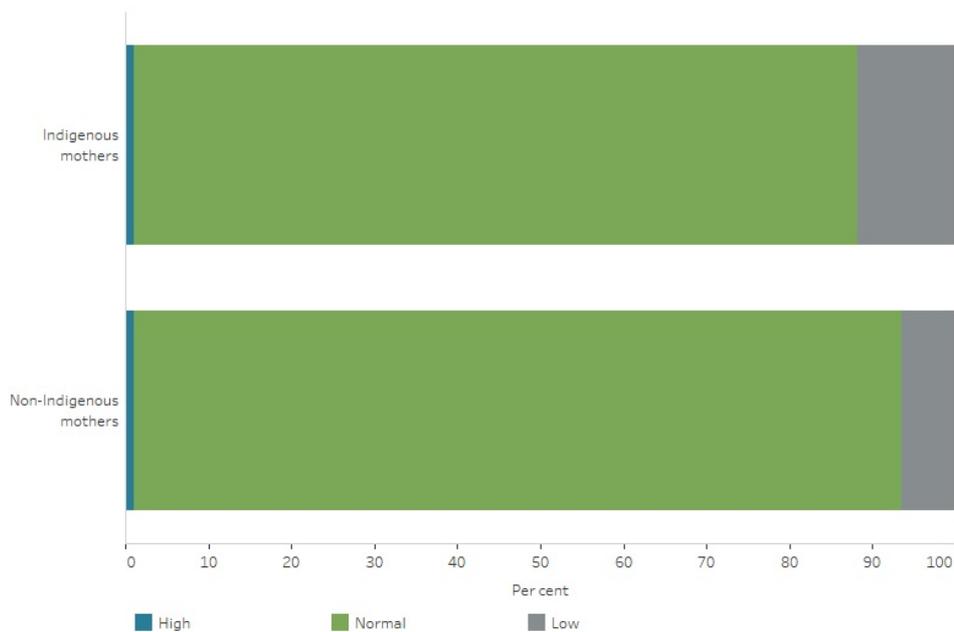
The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of live born infants from 2010 to 2019, by mother’s Indigenous status and birth weight category (high, normal or low).

#### NFPAC indicator 0.4: Proportion of live born infants, by birth weight in selected calendar year

Select year  
2019

Select category  
 Birthweight

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [National Perinatal Data Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of low birthweight (<2,500g) live born infants in the reference period	AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection
Denominator	Number of births (live born) registered in the reference period	AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

The definition of low birthweight as weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth is the Australian standard and the World Health Organization standard.

Babies with low birthweight may be small due to being born early (pre-term), or may be small for their gestational age (including intrauterine growth restriction).

Only live births are included. As such, the indicator excludes stillbirths, miscarriages and terminations.

Data on Indigenous births relate to babies born to Indigenous mothers only, and exclude babies born to non-Indigenous mothers and Indigenous fathers. Therefore, the information is not based on the total count of Indigenous babies. Data also excludes births to mothers for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v34.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 0.5 Child homicide

Deaths from assault provide an indication of the extent of extreme interpersonal violence towards children.

Interpersonal violence, including domestic violence and child abuse, is often associated with parental drug and alcohol misuse and mental health problems.

Due to small numbers, these data are aggregated over two-year periods.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a bar graph showing the assault (homicide) death rate (per 100,000) for children and young people aged 0-17 years, by sex and age group. Data can be presented for select year groups 2008-10 to 2018-20.

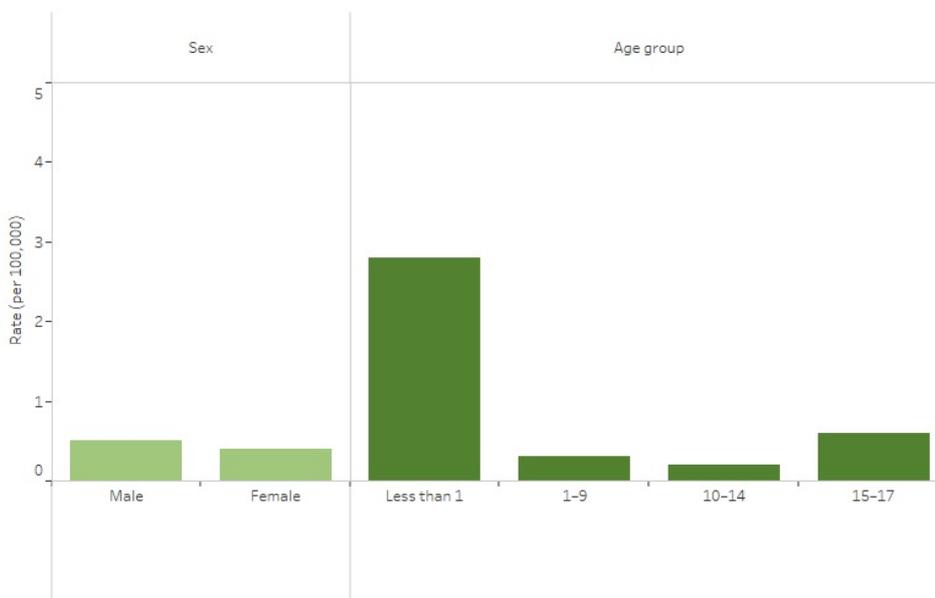
The second figure is a line graph showing the assault (homicide) death rate (per 100,000) for children and young people aged 0-17 years from 2008-10 to 2018-20. Data are can be presented by age group or sex.

**NFPAC indicator 0.5: Assault (homicide) death rate for children and young people aged 0–17 years in selected aggregated financial years**

Select year

- 2008–10
- 2010–12
- 2012–14
- 2014–16
- 2016–18
- 2018–20

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW analysis of [Australian Institute of Criminology \(AIC\) National Homicide Monitoring Program](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 0.5 Child Homicide: Assault (homicide) death rate for children aged 0-17 years

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Number of deaths of children aged 0-17 years from assault in the reference period	Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP)
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years at 31 December	AIHW Population Database (sourced from ABS Australian Demographic Statistics)

### Explanatory notes

There are two key sources of data for the NHMP: offence records derived from each state/territory police service, supplemented where necessary with information provided directly by investigating police officers and/or associated staff; and state coronial records such as toxicology and post-mortem reports.

The term homicide refers to a person killed (unlawfully). Homicide is defined by the criminal law of each state and territory, and varying definitions exist between jurisdictions in terms of its degree, culpability and intent.

The definition of homicide in the NHMP reflects the operational definition used by police throughout Australia. Excluded from this definition are attempted murder and violent deaths, such as industrial accidents involving criminal negligence (unless a charge of manslaughter is laid). Lawful homicide, including that by police in the course of their duties, is also excluded.

Due to the small number of homicide deaths, reported data are aggregated for a two-year period.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

Accordingly, in the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate your interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

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## National Framework indicators

### 0.6 Early childhood development

Children's early development has a profound impact on their future health, development, learning and wellbeing.

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a measure of children's development, based on the scores from a teacher-completed checklist in their first year of formal schooling (the preparatory year prior to Year 1). It is measured across the following five domains:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills
- communications skills and general knowledge.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

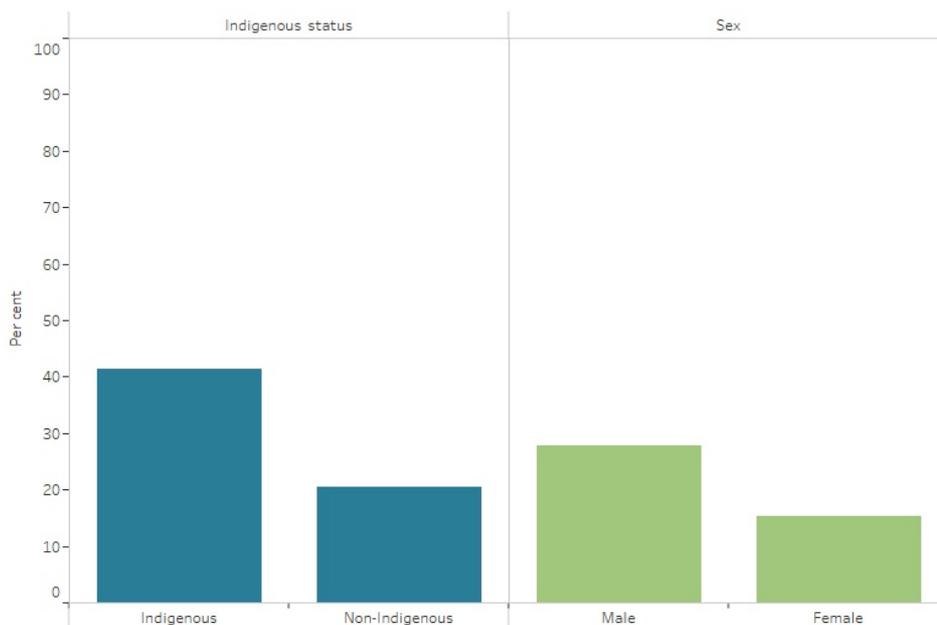
The first figure is a bar chart showing the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), by Indigenous status and sex. Data can be presented by select years (2009, 2012, 2015 and 2018) and by domain (vulnerable on one or more domains or vulnerable on two or more domains).

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) in 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2018. Data can be selected by Indigenous status, sex and domain (vulnerable on one or more domains or vulnerable on two or more domains).

**NFPAC indicator 0.6: Proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) at selected year**

Select year:  2009  2012  2015  2018

Select domain:  Vulnerable on one or more domains  Vulnerable on two or more domains



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW analysis of [Australian Early Development Census \(AEDC\) data](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 0.6 Early childhood development: Proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the AEDC	Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)
Denominator	Number of children with valid scores on one or more domains of the AEDC	Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

### Explanatory notes

The AEDC is based on the scores from a teacher-completed checklist in the children's first year of full-time schooling - the preparatory year prior to Year 1 (this may be known as kindergarten, prep, pre-primary, reception or transition across jurisdictions).

There are five AEDC developmental domains: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school-based); and communication skills and general knowledge.

Results on the AEDC domains group children into the following categories:

- developmentally vulnerable (below the 10th percentile)
- developmentally at-risk (between the 10th and 25th percentile)
- on track (between the 25th and the 50th percentile, and above the 50th percentile).

Results also describe children as developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains, and on two or more domains. These children are considered to be at particularly high risk developmentally.

Home-schooled children are not included in the AEDC as teachers collect these data. However, distance education is included.

In 2014, the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) was renamed the AEDC.

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## National Framework indicators

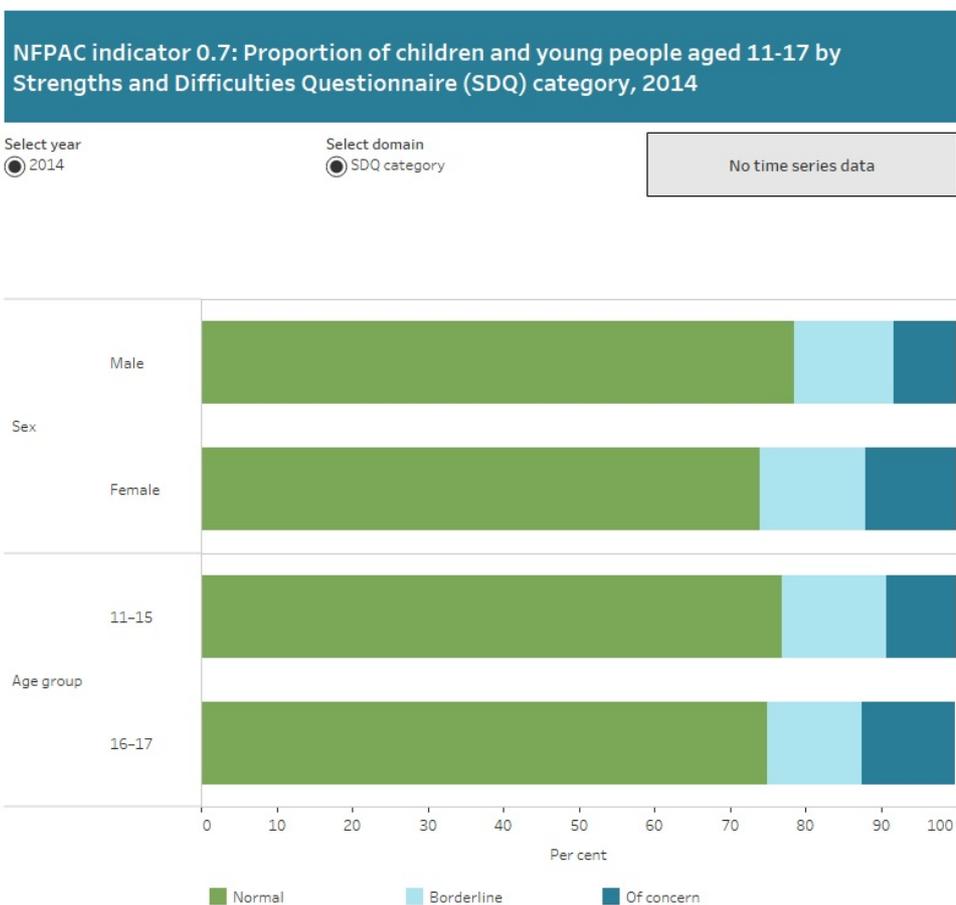
### 0.7 Child Social & emotional wellbeing

Children with poor mental wellbeing experience a range of physical and social impairments, and may be exposed to stigma and discrimination.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was one of the modules included in the Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing. The SDQ measures children's social and emotional wellbeing. Results from the SDQ are grouped into three categories: normal, borderline and of concern. Scores in the 'of concern' category indicate substantial risk of clinically significant problems.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The horizontal bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 11-17 by their Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) category (normal, borderline or of concern), sex and age group (11 to 15 and 16 to 17) in 2014.



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: Lawrence et al. (2015) The mental health of children and adolescents: Report on the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Department of Health, Australian Government.

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 0.7 Child social and emotional wellbeing: Proportion of children aged 11-17 years scoring 'of-concern' on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire

	Definition	Data source
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Numerator	Number of children aged 11-17 years who self-completed the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, and their total difficulties score was classified as 'of-concern'	Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing
Denominator	Number of children aged 11-17 years who self-completed the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire	Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Explanatory notes

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was one of the modules included in the Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The SDQ is a brief behavioural screening questionnaire comprising five subscales of five items each. Items in four of these subscales (emotional problems, conduct problems, hyperactivity and peer problems) are combined to generate a total difficulties score. The total difficulties score can then be classified into three categories: normal, borderline, and of concern (also referred to as 'abnormal'). Scores in the 'of-concern' range indicate substantial risk of clinically significant problems.

The SDQ was designed so that approximately 10% of children all fall into the 'of-concern' range on the total difficulties score, based on the original normative British population.

This indicator reflects the results from the self-completed version of the SDQ for 11-17 year olds.

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## National Framework indicators

### 0.8 Family economic situation

Reliance on income support is often associated with long-term poverty and social exclusion.

The extent and duration of income support varies across households; some receive income support for relatively short periods, while others are reliant for a longer duration. In general, the highest level of reliance is found among lone parents with dependent children, where childrearing responsibilities often limit their ability to gain employment.

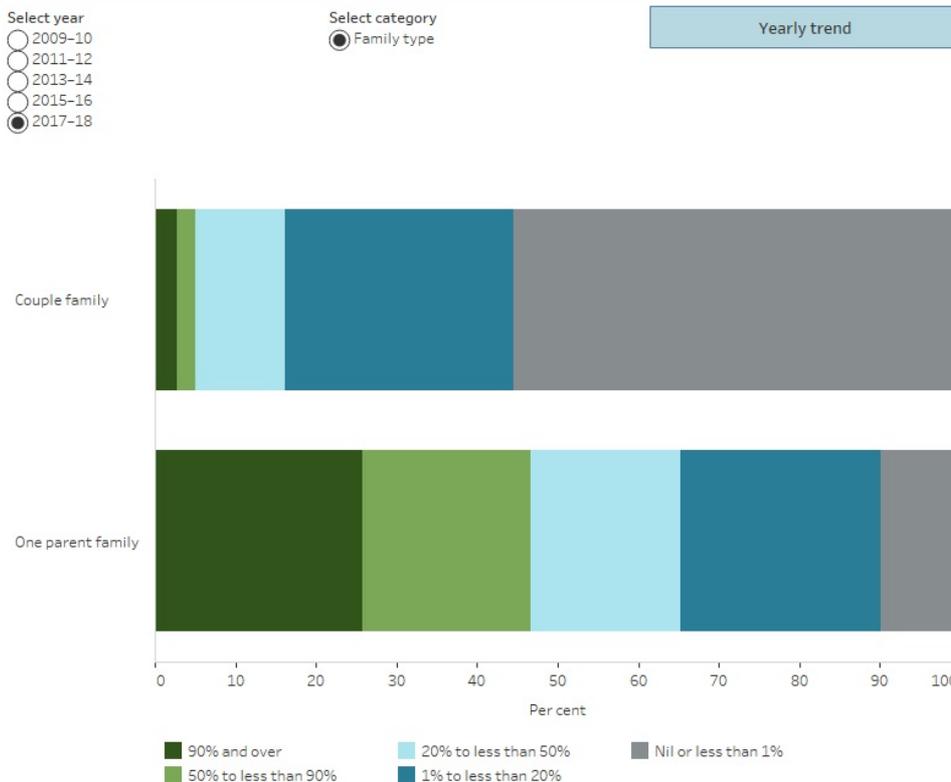
In the data provided, 'contribution' refers to the contribution of government pensions and allowances to gross household income.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a horizontal bar graph showing the proportion of contribution of government pensions and allowance to gross household income among families with dependent children and young people aged 0-14 by family type (couple or one parent family). Data can be selected by year 2009-10 to 2017-18.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of contribution of government pensions and allowances to gross household income among families with dependent children and young people aged 0-14 by family type (couple and one parent families) from 2009-10 to 2017-18.

**NFPAC indicator 0.8: Proportion of contribution of government pensions and allowances to gross household income among families with dependent children and young people aged 0–14 in selected financial year**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW analysis of [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\) Survey of Income and Housing](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 0.8 Family economic situation: Proportion of households with children aged 0-14 years where at least 50% of gross household income is from government pensions and allowances

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of households with children aged 0-14 years where at least 50% of gross household income is from government pensions and allowances	ABS Survey of Income and Housing
Denominator	Number of households with children aged 0-14 years in the reference period	ABS Survey of Income and Housing

### Explanatory notes

Data from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing are collected from usual residents of private dwellings in urban and rural areas of Australia, excluding very remote areas.

Households are included where the youngest dependent child is aged 0-14 years.

Government pensions and allowances are income support payments from government to persons under social security and related government programs. Included are pensions and allowances that aged, disabled, unemployed and sick persons receive; payments for families and children, veterans or their survivors; and study allowances for students.

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## National Framework indicators

### 1.1 Family functioning

Family functioning relates to a family's ability to interact, communicate, make decisions, solve problems and maintain relationships with each other. There are currently no national data available on a single overarching measure of family functioning. However, national data are available on family cohesion, a component of family functioning, which captures the ability of the family to get along with one another (DSS 2014).

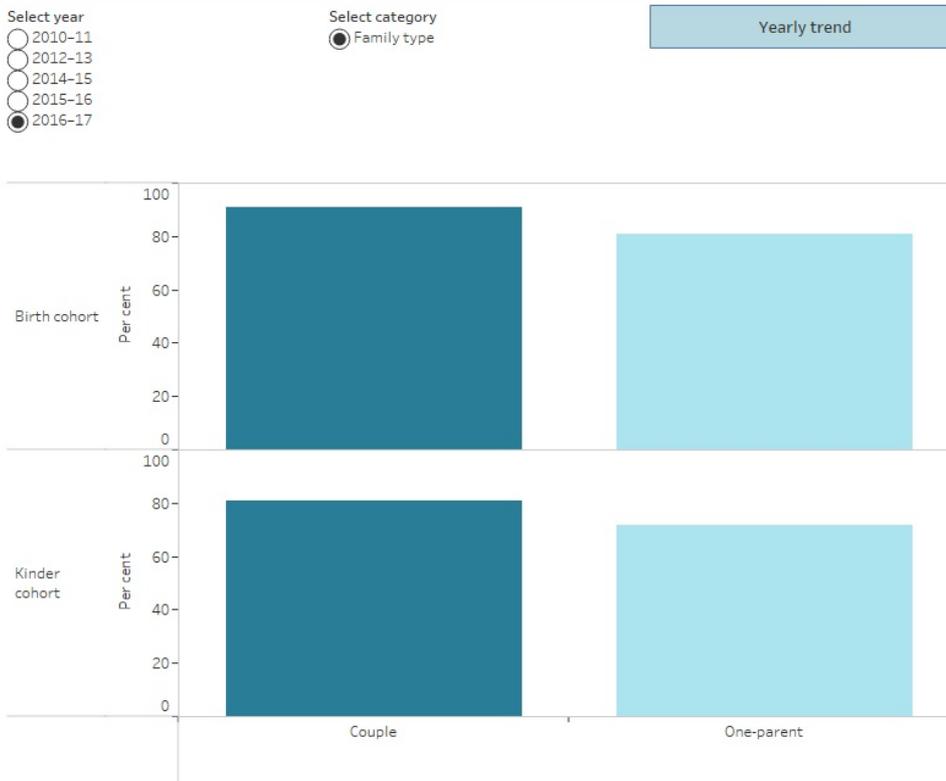
Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) is a major study conducted in partnership between the Department of Social Services, the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The study measures family cohesion among families of two age-based cohorts of children: a 'birth' cohort and a 'kinder' cohort. As such, the same families are captured at each wave as the children grow older. In 2010-11 (Wave 4) the birth cohort was aged 6 to 7 years and the kindergarten cohort were aged 10 to 11 years. In the most recent year of data reported (2016-17), the birth cohort was aged 14 to 15 years and the kindergarten cohort was aged 18 to 19 years. Additional age years for the study waves are provided in the associated supplementary data table.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a bar graph showing the proportion of families who report 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' family cohesion, by cohort (birth or kinder) and family type (couple or one-parent). Data can be selected by year from 2010-11 to 2016-17.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of families who report 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' family cohesion from 2010-11 to 2016-17 by cohort (birth or kinder) and family type (one-parent or couple).

**NFPAC indicator 1.1: Proportion of families who report 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' family cohesion in selected years (waves)**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW analysis of Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian

See the supplementary data tables for further information and footnotes about these data.

### References

DSS (Department of Social Services) (2014) [A safe and supportive family environment for children: key components and links to child outcomes](#), DSS, Australian Government.

## Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 1.1 Family functioning: Proportion of families who report 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' family cohesion

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of families with children in the reference period who report good, very good or excellent family cohesion	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)
Denominator	Number of families with children in the reference period	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)

### Explanatory notes

Family functioning is not easily measured and lacks easily defined concepts. Family cohesion reflects the ability of the family to get along with each other—it only partially captures the concept of family functioning, but national data are available.

The cohort nature of the LSAC limits the usefulness of the data as an indicator over time. LSAC is a longitudinal study of two age-based cohorts (i.e. children aged either 0-1 or 4-5 at wave 1), rather than a longitudinal panel study sampling a cross-section of the population. LSAC is therefore capturing the same families at each wave as the children grow older, rather than providing a more representative cross-section of the population over time. LSAC is a child-based collection, and as such, families with no children are excluded.

Family cohesion data are collected for both LSAC cohorts—the birth cohort (children aged 0-1 years at wave 1) and the child cohort (children aged 4-5 years at wave 1). As such, the reportable age groups will vary across each wave of family cohesion data as the children grow older. Each wave is two years apart.

LSAC captures parent self-reported family cohesion. Parents rate their family's ability to get along with each other against five response categories: excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor.

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## National Framework indicators

### 1.2 Perceived safety

Parental perception of neighbourhood safety affects children’s activities and can have a significant impact on children’s health, development and wellbeing.

Perceptions of safety often relate to perceptions of crime and social problems in the neighbourhood, previous experience as a victim of crime, and the level of trust in the local community.

In the data provided, ‘feels safe’ refers to adult respondents that reported they felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar chart shows the proportion of households with children and young people aged 0-14 where their neighbourhood is perceived as safe, by remoteness, socioeconomic area and country of birth (English or non-English speaking). Data can be selected by years (2010 and 2014) and domains (at home during the day, at home during day and night, at home during night, walking in local area at night).

**NFPAC indicator 1.2: Proportion of households with children and young people aged 0–14 where their neighbourhood is perceived as safe, 2010 and 2014**

Select year

2010

2014

Select domain

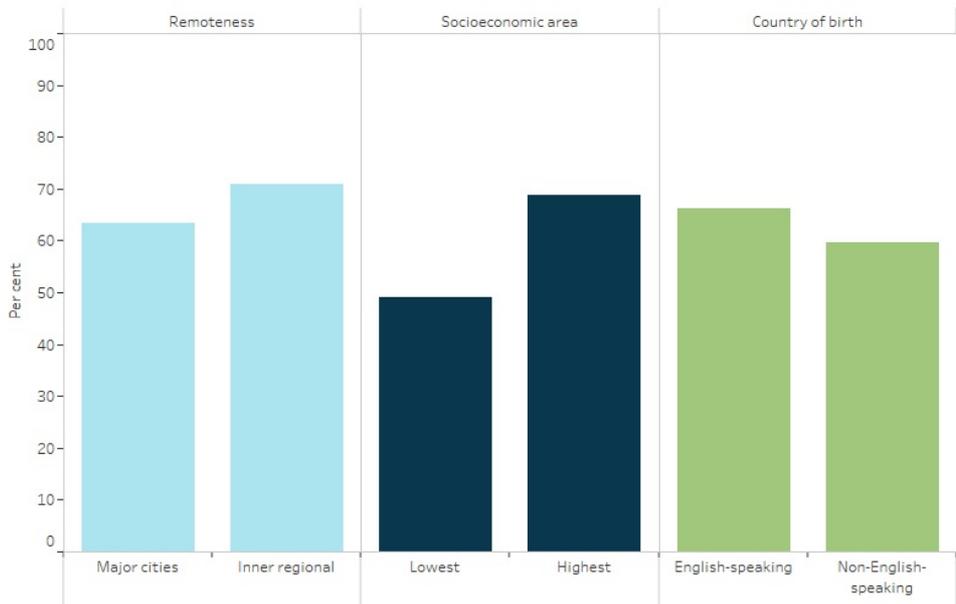
At home during day

At home during day and night

At home during night

Walking in local area during night

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) General Social Survey, Australia

See the supplementary data tables for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the quick reference guide.

National Framework Indicator 1.2 Perceived safety: Proportion of households with children aged 0-14 years where their neighbourhood is perceived as safe

	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Data source</b>
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Numerator	Number of households with children aged 0-14 years where the respondent reports feeling safe or very safe when home alone at night	ABS General Social Survey
Denominator	Number of households with children aged 0-14 years in the reference period	ABS General Social Survey

### Explanatory notes

The ABS General Social Survey (GSS) asks about how safe a person feels in various circumstances - for example, when home alone at night, or when walking alone through their local area at night.

Data items on the GSS are collected at the person-level (not household-level); therefore it is the household respondent (aged 18 years and over) who is asked about their perceptions of safety (not the household as a whole). It is possible that the household respondent may be any adult in the household and not necessarily a parent. The child's perception and understanding of their own safety may differ significantly from the adult's.

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## National Framework indicators

### 2.1 Family support service use

Family support services are increasingly recognised as playing a critical role in assisting families and minimising or complementing statutory child protection intervention. Vulnerable and at-risk families are strengthened when they are identified early and are provided with appropriate services and supports to meet their needs.

These services work intensively with families to help create a safe home environment for their children, to avoid the need for out-of-home care, and to help reunite families after a child has been removed.

Note: the number of children who commence intensive family support services is only an approximate indication of the support families are receiving to allow children to live safely at home.

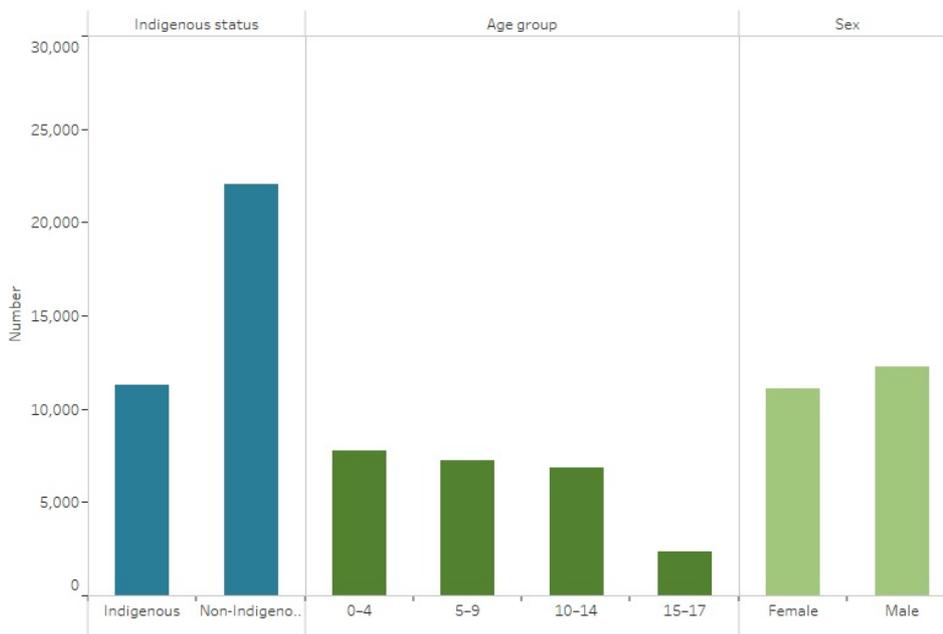
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the number of children and young people aged 0-17 commencing intensive family support services in 2020-21 by Indigenous status, age group and sex.

**NFPAC indicator 2.1: Number of children and young people aged 0-17 commencing Intensive Family Support services in selected financial year**

Select year  
2020-21

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 2.1 Family support services: Number of children aged 0-17 years seeking assistance through treatment and support services

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who commenced intensive family support services in the reference period	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Explanatory notes

The available data for this indicator capture selected family support services that have a funding relationship with the state/territory child protection department.

Available data are aggregate and limited in scope, including children commencing (not continuing) intensive family support services that state/territory child protection departments fund. Intensive family support services only include services that explicitly work to prevent imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers because of child protection concerns, and to reunify families where separation has already occurred. They are intensive in nature, averaging at least 4 hours of service provision per week for a specified short-term period (usually less than 6 months).

These data present the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children commencing IFSS. Indigenous children represent 34% of the total number of children commencing IFSS. While this number is lower for Indigenous children compared to non-Indigenous children, the proportion of Indigenous children who are represented in the child protection system overall is higher than non-Indigenous children.

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## National Framework indicators

### 2.2 Early childhood education

Studies have demonstrated that children who attend early education programs perform better across many intellectual, cognitive, school and social domains in their early school years.

A preschool program is a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a degree-qualified teacher.

Children commence full-time schooling in the preparatory year prior to Year 1 (this may be known by varying titles across states and territories, including kindergarten, prep, pre-primary, reception or transition). Preschool programs are aimed at children in the year before they commence the preparatory year, also referred to as the year before full time schooling (YBFS).

Enrolment data have been included since 2016 alongside attendance data for this measure. The inclusion of enrolment data aligns the indicator with the reporting practices of other bodies that publish data on preschool participation, such as the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Preschool Education publication.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The first figure shows the attendance and enrolment rate of children aged 4-5 at preschool programs, by Indigenous status and sex. Data can be presented for select years from 2012 to 2020.

The second figure is a line graph showing the attendance and enrolment rate of children aged 4-5 at preschool programs from 2016 to 2020. Data can be selected by Indigenous status, sex and enrolment domain (attendance or enrolment).

Visualisation not available for printing

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\) Preschool Education, Australia](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 2.2 Early childhood education: Attendance and enrolment rate of children aged 4-5 years at preschool programs

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	a. Number of children aged 4-5 years enrolled in and attending a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling, in the reference year b. Number of children aged 4 years enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling, in the reference year, Number of children aged 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling, in the reference year	a, b. ABS Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) national data collection
Denominator	a. Estimated number of children aged 4 years in the population b. Estimated number of children aged 4 years in the population, Estimated number of children aged 5 years in the population	a, b. ABS Australian Demographics Statistics

#### Explanatory notes

A preschool program is defined as a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a degree-qualified teacher, aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. This is irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided. Programs may be delivered in a variety of service settings including separate preschools or kindergartens, long day care centres, in association with a school. The terminology used to describe a preschool program differs across states and territories.

It should be noted that there are significant differences in the way that enrolment and attendance are defined and how the resultant data is different. The definitions of each are provided below to further explain these differences and to aid interpretation of the data.

#### Attendance

For the purposes of this reporting, a child is considered to be attending a preschool program if the child was enrolled and present for at least one hour during the reference period. Children who did not attend a preschool program during the reference period (e.g. children who were absent due to illness or extended holiday leave) are not considered to have attended a preschool program.

## Enrolment

A child is considered to be enrolled if they were offered a place, formally enrolled or registered in the preschool program and:

- attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period, or
- were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave, but were expected to return.

A child is not considered to be enrolled if they were absent during the reference period and not expected to return to the preschool program.

Children commence full-time schooling in the preparatory year prior to Year 1 (this may be known as kindergarten, prep, pre-primary, reception or transition across jurisdictions). Preschool programs are aimed at children in the year before they commence the preparatory year.

Children are included regardless of whether they also attend a preschool program in a previous year (i.e. including children who were enrolled in and attending more than one year of a preschool program).

A 'qualified' teacher is one who has completed at least a 3-year university qualification in early childhood education.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

Accordingly, in the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate your interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

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## National Framework indicators

### 2.3 Antenatal care

Antenatal care is a system of regular medical check-ups throughout the course of pregnancy, to monitor and enhance the safety and wellbeing of both mother and child.

There is a strong relationship between regular antenatal care and positive child health outcomes. Women who do not receive antenatal care are more likely to have adverse pregnancy outcomes, including preterm birth, post-partum haemorrhage, babies with low birth weight and perinatal death.

The National Indigenous Reform Agreement sets a benchmark of at least five antenatal visits during pregnancy.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

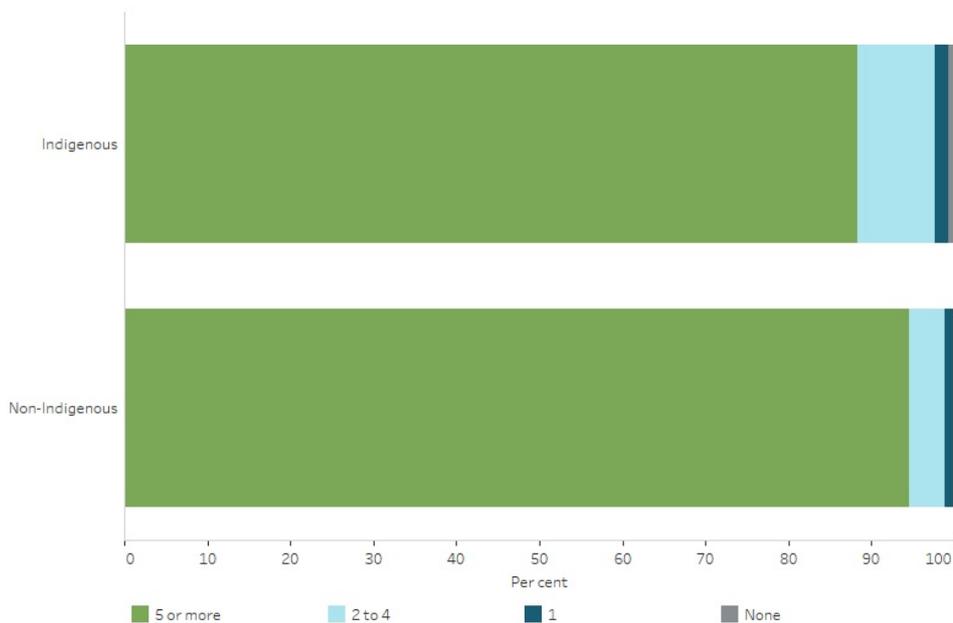
The first figure is a horizontal bar graph showing the proportion of women who had zero, 1, 2 to 4, or 5 or more antenatal visits during pregnancy, by Indigenous status. Data can be presented by select years, 2010 to 2019.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of women who had zero, 1, 2 to 4 or 5 or more antenatal visits during pregnancy from 2016 to 2019, by Indigenous status.

#### NFPAC indicator 2.3: Proportion of women who had at least five antenatal visits during pregnancy in selected calendar year

Select year  
2019

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [National Perinatal Data Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

For more information on antenatal care, see the [Australia’s mothers and babies reporting](#).

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, who had at least five antenatal visits during pregnancy	AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection
Denominator	Number of women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation, in the reference period	AIHW National Perinatal Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

This indicator aligns with the antenatal care indicator in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, which sets a benchmark of at least five antenatal visits during pregnancy, and the numerator and denominator include women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more of gestation (whether resulting in live or still birth).

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## National Framework indicators

### 3.1 Parental substance use (drugs)

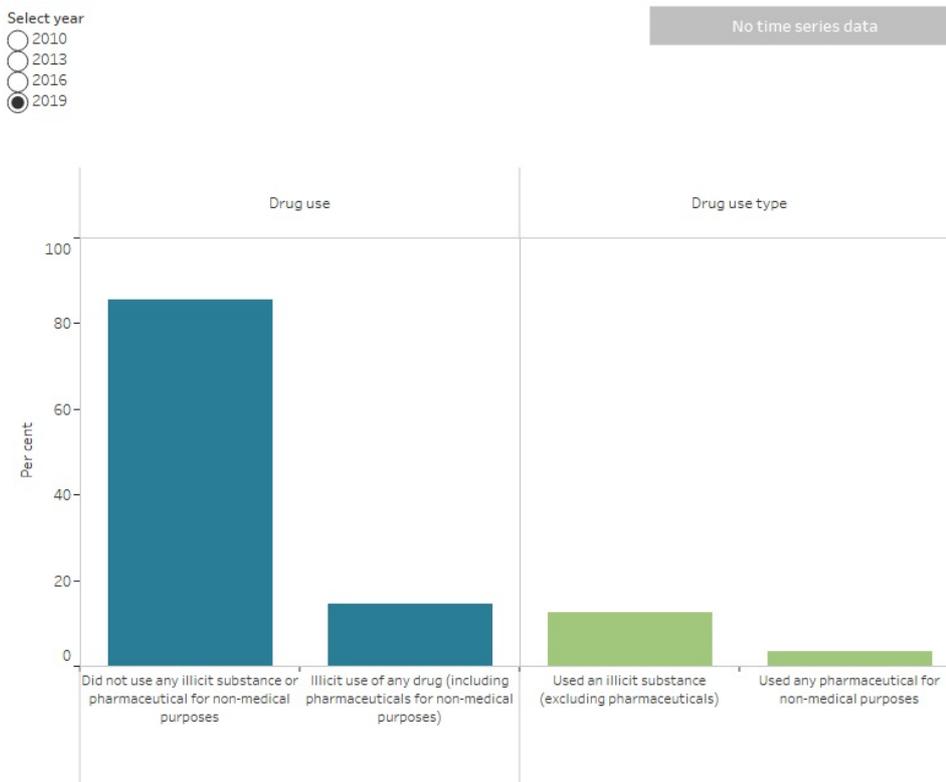
Substance misuse includes the use of illicit drugs (such as cannabis), pharmaceutical drugs (such as pain-killers, tranquilisers) when used for non-medical purposes (an illicit behaviour), and other substances (such as inhalants) used inappropriately.

Parental substance misuse is a key risk factor for child abuse and neglect. Misuse can compromise parents' ability to consistently provide a stable and safe environment for children, maintain household tasks and routines, and respond to their children's emotional needs. Financial difficulties can also arise due to substance misuse, compounding the issues faced by the family.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of parents with children and young people aged 0-14 who used any illicit drug in the 12 months prior to the AIHW National Drug Strategy Household Survey, by drug use status and drug use type. Data can be presented for select years: 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019.

**NFPAC indicator 3.1: Proportion of parents, with children and young people aged 0-14, who used any illicit drug within the last 12 months, 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [National Drug Strategy Household Survey](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 3.1 Parental substance use (drugs): Proportion of parents with children aged 0-14 years who used any illicit drug within the last 12 months

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Proportion of parents with children aged 0-14 years who used any illicit drug in the 12 months prior to the Survey	AIHW National Drug Strategy Household Survey
Denominator	Number of parents with children aged 0-14 years in the Census 2011 for survey years 2010 and 2013, and the Census 2016 for survey year 2016	ABS Census of Population and Housing

### Explanatory notes

Illicit drugs include illegal drugs (such as cannabis, amphetamines, and heroin), pharmaceutical drugs (such as pain-killers, tranquillisers) when used for non-medical purposes (strictly an illicit behaviour), and other substances used inappropriately (such as inhalants). Due to the illegal nature of illicit drugs it is likely that self-reported data underestimate the number of people using these drugs.

Reported usage is based on what drug the person believed they were taking, and it is possible that they may not have known.

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## National Framework indicators

### 3.2 Parental substance use (alcohol)

Parental alcohol misuse is a key risk factor for child abuse and neglect. Misuse can compromise parents' ability to consistently provide a stable and safe environment for children, maintain household tasks and routines, and respond to their children's emotional needs. Financial difficulties can also arise due to substance misuse, compounding the issues faced by the family.

National guidelines for alcohol consumption provide recommendations to reduce the lifetime risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury, and to reduce the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from a single occasion. In the data presented below, for lifetime risk, 'risky' refers to those who had, on average, more than 2 standard drinks per day. For single occasion risk, 'risky' refers to those who consumed more than 4 standard drinks on a single occasion.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a bar chart showing the proportion of parents with children and young people aged 0-14 who drank alcohol at risky levels, by risk status (lifetime risk, single occasion risk and lifetime or single occasion risk). Data can be selected for 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019.

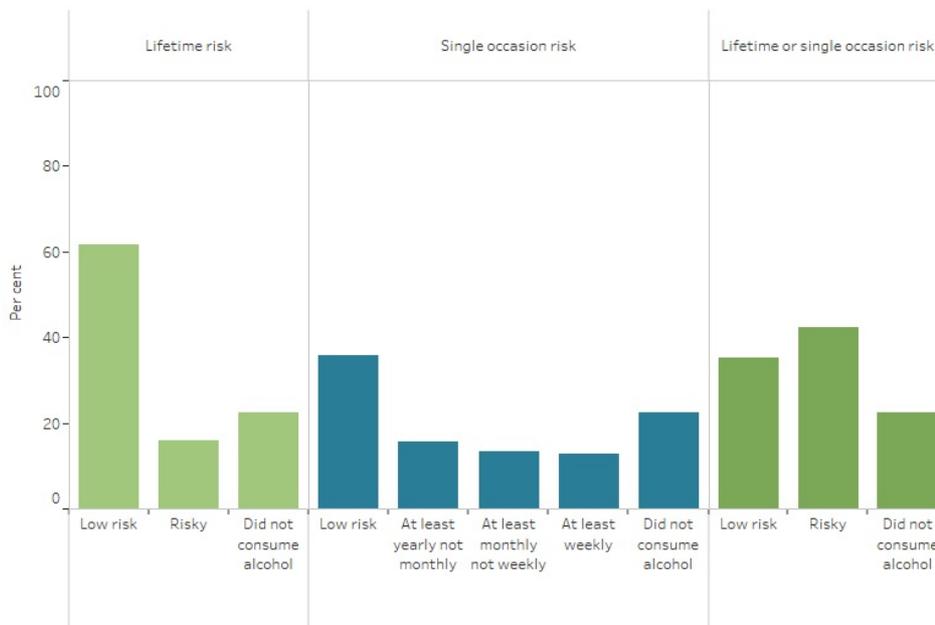
The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of parents with children and young people aged 0-14 who drank alcohol at risky levels from 2010 to 2019. Data can be selected by risk status (lifetime risk, single occasion risk).

**NFPAC indicator 3.2: Proportion of parents, with children and young people aged 0-14, who drank alcohol at risky levels, 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019**

Select year

- 2010
- 2013
- 2016
- 2019

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [National Drug Strategy Household Survey](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 3.2 Parental substance abuse (alcohol): Proportion of parents with children aged 0-14 years who drank alcohol at risky levels

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of parents with children aged 0-14 years who drink at levels that put them at lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm, or who drink at levels that put them at single occasion risk at least once a month	AIHW National Drug Strategy Household Survey
Denominator	Number of parents with children aged 0-14 years in the Census 2011 for survey years 2010 and 2013, and the Census 2016 for survey year 2016	ABS Census of Population and Housing

### Explanatory notes

Definitions of 'lifetime risk' and 'single occasion risk' are based on the [National Health and Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\) 2009 Australian guidelines](#) to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol guidelines.

It should be noted that these guidelines were [updated in 2020](#) but data reported here is based on the 2009 guidelines.

Self-reported data may underestimate the number of people drinking alcohol at risky levels. Reported usage is based on the quantity of alcohol the person believed they were drinking.

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## National Framework indicators

### 3.3 Parental mental health

Children living with a parent with a mental health problem may face additional developmental challenges and health problems, and are more likely to experience a psychological disorder during adolescence or adulthood.

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey measures mental health using the SF-36, a 36-item survey that measures eight domains of subjective health. Scale scores for each of the eight health domains can be summarised to produce a single measure of mental health: The Mental Health Component Summary (MCS) Score. This indicator presents data for parents with an MCS score of less than 41, which is indicative of a poor level of mental health.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

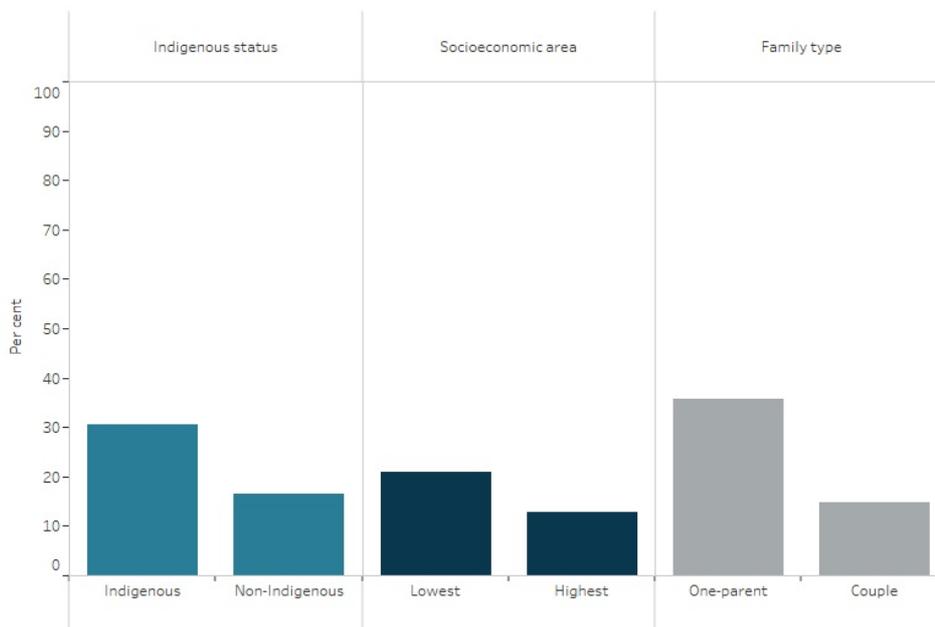
The first figure is a bar graph showing the proportion of parents with children and young people aged 0-14 who have a poor level of mental health by Indigenous status, socioeconomic area and family type. Data can be selected from 2009 to 2020.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of parents with children and young people aged 0-14 who have a poor level of mental health from 2009 to 2020. Data can be selected by Indigenous status, socioeconomic area and family type.

**NFPAC indicator 3.3: Proportion of parents, with children and young people aged 0–14, who have a poor level of mental health in selected year (wave)**

Select year  
2020

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW analysis of Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey

See the supplementary data tables for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the quick reference guide.

National Framework Indicator 3.3 Parental mental health: Proportion of parents with children aged 0-14 years who have a mental health problem

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of parents who have a mental health problem and have co-residents dependent children aged 0-14 years	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey
Denominator	Number of parents with co-residents dependent children aged 0-14 years	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey

### Explanatory notes

The HILDA Survey measures mental health using the SF-36—a 36-item survey that measures eight domains of subjective health. Scale scores for each of the eight health domains can be summarised to produce a single measure of mental health: The Mental Health Component Summary (MCS) Score. An analysis of population averages suggests that an MCS score of less than 41 is indicative of a poorer level of mental health. As such, this indicator reports parents with a 'mental health problem' as those with an MCS score of less than 41.

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## National Framework indicators

### 3.4 Homelessness

Children experience a number of negative educational, social and health consequences as a result of being homeless. These can include early school leaving, behavioural problems, lack of parental affection and support, and psychological problems such as depression and anxiety, with the effects of homelessness often persisting beyond the period of homelessness.

The causes of homelessness are complex and may include economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, increased housing costs, and unstable home environments caused by domestic violence. Factors that may lead to homelessness among children include family problems such as neglect, abuse, conflict, and drug and alcohol problems.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

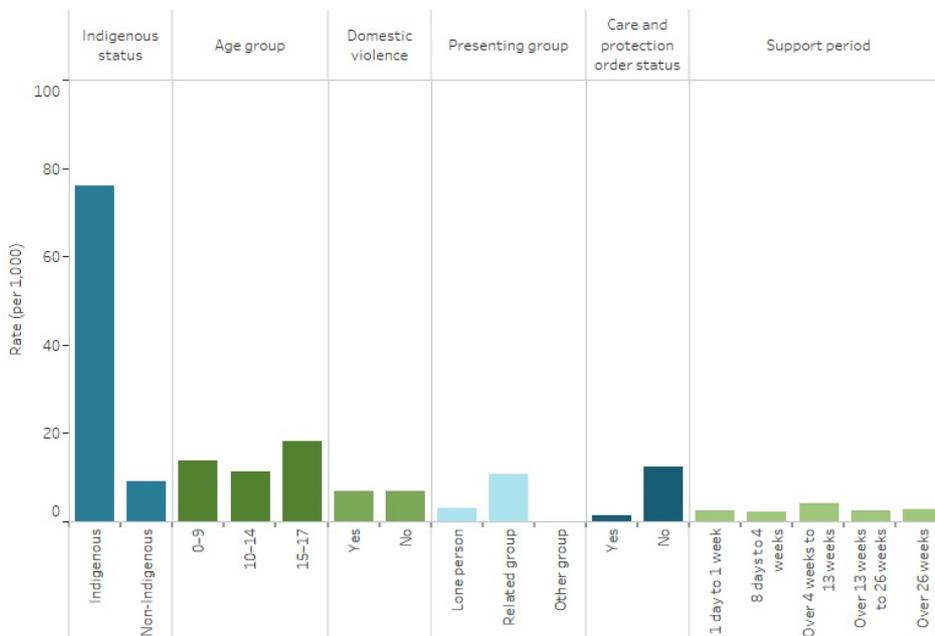
The first figure is a bar graph showing the rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who receive assistance through homelessness services by Indigenous status, age group, domestic violence, presenting group, care and protection order status and support period. Data can be selected by year from 2011-12 to 2020-21.

The second figure is a line graph showing the rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who receive assistance through homelessness services from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Data can be selected by age group, care and protection order status, domestic violence, Indigenous status, presenting group and support period.

**NFPAC indicator 3.4: Rate of assistance through homelessness services in children aged 0–17 in selected financial year**

Select year  
2020-21

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 3.4 Homelessness: Rate of children aged 0-17 years who receive assistance through homelessness services

(accompanied and unaccompanied)

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who received assistance through Specialist Homelessness Services (accompanied and unaccompanied) in the reference period	Specialist Homelessness Services data collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years at 30 June	AIHW Population Database (sourced from ABS Australian Demographics Statistics)

### Explanatory notes

All children at risk of homelessness are not captured in the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) data collection; only those who sought and received assistance are included.

Assistance from SHS includes any service received (for example, shower or meal), not only accommodation. However, all SHS clients are either homeless, or at risk of homelessness, regardless of the service type they receive.

The national SHS data collection was implemented on 1 July 2011, replacing the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) data collection.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

Accordingly, in the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate your interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

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## National Framework indicators

### 3.5 Domestic violence

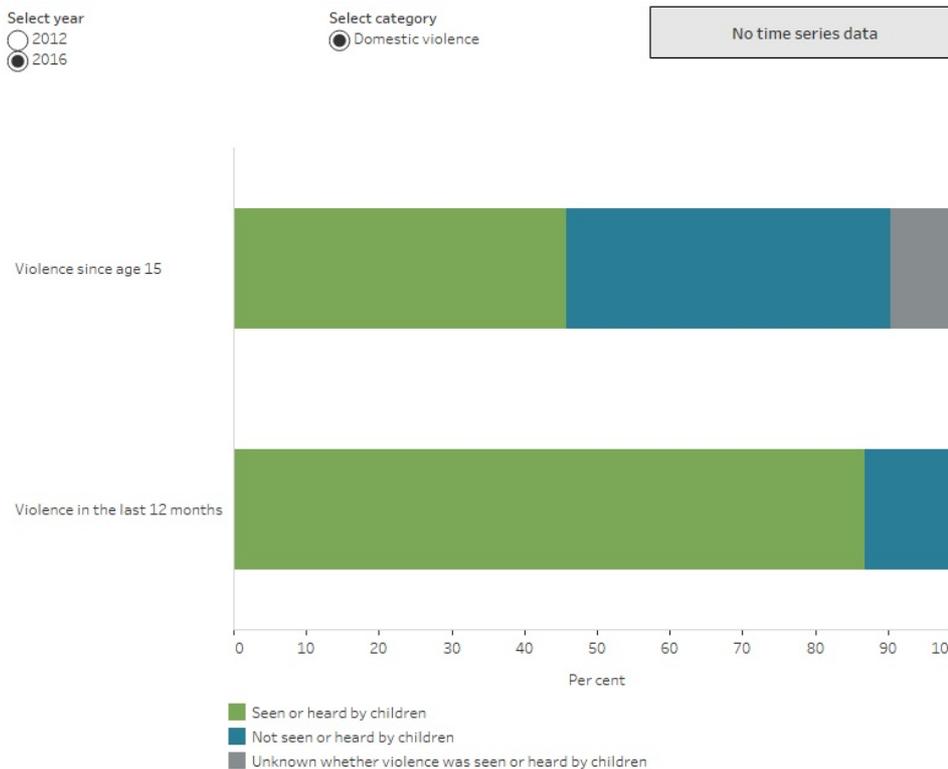
Domestic violence is a key risk factor for child abuse and neglect. Children living with domestic violence are at high risk of experiencing physical abuse, and the complex trauma caused by living in such an environment can have profound long-term psychological effects. Children who witness domestic violence have been shown to have significantly poorer developmental and behavioural outcomes. Domestic violence is also linked with homelessness and housing instability for victims fleeing violent partners.

This indicator reports on the population of adults, who had children in their care, and who experienced current partner violence in the 12 months prior to the reported period or since they were 15 years of age.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of adults who experienced current partner violence since age 15 or in the last 12 months by whether children saw or heard the violence. Data can be selected for years 2012 or 2016.

**NFPAC indicator 3.5: Proportion of adults who experienced current partner violence since age 15 and in the last 12 months, by whether children saw or heard the violence, 2012 and 2016**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [Personal Safety survey, Australia](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 3.5 Domestic violence: Proportion of adults who experienced current partner violence and their children saw or heard the violence in the previous 12 months

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Number of adults aged 18 years and over who experienced current partner violence, had children in their care when the violence occurred in the previous 12 months, and the children saw or heard the violence	ABS Personal Safety Survey
Denominator	Number of adults aged 18 years and over who experienced current partner violence, and had children in their care when the violence occurred in the previous 12 months	ABS Personal Safety Survey

### Explanatory notes

The indicator reflects the number of adults who experienced partner violence and had children in their care, not the number of children exposed to current partner violence. Some adults may have had multiple children in their care.

Due to the sensitive nature of the information being collected, the self-reported data may underestimate the number of adults with children exposed to partner violence. However, special procedures were used to ensure the safety of those participating and the reliability of the data provided.

Some estimates have high relative standard errors and should be used with caution.

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Last updated 27/04/2022 v25.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 4.1 Child protection resubstantiations

Resubstantiation rates are a broad indicator of the recurrence of abuse, neglect or harm to children.

Resubstantiation data capture children who were the subject of a substantiation in a financial year, and who were then subsequently the subject of a further substantiation within the following 3 or 12 months. The year reported relates to the year of the original substantiation.

Cases of resubstantiation do not necessarily imply that child protection agencies have failed to protect children from repeated abuse. The resubstantiation rate is affected by the finalisation of investigations and also by factors beyond the control of the child protection system, such as changes in family situations (for example, illness, pregnancy or unemployment), which may place children in danger of being re-abused or neglected.

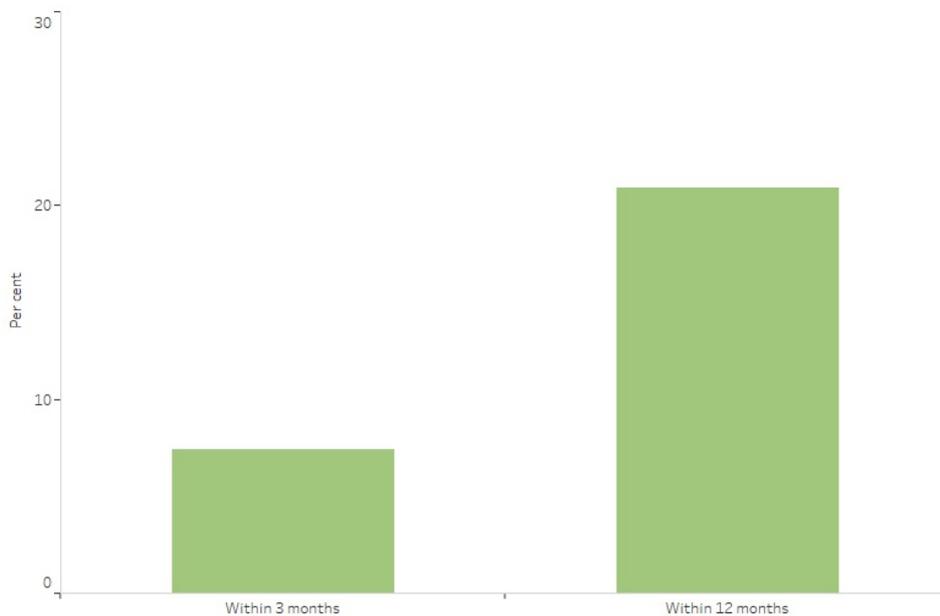
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The figure shows the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 who were the subject of a child protection resubstantiation within 3 and 12 months. Data can be selected by year from 2008-09 to 2019-20. In 2019-20 the proportions were 7.4% within 3 months and 20.9% within 12 months.

#### NFPAC indicator 4.1: Proportion of children and young people aged 0–17 who were the subject of a resubstantiation within 3 and 12 months in selected financial year

Select year  
2019–20

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 4.1 Child protection resubstantiations: Rate of children aged 0-17 years who were the subject of a child protection resubstantiation in a given year

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who were the subject of a substantiation in the reference year, and who were the subject of a resubstantiation within 90 days or 365 days	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who were the subject of a substantiation in the reference year	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

Children who were the subject of a resubstantiation are those who were the subject of a substantiation during the reference period, regardless of the date of notification, who were also the subject of at least one subsequent notification within the periods specified (90 days and 365 days) that is subsequently substantiated.

Due to the periods specified (90 days and 365 days), two years of data are required to identify resubstantiations, and the reference year refers to the year of the original substantiation. As such, the most recent available data for this indicator will be a year behind other measures of substantiations.

Resubstantiation data should be interpreted with caution, as cases of resubstantiation do not necessarily imply that child protection agencies have failed to protect children from repeated abuse. The resubstantiation rate is affected by the finalisation of investigations, and also by factors beyond the control of the child protection system, such as changes in family situations (for example, illness, pregnancy or unemployment), which may place children in danger of being re-abused or neglected.

A resubstantiation does not necessarily refer to the same source or risk as the original substantiation.

The data reported to the AIHW on child protection substantiations reflects departmental activity. Administrative data captures incidence of substantiations of harm, or risk of harm, rather than prevalence of abuse and neglect.

Last updated 12/05/2022 v29.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 4.2 Placement stability

*This indicator measures the same outcome as [NOOHCS Indicator 1.1](#) and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.*

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Children in planned, stable out-of-home care placements tend to have better learning and psychosocial outcomes than children experiencing instability (Campo and Commerford 2016).

Children who have had only 1 or 2 placements prior to exiting out-of-home care provides a broad indicator of stability.

Children can have multiple short-term placements for appropriate reasons (for example, an initial placement followed by a longer-term placement), or it may be desirable to change placements to achieve better compatibility between a child and family. Older children are more likely to have multiple placements as they move towards independence and voluntarily seek alternate placements.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a bar graph showing the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 exiting out-of-home care during the year who had 1 or 2 placements by Indigenous status and time in care. Data can be selected by year (from 2009-10 to 2020-21) and by number of placements.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 exiting out-of-home care during the year who had 1 or 2 placements from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Data can be selected by Indigenous status, time in care or number of placements.

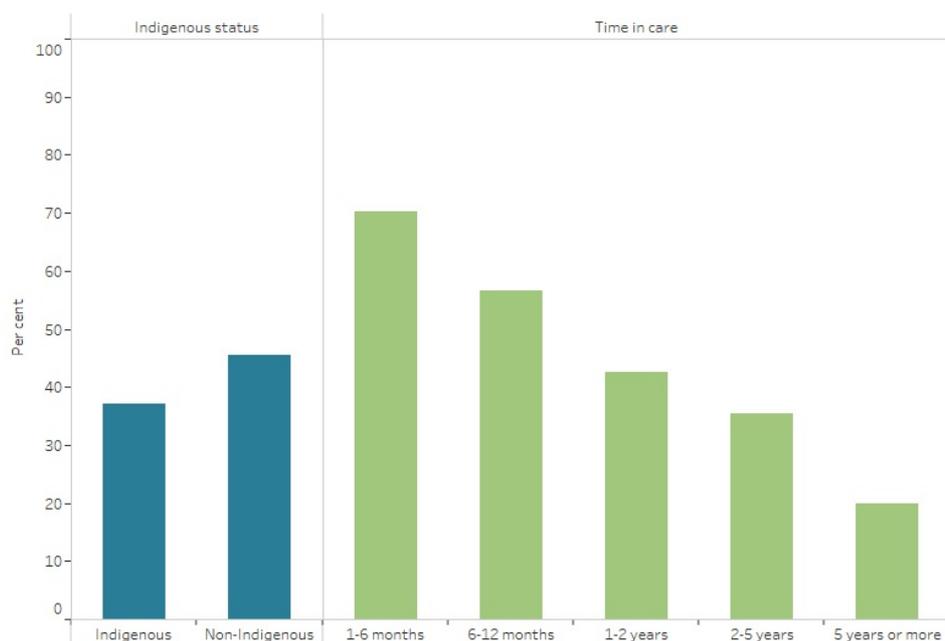
## NFPAC indicator 4.2: Proportion of children and young people aged 0–17 exiting out-of-home care during the year who had 1 or 2 placements in selected financial year

Select year  
2020–21

Select number of placements

- 1 placement
- 2 placements
- 1 or 2 placements

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### References

Campo M and Commerford J (2016) [Supporting young people leaving out-of-home care](#), Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australian Government, accessed 13 May 2020.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 4.2 Placement stability: Proportion of children aged 0-17 years exiting out-of-home care during the year who had one or two placements

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years exiting out-of-home care in the reference period who had one or two placements during a period of continuous out-of-home care, and who had been in care for at least 30 days, and were also on a care and protection order at some point 180 days prior to exiting care	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years exiting out-of-home care in the reference period who were on a care and protection order at some point 180 days prior to exiting care	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

These data capture children who exited out-of-home care in the reference period who had been in care for at least 30 days, were on a care and protection order at some point 180 days prior to exiting care, and did not return within 60 days. It captures the number of placements during the period the child was in continuous out-of-home care (from entry to exit). Each placement is only counted once, and a return to a previous placement is not counted as a different placement.

Differences in legislation, policies and practices in relation to out-of-home care across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in-out-of-home and so caution must be taken when interpreting the data.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v32.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 4.3 Carer retention

Foster care households are private households containing one or more foster carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care
- for whom reimbursement is available from the state or territory government for expenses incurred in caring for a child
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

This indicator provides information on carer households that were retained in a given year. Effective retention of carer households increases the likelihood that children are placed with skilled, experienced carers and have stable and secure placements. The indicator also provides information on the number of foster child placements that retained households provided during the 12 month period.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

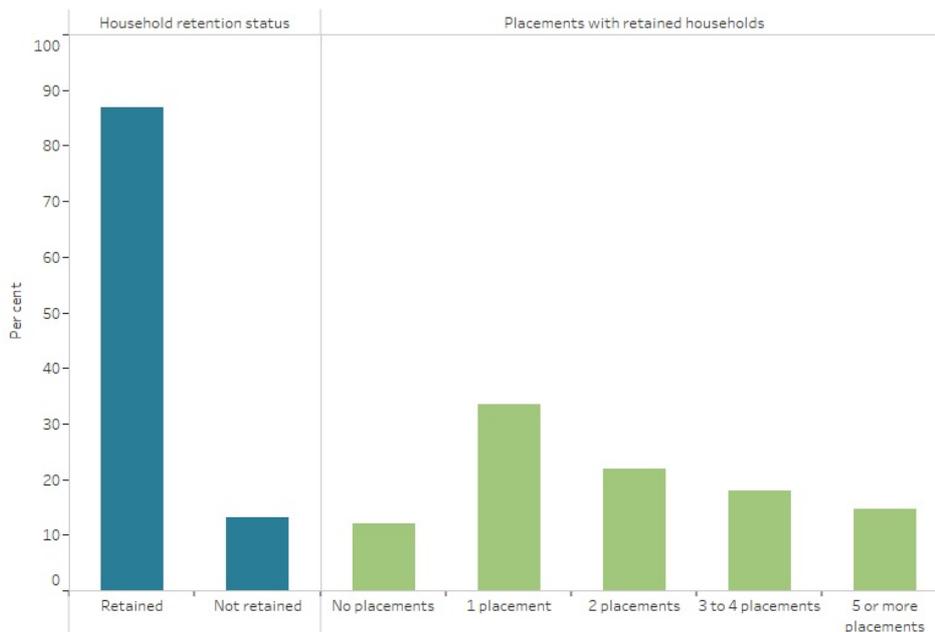
The first figure is a bar graph showing the proportion of foster carer households that were retained by household retention status and the number of placements with retained households. Data can be selected by year, 2012-13 to 2020-21.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of foster carer households that were retained in a given year from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Data can be selected by household retention status or placements with retained households.

#### NFPAC indicator 4.3: Proportion of foster carer households that were retained in a given financial year

Select year  
2020-21

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 4.3 Carer retention: Proportion of out-of-home carer households that were retained in a given year

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of carer households that were authorised to provide foster care placements at 30 June of the previous year (the year prior to the reference year), and remained continuously authorised through to 30 June of the reference year	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of carer households that were authorised to provide foster care placements at 30 June of the previous year, who also had a placement during the previous year	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

The rate reported for the reference year is defined in terms of retention from the previous year.

The denominator data for this indicator is restricted to those who were authorised to provide foster care on the night of 30 June in the previous year, who also had a placement in the previous year. This more accurately captures the pool of 'active' carers (those providing regular placements) in the denominator.

Due to variation in authorisation policies and practices across jurisdictions, carer households are considered a more appropriate and comparable reporting unit than number of individual carers.

Differences in legislation, policies and practices in relation to out-of-home care across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of carers and so caution must be taken when interpreting the data.

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## National Framework indicators

### 4.5 Literacy & numeracy

This indicator measures the same outcome as *NOOHCS Indicator 6.1* and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.

It is well known that education is important for the overall wellbeing of children. However, numerous studies have found that children in care have poorer education outcomes than other children.

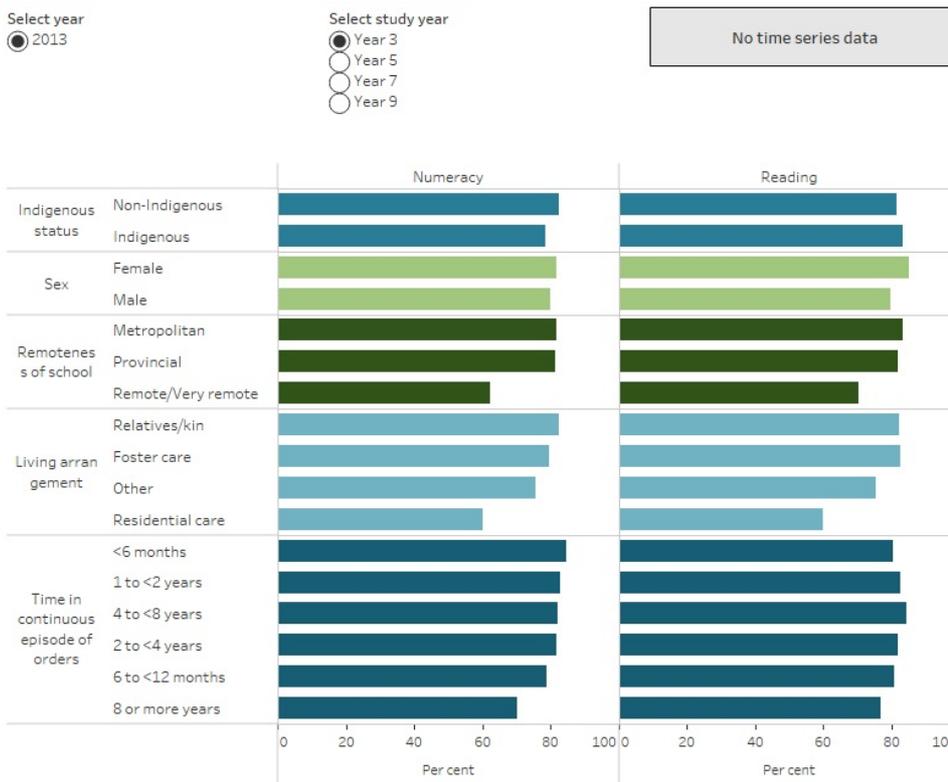
This indicator uses results from the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy to assess if children in care are achieving at or above the national minimum standards for reading and numeracy.

Children 'in care' are those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children's Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The horizontal bar graph shows the proportion of children on guardianship and custody orders achieving at or above the national minimum standards for reading and numeracy in 2013 by Indigenous status, sex, remoteness of school, living arrangement and time in continuous episode of orders. Data can be selected by study year (3, 5, 7 or 9).

**NFPAC indicator 4.5: Proportion of children on guardianship and custody orders achieving at or above the national minimum standards for reading and numeracy, 2013**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW (2015) *Educational outcomes for children in care: Linking 2013 child protection and NAPLAN data*, AIHW, Australian Government.

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 4.5 Literacy and numeracy: Proportion of children on guardianship and custody orders achieving at or above the national minimum standards for reading and numeracy

For Year 3, 5, 7, 9 a. Reading b. Numeracy	Definition	Data source
Numerator	a. Number of children in care who achieved the Year 3, 5, 7, 9 national minimum standards for reading b. Number of children in care who achieved the Year 3, 5, 7, 9 national minimum standards for numeracy	a, b. AIHW Linked child protection and NAPLAN dataset
Denominator	a. Number of children in care who achieved the Year 3, 5, 7, 9 national minimum standards for reading b. Number of children in care who achieved the Year 3, 5, 7, 9 national minimum standards for numeracy	a, b. AIHW Linked child protection and NAPLAN dataset

### Explanatory notes

Australian national minimum standards for literacy and numeracy have been developed as part of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

The AIHW dataset was created through the linkage of data from the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS) and the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), for available states/territories. Further information is provided in the AIHW 2015 report *Educational outcomes for children in care: linking 2013 child protection and NAPLAN data*.

NAPLAN data are only available for selected school year levels. The NAPLAN tests are conducted in May each year for all students across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, on the assessment domains of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

Children 'in care' are defined as children whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children's Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive. Only children who were 'in care' at the time of NAPLAN testing (for example, 14-16 May 2013) are included in the data source.

For both sub-measures, the numerator includes the assessed students who achieved the national minimum standard (i.e. 'present' students whose test score was at or above the national minimum standard). The denominator includes all assessed students (i.e. all 'present' and 'exempt' students); exempt students are deemed to be below the national minimum standard. Absent and withdrawn students are excluded from the calculations.

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Last updated 29/04/2022 v29.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 4.6 Leaving care plans

*This indicator measures the same outcome as NOOHCS Indicator 13.1 and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.*

Young people leaving out-of-home care and making the transition to independent living often do not have the level of support (emotional, social and financial) available to most young people in their transition to adulthood. The transition often occurs at an earlier age and in a more abrupt manner than it does for their peers not in out-of-home care.

A leaving care plan (also called a transition from care plan) is developed in preparation for a young person's exit from out-of-home care into independent living. Leaving care plans are developed in agreement with the young person and usually include information on goals, planned actions, needs assessments, income support and post-care support (such as counselling, mentoring and ongoing care management).

Note: this indicator describes children who have a current and approved leaving care plan, as a proportion of all children who were required to have a leaving care plan.

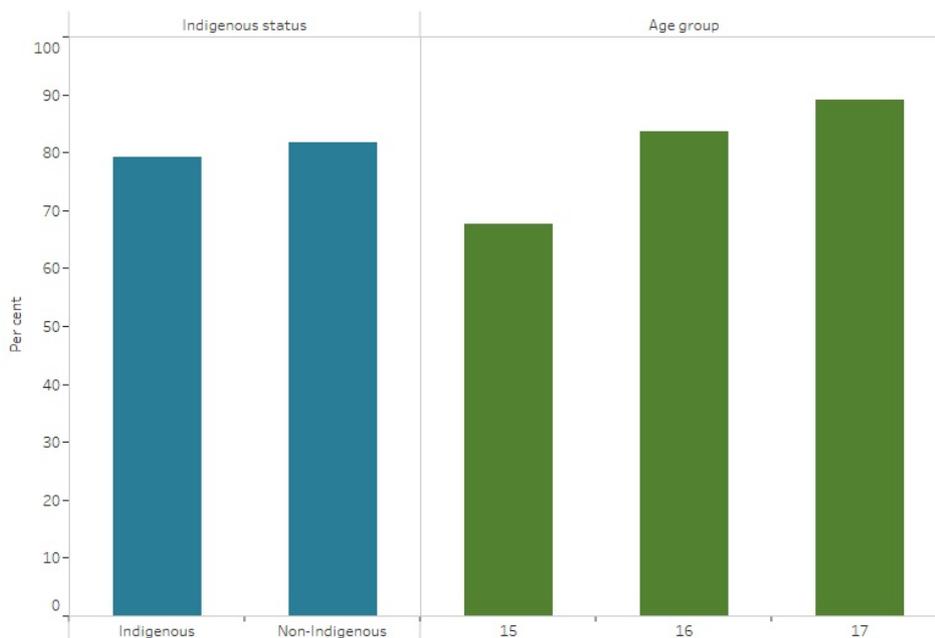
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of young people aged 15-17 who have a current leaving care plan by Indigenous status and age group. Data can be selected from 2012 to 2021.

**NFPAC indicator 4.6: Proportion of young people aged 15-17 who have a current documented and approved leaving care plan in selected calendar year**

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children in care aged 15-17 years who have a current and approved leaving care plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children in care aged 15-17 years who are required to have a current and approved leaving care plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

A leaving care plan (also called a transition from care plan) is developed in preparation for the young person exiting out-of-home care into independent living.

Children in 'care' are defined as those whose care arrangements have been ordered by the Children's Court, where the parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v23.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 4.7 Cross-sector clients

Research shows that children and young people who have been abused or neglected are at greater risk of engaging in criminal activity and entering the youth justice system. Similarly, those who are in the youth justice system, particularly in detention, are highly likely to have had a history of abuse or neglect.

Procedures used within the child protection and youth justice systems can also facilitate involvement of one system with the other. For example, contact with youth justice agencies may lead to a child protection notification being made if abuse or neglect is suspected by, or reported to, agency staff.

The available data for this indicator captures young people under youth justice supervision during 2019-20 who had received child protection services in the 5 years from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2020.

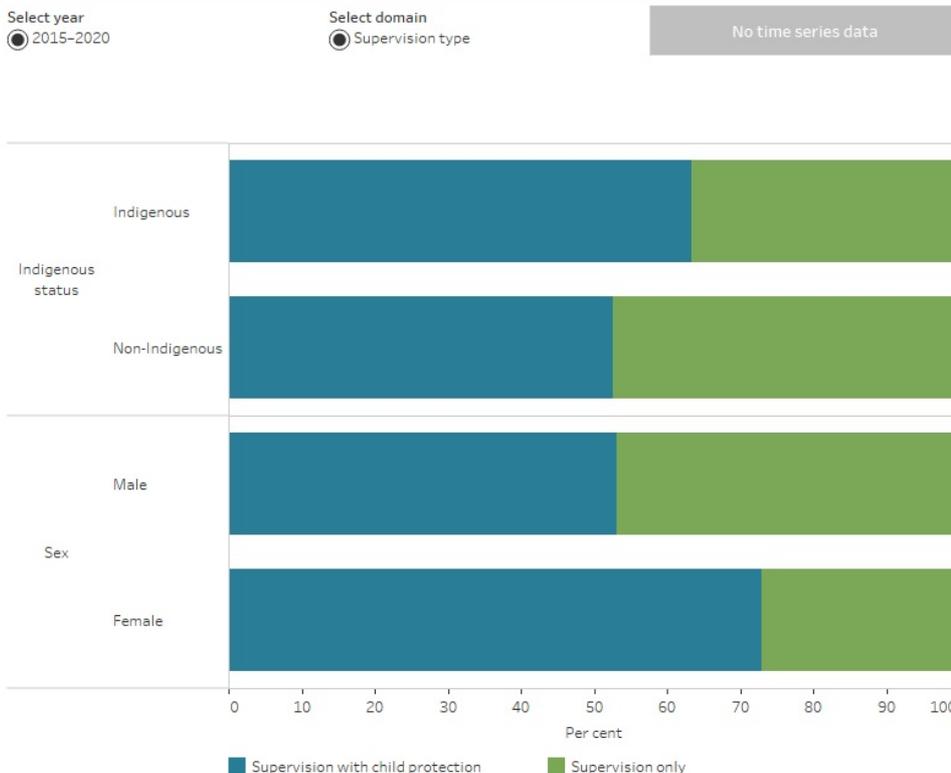
‘In the child protection system’ includes children who were in at least one component of the system at some time during the reference period (i.e. the subject of an investigated notification and/or on a care and protection order and/or in out-of-home care).

‘Under youth justice supervision’ includes children who were in at least one component of the system at some time during the reference period (i.e. under community-based supervision and/or in detention).

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 10-17 who received child protection services and were under youth justice supervision, in 2015-20 by Indigenous status and sex. Each stacked bar presents the proportion of children with supervision and child protection and supervision only.

**NFPAC indicator 4.7: Proportion of children and young people aged 10-17 who received child protection services and were under youth justice supervision, 2015-2020**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW (2021) Unpublished. Linked youth justice national minimum data set and child protection national minimum data set collection 2019-20, AIHW, Australian Government.

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

## Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 4.7 Cross sector clients: Proportion of child protection clients aged 10-17 years who enter juvenile corrective services or seek assistance from homelessness services

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Children aged 10-17 who were in the child protection system and were under youth justice supervision	AIHW child protection and youth justice supervision linked data collection
Denominator	Children age 10-17 who were in the child protection system during the reference period	AIHW child protection and youth justice supervision linked data collection

### Explanatory notes

The available data for this indicator capture child protection clients who entered youth justice services (but not those who sought assistance from homelessness services).

The available data are restricted to children aged 10-17. Because children under the age of 10 cannot be under youth supervision, it is not possible for children in this age group who are in the child protection system to also be under youth justice supervision. For this reason, children who are aged under 10 and in the child protection system are excluded.

The scope of youth justice data in the linked dataset is restricted to investigated notifications, care and protection orders and out-of-home care. Notifications that were not investigated, care and protection orders that were 'other' or 'not stated' and living arrangements that do not constitute out-of-home care are excluded.

The scope of youth justice data in the linked dataset is restricted to supervised community-based orders and detention orders (both unsentenced and sentenced). Unsupervised orders such as unsupervised bail, or diversionary activities that are not supervised orders are excluded.

'In the child protection system' includes children who were in at least one component of the system at some time during the reference period (i.e. the subject of an investigated notification and/or on a care and protection order and/or in out-of-home care).

'Under youth justice supervision' includes children who were in at least one component of the system at some time during the reference period (i.e. under community-based supervision and/or in detention).

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Last updated 29/04/2022 v20.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 5.2 Placement of Indigenous children

*This indicator measures the same outcome as [NOOHCS Indicator 3.1](#) and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.*

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people benefit when they are able to maintain fundamental links to family, community, land and culture. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle is a framework designed to embed in policy and practice a recognition of the value of these links to children in care. The principle specifies a hierarchy of preferred placement options for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children who are unable to live with their families as follows:

1. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or non-Indigenous relatives or extended family members (kin);
2. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the child's community; or
3. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family-based carers.

The three options above are preferred placement types. If these preferred options are not available, as a last resort, the child may be placed in:

4. Another care arrangement (such as with a non-Indigenous carer or in a residential setting) (SNAICC 2017).

This placement hierarchy is just one of many considerations taken into account when making decisions for placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and the placement hierarchy have been endorsed by all states and territories in Australia.

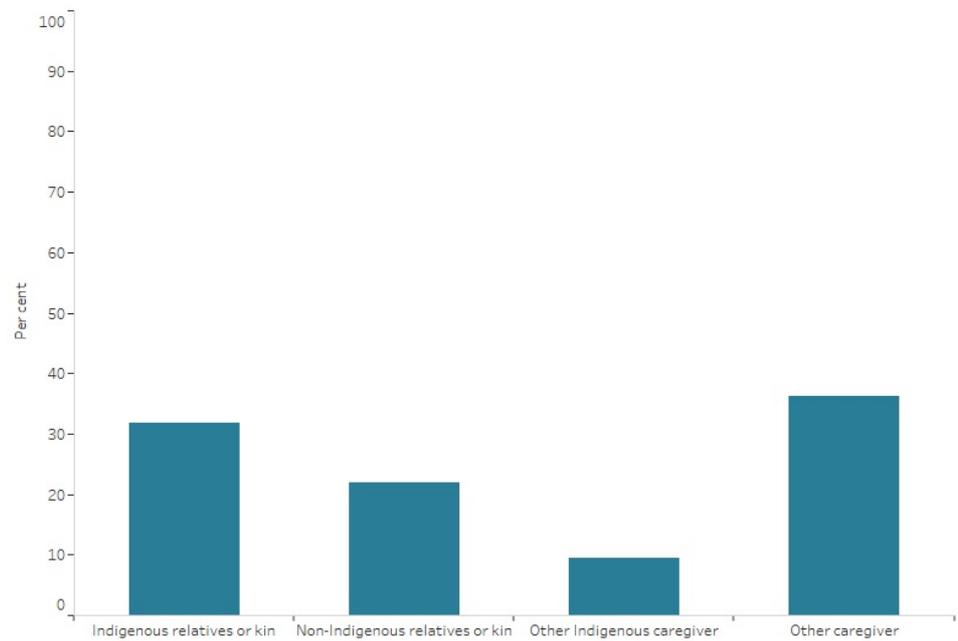
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0-17 in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with Indigenous relatives or kin, non-Indigenous relatives or kin, other Indigenous caregivers or other caregivers. Data can be selected by year from 2010 to 2021.

**NFPAC indicator 5.2: Proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care placed with relatives or kin or other Indigenous caregivers in selected calendar year**

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

For further information on placement of Indigenous children see [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018-19: measuring progress](#).

**References**

SNAICC - National Voice for our Children. [Understanding and applying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: a resource for legislation, policy, and program development](#). Melbourne: SNAICC Accessed 16 June 2020.

**Indicator technical specifications**

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 5.2 Placement of Indigenous children: Proportion of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care placed with extended family or other Indigenous caregivers

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years placed with relatives/kin or other Indigenous caregivers at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

**Explanatory notes**

Where Indigenous children are unable to live with their parents, culturally appropriate responses for their care and protection are needed. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle outlines a preference for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they are placed outside their family. All jurisdictions have adopted this principle in legislation and policy. The principle outlines the following order of preference for the placement of Indigenous children: with the child’s extended family; within the child’s Indigenous community; and with other Indigenous people.

Last updated 12/05/2022 v37.0

## National Framework indicators

### 5.4 Cultural support plans

This indicator measures the same outcome as *NOOHCS Indicator 10.1* and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.

A cultural support plan is an individualised plan that aims to develop or maintain children’s cultural identity through connection to family, community and culture, while they are in care. Cultural support plans help to ensure that planning and decision making are culturally appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

A cultural support plan is usually developed between the child and the agency, in consultation with members of the cultural community (or relevant officer) and usually includes:

- Relevant cultural information
- Activities that maintain and support the child’s cultural identity and connection with communities and culture
- Supports required to ensure that the child maintains his or her connections and is able to participate in activities documented in the cultural support plan.

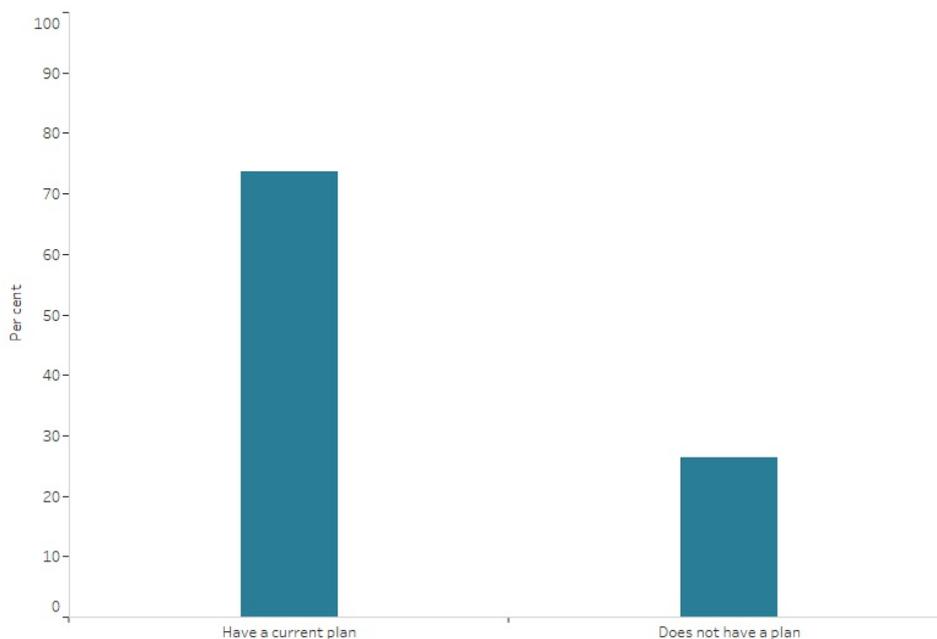
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0-17 in care who have (or do not have) a cultural support plan. Data can be selected by year from 2014 to 2021.

#### NFPAC indicator 5.4: Proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0–17 in care who have a current documented and approved cultural support plan in selected calendar year

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

For further information on placement of Indigenous children see [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018-19: measuring progress](#).

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 5.4 Cultural support plans: Proportion of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years in care who have a cultural support plan

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years who have a current documented and approved cultural support plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years who are required to have a current documented and approved cultural support plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

A cultural support plan is an individualised plan or support agreement that aims to develop or maintain children's cultural identity through connection to family, community and culture, while they are in care. Cultural support plans help to ensure that planning and decision making are culturally appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

Children in 'care' are defined as those whose care arrangements have been ordered by the Children's Court, where the parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v27.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 6.1 Sexual abuse substantiations

Children who have been abused or neglected often have poor social, behavioural and health outcomes in childhood and later in life. In particular, a history of child abuse has been associated with difficulty in maintaining adult relationships, mental health problems including depression and anxiety, substance abuse, and violent and sexual offending later in life.

The data provided for this indicator only represent cases of sexual abuse reported to departments responsible for child protection. Instances of sexual abuse by family members other than parents/guardians and by non-family members are generally only included where there has been a finding of a failure to protect by the parent/guardian. When interpreting these data, it should be noted that, if a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, the abuse and/or neglect reported is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child.

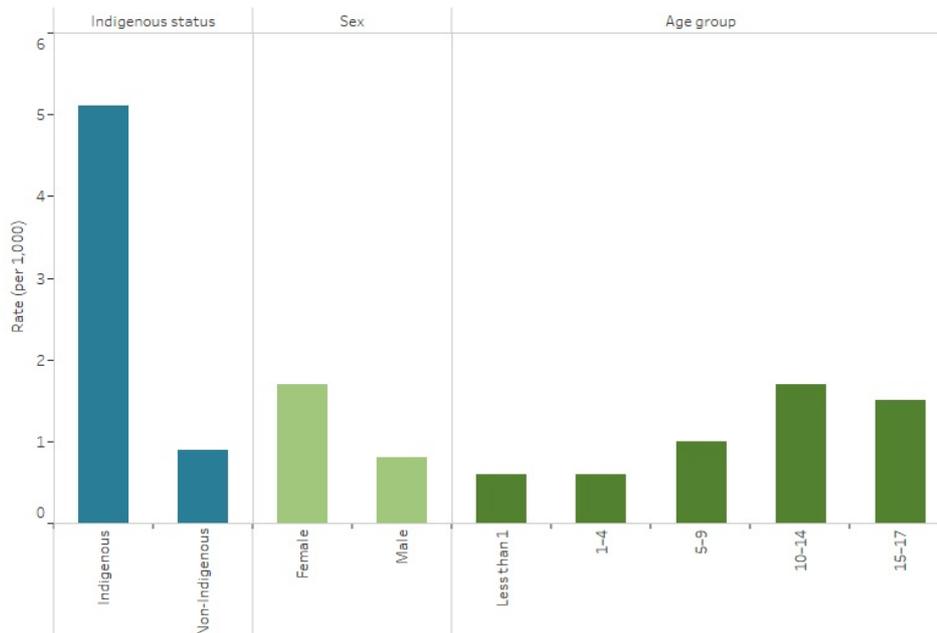
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the rate of children and young people aged 0-17 years who were the subject of a child protection substantiation for sexual abuse by Indigenous status, sex and age group. Data can be selected by year from 2012-13 to 2020-21.

**NFPAC indicator 6.1: Rate of children and young people aged 0-17 who were the subject of a child protection substantiation for sexual abuse in selected financial year**

Select year  
2020-21

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 6.1 Sexual abuse substantiations: Proportion of children aged 0-17 years who were the subject of a child protection substantiation for sexual abuse

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who were the subject of a child protection substantiation of a notification received in the reference period, for sexual abuse	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years at 31 December	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

Child abuse may include neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Abuse is substantiated if, in the professional opinion of officers of the child protection authority, there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been, is being, or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed.

The administrative data reported to the AIHW on child protection substantiations reflects departmental activity. Differences in child protection legislation, policies and practices across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in substantiations and so caution must be used when interpreting the data.

Administrative data captures incidence of substantiations of harm, or risk of harm, rather than prevalence of abuse and neglect.

Substantiations reported for this indicator refer to investigations of notifications received during the financial year (i.e. 1 July to 30 June of the following year) for which an outcome of 'substantiated' was recorded within two months of the end of the financial year (i.e. by 31 August).

The primary substantiated type of abuse or neglect recorded is based on the type of abuse or neglect that child protection workers consider the most likely to place the child at risk, or be the most severe in the short term. Other types of abuse, that may be considered less serious or severe than the primary type may also be recorded as part of the substantiation.

This indicator reports on the number of children who were the subject of a substantiation of a child protection notification during the year where sexual abuse was the primary type of substantiated abuse, or an 'other type of abuse' recorded as part of the substantiation. Where sexual abuse is recorded as an 'other type of abuse' this may indicate it is considered a lower level of concern (when compared with other types of abuse/neglect) rather than an instance of serious sexual abuse. This indicator is an expansion of the previous reporting for this indicator which only reported on the primary type of abuse for the first substantiation during the year for the child.

Substantiation data generally capture maltreatment by a parent/guardian. Extra-familial maltreatment (i.e. by someone other than a child's parent or guardian) is not within the mandate of most jurisdictions unless a child's parents are not acting to protect the child.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

Accordingly, in the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate your interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

Last updated 12/05/2022 v22.0

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## National Framework indicators

### 6.2 Child sexual assault

These data capture children who were recorded by the police as victims of sexual assault. These offences may have been reported by a victim, witness or other person, or they may have been detected by police. The data do not provide a total picture of victims, as not all crimes are reported to police; nor do all incidents which are reported to police get recorded as a crime. In particular, children may feel intimidated and reluctant to report personal crimes if the perpetrator is known to them or in a position of power.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

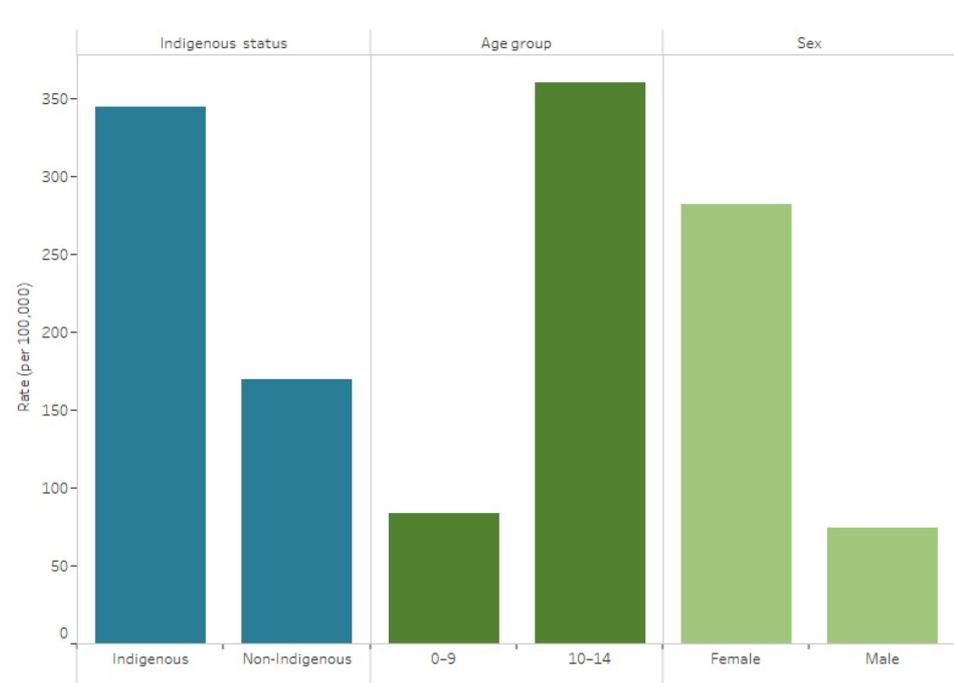
The first figure is a bar graph showing the rate of children and young people aged 0-14 who were recorded victims of sexual assault by age group, Indigenous status and sex. Data can be selected by year from 2010 to 2020.

The second figure is a line graph showing the rate of children and young people aged 0-14 who were recorded victims of sexual assault from 2010 to 2020. Data can be selected by age group, Indigenous status or sex.

**NFPAC indicator 6.2: Rate of children and young people aged 0–14 who were recorded victims of sexual assault in selected calendar year**

Select year  
2020

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW analysis of [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\) Recorded crime: victims, Australia](#).

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Framework Indicator 6.2 Child Sexual Assault: Rate of children aged 0-14 years who have been the victim of sexual assault

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-14 years who were the victim of sexual assault in the reference period	ABS Recorded Crime—Victims data collection

Denominator	Number of children aged 0-14 years at 30 June	AIHW Population Database (sourced from ABS Australian Demographic Statistics)
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### Explanatory notes

The recorded crime statistics relate to victims of a selected range of offences that police have recorded. These offences may have been reported by a victim, witness or other person, or they may have been detected by police. The statistics do not provide a total picture of crime, as not all crimes are reported to police, nor do all incidents which are reported to police get recorded as a crime. These data are not designed to provide counts of total number of victims—victims may be double-counted where multiple offences have occurred.

The reported level of crime that children and young people experience is likely to be underestimated as children, in particular, may feel intimidated and reluctant to report personal crimes if the perpetrator is known to them or in a position of power.

ABS also advises care in interpreting police statistics as fluctuations in recorded crime may be a reflection of changes in community attitudes in reporting crime, changes in police procedures or changes in crime reporting systems, rather than a change in the incidence of criminal behaviour.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

Accordingly, in the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate your interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

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Last updated 11/05/2022 v20.0

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## National Standards indicators

### Standard 1: Stability and security

Number	Name
1.1	<u>Stability</u>
1.2	<u>Safety</u>
1.3	<u>Sense of security</u>
1.4	<u>Stability during the year</u>

### Standard 2: Participate in decisions

Number	Name
2.1	<u>Participation</u>

### Standard 3: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Number	Name
3.1	<u>Placement of Indigenous children</u>

### Standard 4: Individualised plan

Number	Name
4.1	<u>Case plans</u>

### Standard 5: Health needs

Number	Name
5.1	<i>Health checks*</i>

### Standard 6: Education and early childhood

Number	Name
6.1	<u>Reading and numeracy</u>
6.2	<i>Early childhood*</i>

### Standard 7: Education, training and/or employment

Number	Name
7.1	<i>Year 10/12 and VET*</i>

### Standard 8: Social and/or recreational

Number	Name
8.1	<u>Community activity</u>

### Standard 9: Connection with family

Number	Name
9.1	<u>Kinship placement</u>

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9.2	<u>Family connection</u>
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9.3	<u>Family contact</u>
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Standard 10: Identify development

Number	Name
10.1	<u>Cultural support plans</u>
10.2	<u>Sense of community</u>

---

Standard 11: Significant others

Number	Name
11.1	<u>Significant person</u>

---

Standard 12: Carers

Number	Name
12.1a	<u>Foster care households at 30 June</u>
12.1b	<u>Foster care households during the year</u>
	<u>Foster carer numbers</u>
12.2	a. Commencing b. Exiting c. On an average day
12.3	<u>Carer support</u>

---

Standard 13: Transition from care planning

Number	Name
13.1	<u>Leaving care plan</u>
13.2	<u>Leaving care</u>

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\* Indicator not currently reportable due to limitations in data availability/quality.

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Last updated 7/07/2021 v26.0

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# National Standards indicators

## NOOHCS quick reference guide

The quick reference guide displays the current reported values of all National Standards indicators.

Domain	Indicator	Current year	Value (current)	Years of trend da..	Change from previous <sup>2</sup>	
Standard 1: Children and young people are provided with stability and security during their time in care	1.1 Stability	2020-21	65.8%	2016-17 to 2020..	Steady or no clear trend	~
	1.2 Safety	2020-21	1.4%	NA	No time series data	●●
	1.3 Sense of security	2018	91.5%	NA	No time series data	●●
	1.4 Stability during t..	2021	91.2%	2017 to 2021	Steady or no clear trend	~
Standard 2: Children an..	2.1 Participation	2018	65.9%	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 3: Aboriginal ..	3.1 Placement of Indi..	2021	63.1%	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 4: Each child a..	4.1 Case plans	2021	88.8%	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 5: Children an..	5.1 Health checks	..	..	NA	No data	●●
Standard 6: Children and young people in care access and participate i..	6.1 Literacy and num..	2013	82.7%	NA	No time series data	●●
	6.1 Literacy and num..	2013	71.3%	NA	No time series data	●●
	6.2 Early childhood	..	..	NA	No data	●●
Standard 7: Children an..	7.1 Year 10/12 and V..	..	..	NA	No data	●●
Standard 8: Children an..	8.1 Community activi..	2018	64.6%	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 9: Children and young people are supported to safely and..	9.1 Kinship placement	2021	53.7%	2017 to 2021	Increase	↑
	9.2 Family connection	2018	94.2%	NA	No time series data	●●
	9.3 Family contact	2018	71.8%	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 10: Children and young people in care are supported to develop their identity, safety and appropriately, through contact with their famil..	10.1 Cultural suppor..	2021	71.2%	NA	No time series data	●●
	10.2 Sense of commu..	2018	89.5%	NA	No time series data	●●
	10.2 Sense of commu..	2018	88.5%	NA	No time series data	●●
	10.2 Sense of commu..	2018	83.8%	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 11: Children a..	11.1 Significant pers..	2018	97.4%	NA	No time series data	●●
	11.1 Significant pers..	2018	97.4%	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 12: Carers are assessed and receive relevant ongoing training, development and support, in order to provide quality care	12.1a Foster care ho..	2021	9022	NA	No time series data	●●
	12.1b Foster care ho..	2020-21	12613	NA	No time series data	●●
	12.2 Foster carer nu..	2020-21	2037	NA	No time series data	●●
	12.2 Foster carer nu..	2020-21	1483	NA	No time series data	●●
	12.2 Foster carer nu..	2020-21	5368	NA	No time series data	●●
Standard 13: Children and young people have a transition from care plan commencing at 15 years old which details support to be provided after leaving care	12.3 Carer support	2016	55.4%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.1 Leaving care plan	2021	80.8%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—..	2018	63.8%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—E..	2018	67.4%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—..	2018	62.3%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—K..	2018	82.0%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—L..	2018	76.5%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—S..	2018	71.2%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—S..	2018	56.2%	NA	No time series data	●●
	13.2 Leaving care—H..	2018	70.6%	NA	No time series data	●●
13.2 Leaving care—A..	2018	66.5%	NA	No time series data	●●	

1. For each indicator, 'Years of trend data' denote the earliest and latest year of comparable time series data available within the 2009-2021 lifetime of the National Framework (data for additional non-comparable years may be included in the Supplementary tables). Data availability and frequency varies across indicators. 'No time series data' indicates less than 3 years of comparable time series data, including the current year, are currently available for that indicator. 'No data' indicates the indicator is not currently reportable due to limitation in data availability/quality.

2. Trend analysis has been undertaken using a t-test between the year and the indicator value. Statistically significant findings are reported as 'increase' or 'decrease', while non-statistically significant findings are reported as 'steady or no clear trend'. Trend analysis is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data.

See the [quick reference guide](#) for further information.

Last updated 27/04/2022 v11.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 1.1 Stability

*This indicator measures the same outcome as [NFPAC Indicator 4.2](#) and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.*

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Children in planned, stable out-of-home care placements tend to have better learning and psychosocial outcomes than children experiencing instability (Campo and Commerford 2016).

Children who have had only 1 or 2 placements prior to exiting out-of-home care provides a broad indicator of stability.

Children can have multiple short-term placements for appropriate reasons (for example, an initial placement followed by a longer-term placement), or it may be desirable to change placements to achieve better compatibility between a child and family. Older children are more likely to have multiple placements as they move towards independence and voluntarily seek alternate placements.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a bar graph showing the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 exiting out-of-home care during the year who had 1 or 2 placements by Indigenous status and time in care. Data can be selected by year from 2009-10 to 2020-21. Data can also be selected by number of placements.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 exiting out-of-home care during the year who had 1 or 2 placements from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Data can be selected by Indigenous status, time in care or number of placements.

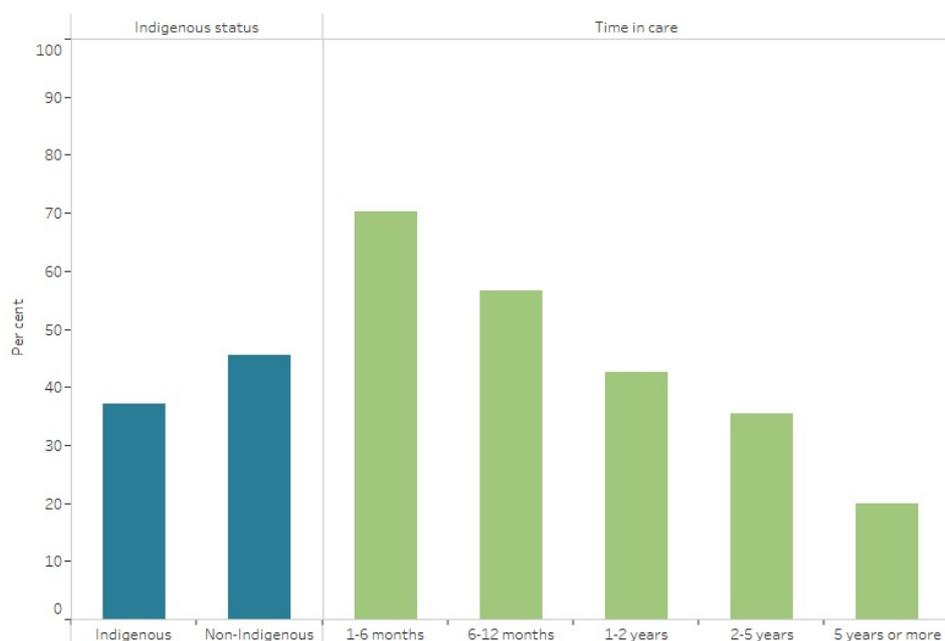
## NOOHCS indicator 1.1: Proportion of children and young people aged 0–17 exiting out-of-home care during the year who had 1 or 2 placements in selected financial year

Select year  
2020–21

Select number of placements

- 1 placement
- 2 placements
- 1 or 2 placements

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### References

Campo M and Commerford J (2016) [Supporting young people leaving out-of-home care](#), Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australian Government, accessed 13 May 2020.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 1.1 Stability: Proportion of children and young people exiting out-of-home care during the year who had 1 or 2 placements, by length of time in continuous care preceding exit

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years exiting out-of-home care in the reference period who had one or two placements during a period of continuous out-of-home care, and who had been in care for at least 30 days, and were also on a care and protection order at some point 180 days prior to exiting care	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years exiting out-of-home care in the reference period who were on a care and protection order at some point 180 days prior to exiting care	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

These data capture children who exited out-of-home care in the reference period who had been in care for at least 30 days, were on a care and protection order at some point 180 days prior to exiting care, and did not return within 60 days. It captures the number of placements during the period the child was in continuous out-of-home care (from entry to exit). Each placement is only counted once, and a return to

a previous placement is not counted as a different placement.

Differences in legislation, policies and practices in relation to out-of-home care across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in out-of-home care so caution must be taken when interpreting the data.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v36.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 1.2 Safety

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Out-of-home care is provided across Australia for children who are unable to live with their families, generally because of child abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children are provided with a safe home environment during their time in care.

This indicator captures children in out-of-home care who were the subject of a substantiation (and the person believed responsible was living in the household), as a proportion of all children in out-of-home care.

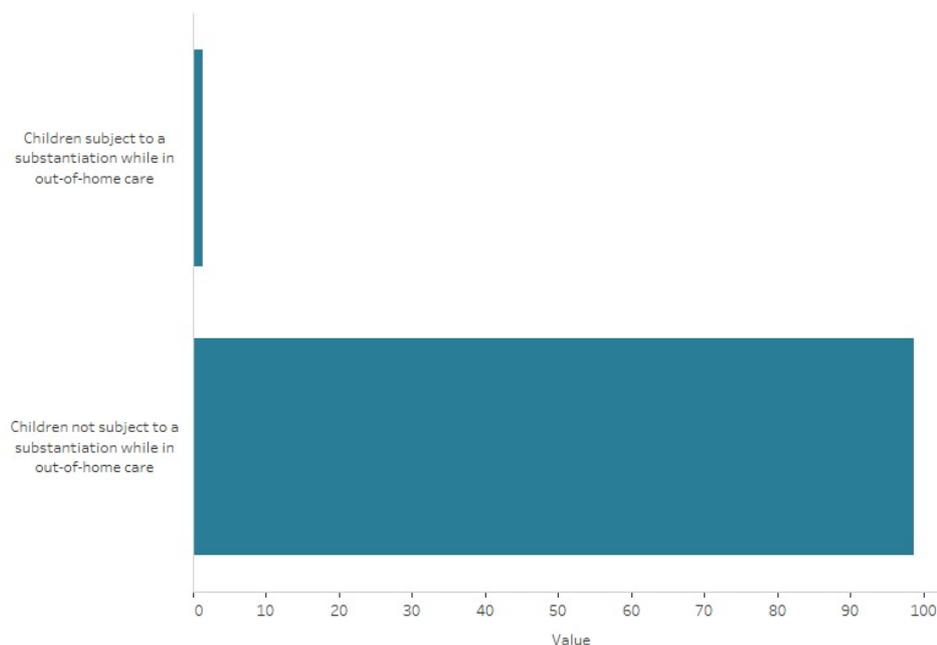
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 in out-of-home care who were the subject of child protection substantiation and the person believed responsible was living in the same household. The graph also presents the proportion of children not subject to a substantiation while in out-of-home care. Data can be selected by year from 2009-10 to 2020-21.

#### NOOHCS indicator 1.2: Proportion of children and young people in out-of-home care who were the subject of child protection substantiation and the person believed responsible was living in the same household in selected financial year

Select year  
2020-21

No time series data



Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (2022) [Report on government services 2022](#), Productivity Commission, Australian Government.

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

## Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 1.2 Safety: The number and proportion of children in out-of-home care who were the subject of a child protection substantiation and the person believed responsible was living in the household providing out-of-home

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care during the reference period, who were the subject of a child protection substantiation whilst in out-of-home care during the reference period (regardless of the date of notification), and the person believed responsible was living in the household providing out-of-home care (or a worker in a residential facility in which the child was living) at the time the harm occurred	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection (2009-10 to 2011-12), Report on Government Services (2012-13 onwards)
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care during the reference period	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection (2009-10 to 2011-12), Report on Government Services (2012-13 onwards)

### Explanatory notes

Differences in child protection legislation, policies and practices across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in out-of-home care and substantiations, so caution must be used when interpreting the data.

The administrative data reported to the AIHW on child protection substantiations reflects departmental activity. Administrative data captures incidence of substantiations of harm, or risk of harm, rather than prevalence of abuse and neglect.

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Last updated 29/04/2022 v32.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 1.3 Sense of security

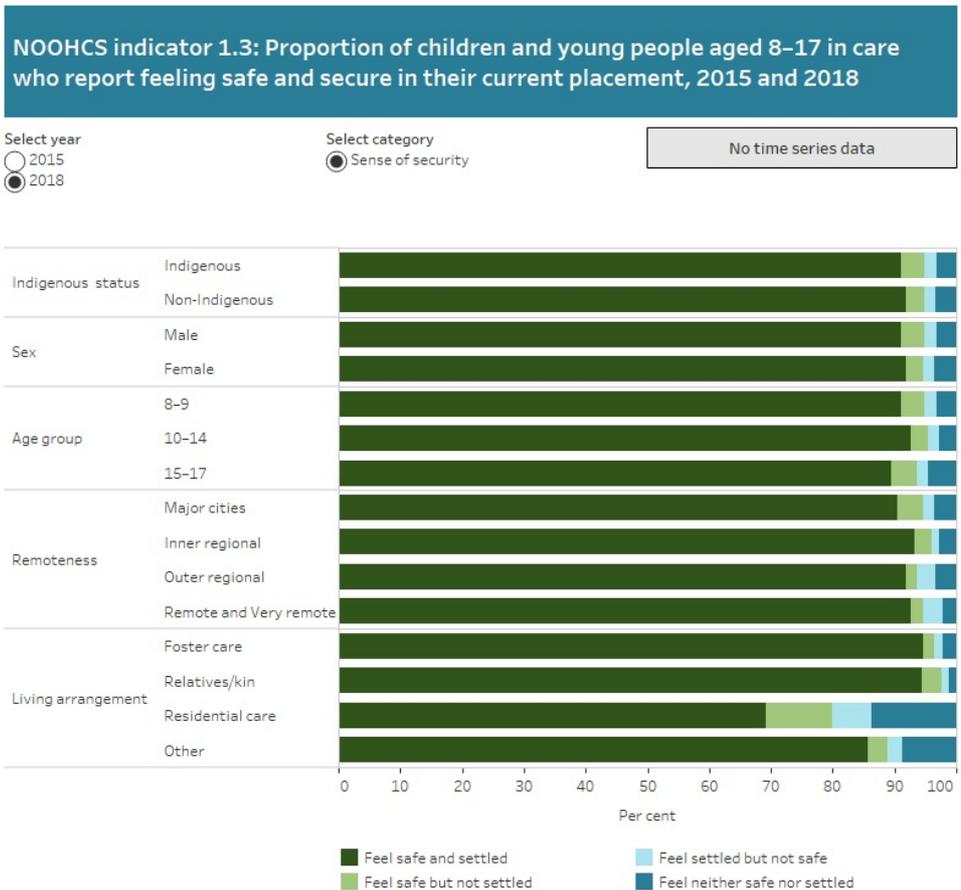
Children may be in care due to abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children feel safe and secure during their time in care.

This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children were asked about the extent to which they felt safe and settled in their current placement.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 in care who report feeling safe and secure in their current placement by Indigenous status, age group, remoteness and living arrangement. Each bar shows the proportion of children who feel safe and settled, safe but not settled, settled but not safe, or neither safe nor settled. Data can be displayed by year in 2015 or 2018.



Note: Remoteness data not available for 2015  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Out-of-home care survey national dataset 2015 and 2018](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 1.3 Sense of security: Proportion of children and young people in out-of-home care who report feeling safe in and secure in their current placement

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Number of children aged 8-17 years in care who report feeling safe and settled in their current placement	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 8-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report *The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018*.

Children ‘in care’ are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children’s Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant ‘Children’s Courts’ may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 8-17 years were asked four questions ‘Do you feel settled where you live now? By ‘settled’ we mean comfortable and cared for?’, ‘What would need to change for you to feel completely settled?’, ‘Do you feel safe where you live now?’ and ‘What would need to change for you to feel completely safe?’ The first and third questions have been used as the overarching measures for this indicator. These questions had four response categories: Yes completely, Just about, Not really, and Not at all. The remaining questions had open-ended responses, which are detailed in the report.

The numerator includes children who reported ‘Yes completely’ or ‘Just about’ to both questions.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a ‘not stated’ response for one or both questions.

Last updated 27/04/2022 v22.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 1.4 Stability during the year

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Children in planned, stable out-of-home care placements tend to have better learning and psychosocial outcomes than children experiencing instability (Campo and Commerford 2016). Children in out-of-home care who have had only 1 or 2 placements during the year can be used as a broad indicator of stability.

It is important to note that children can have multiple short-term placements for appropriate reasons. It may also be desirable to change placements to achieve better compatibility between a child and family. Older children are also more likely to have multiple placements as they move towards independence and voluntarily seek alternate placements.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The first figure is a bar graph showing the proportion of children in out-of-home care at 30 June who had 1 or 2 placements during the year by Indigenous status and time in care. Data can be selected by year from 2013 to 2021. Data can also be presented by the number of placements.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of children in out-of-home care at 30 June who had 1 or 2 placements during the year from 2017 to 2021. Data can be selected by Indigenous status, time in care and number of placements.

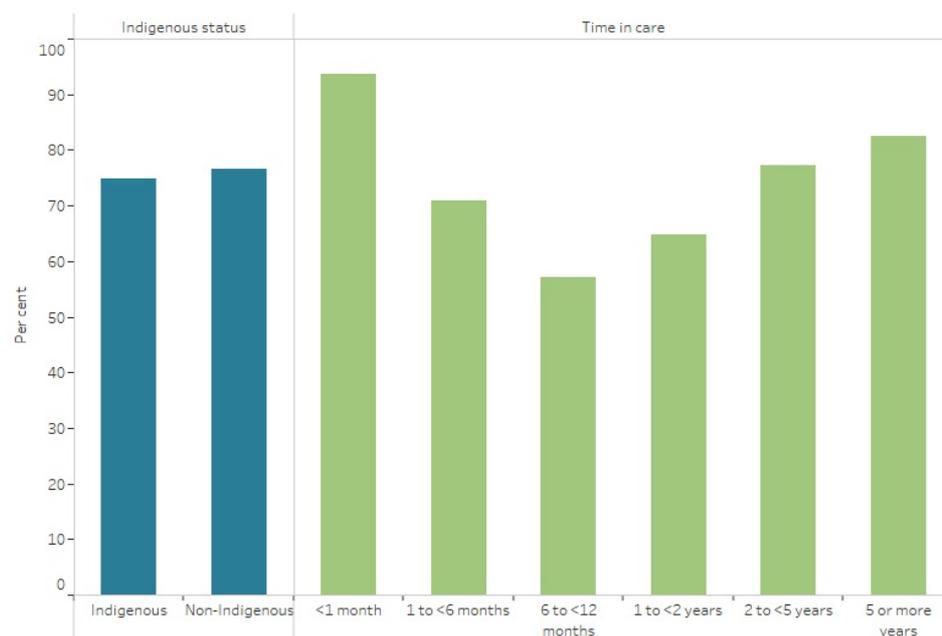
## NOOHCS indicator 1.4: Proportion of children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June who had 1 or 2 placements during the year

Select year  
2021

Select number of placements

- 1 placement
- 2 placements
- 1 or 2 placements

Yearly trend



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### References

Campo M and Commerford J (2016) [Supporting young people leaving out-of-home care](#), Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australian Government, accessed 13 May 2020.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 1.4 Stability during the year: Proportion of children in out-of-home care at 30 June who had 1 or 2 placements during the year

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care at 30 June who had one or two placements in the previous 12 months	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

Differences in legislation, policies and practices in relation to out-of-home care across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in out-of-home care and so caution must be taken when interpreting the data.

These data capture children in out-of-home care at 30 June. It captures the number of placements the child had during the previous 12 months (i.e. from 1 July to 30 June). Where the child was not in continuous out-of-home care for the full 12 months, the number of placements during the most recent out-of-home care episode is calculated (i.e. from the date of the most recent entry to care, to 30 June). Each placement is only counted once, and a return to a previous placement is not counted as a different placement.

Last updated 12/05/2022 v21.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 2.1 Participation

Children may be in care due to abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children in care have the opportunity to participate in decision-making about their lives.

This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children were asked about whether they feel they get to have a say in what happens to them, and whether they feel listened to. As an additional explanatory factor, children were also asked whether someone explains the decisions made about them.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 in care who report they have opportunities to have a say in relation to decisions that have an impact on their lives and that they feel listened to, by sex, age group, remoteness, decisions explained and living arrangement. Each bar includes proportions regarding the extent of participation. Data can be selected by year from 2015 or 2018.

**NOOHCS indicator 2.1: Proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 in care who report they have opportunities to have a say in relation to decisions that impact on their lives and that they feel listened to, 2015 and 2018**



Note: Remoteness data not available for 2015  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset 2015 and 2018

See the supplementary data tables for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the quick reference guide.

National Standards Indicator 2.1 Participation: Proportion of children and young people who report that they have opportunities to have a say in relation to decisions that have an impact on their lives and that they feel listened to

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 8-17 years in care who report they usually get to have a say in what happens to them and people usually listen to what they say	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 8-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report *The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018*.

Children 'in care' are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children's Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant 'Children's Courts' may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 8-17 years were asked three questions: 'Do you get to have a say in what happens to you, such as where you live, your school and learning, and your future?', 'Do people listen to what you say?' and 'Do people explain the decisions made about you?' Each question had four response categories: 'All the time', 'Most of the time', 'Not very often', and 'Never'.

The numerator includes children who reported 'All the time' or 'Most of the time' to both questions.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a 'not stated' response for one or both questions.

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Last updated 5/05/2022 v26.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 3.1 Placement of Indigenous children

*This indicator measures the same outcome as [NFPAC Indicator 5.2](#) and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.*

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people benefit when they are able to maintain fundamental links to family, community, land and culture. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle is a framework designed to embed in policy and practice a recognition of the value of these links to children in care. The principle specifies a hierarchy of preferred placement options for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children who are unable to live with their families as follows:

1. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or non-Indigenous relatives or extended family members (kin),
2. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the child's community; or
3. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family-based carers.

The three options above are preferred placement types. If these preferred options are not available, as a last resort, the child may be placed in:

4. Another care arrangement (such as with a non-Indigenous carer or in a residential setting) (SNAICC 2017).

This placement hierarchy is just one of many considerations taken into account when making decisions for placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and the placement hierarchy have been endorsed by all states and territories in Australia.

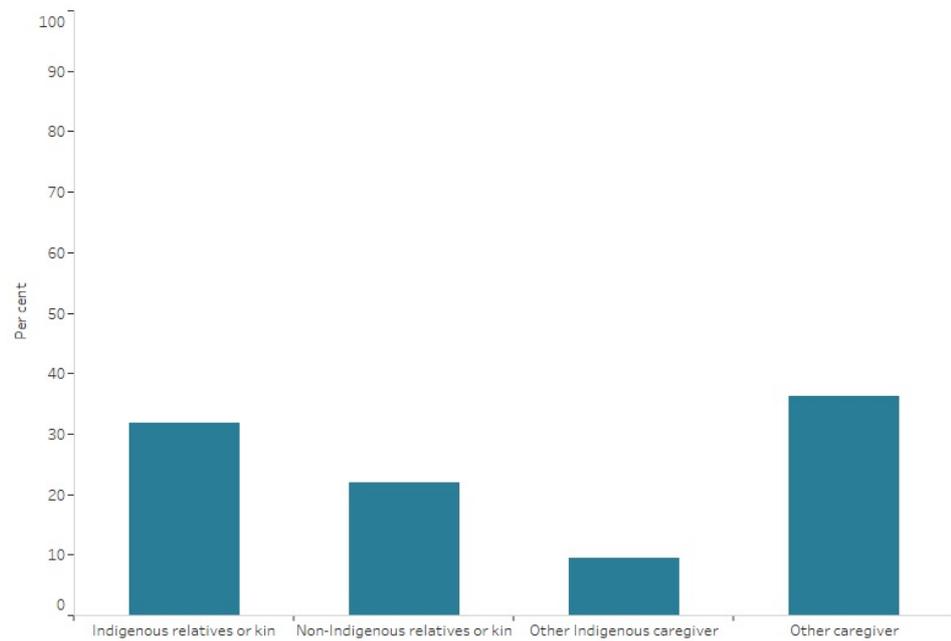
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0-17 in out-of-home care at 30 June placed with relatives or kin, non-Indigenous relatives or kin, other Indigenous caregivers or other caregivers. Data can be selected by year from 2010 to 2021.

**NOOHCS indicator 3.1: Proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care placed with relatives or kin or other Indigenous caregivers in selected calendar year**

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

For further information on placement of Indigenous children see [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018-19: measuring progress](#).

**References**

SNAICC - National Voice for our Children. [Understanding and applying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: a resource for legislation, policy, and program development](#). Melbourne: SNAICC. Accessed 16 June 2020.

**Indicator technical specifications**

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 3.1 Placement of Indigenous children: Proportion of Indigenous children and young people in out-of-home care placed with the child’s extended family, with the child’s Indigenous community, or with other Indigenous people, by carer type

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years placed with relatives/kin or other Indigenous caregivers at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

**Explanatory notes**

Where Indigenous children are unable to live with their parents, culturally appropriate responses for their care and protection are needed. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle outlines a preference for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they are placed outside their family. All jurisdictions have adopted this principle in legislation and policy. The principle outlines the following order of preference for the placement of Indigenous children: with the child’s extended family; within the child’s Indigenous community; and with other Indigenous people.

Last updated 12/05/2022 v40.0



## National Standards indicators

### 4.1 Case plans

A case plan is an individualised, dynamic, written plan or support agreement for children in care, outlining the goals of ongoing intervention and the outcomes and actions required to achieve these goals. It usually includes information on needs assessments, relative/kin contact arrangements and living arrangements.

Case plans are developed to assist in providing child protection services that meet the needs of children. The indicator captures children who have a current approved case plan, as a proportion of all children who require a case plan.

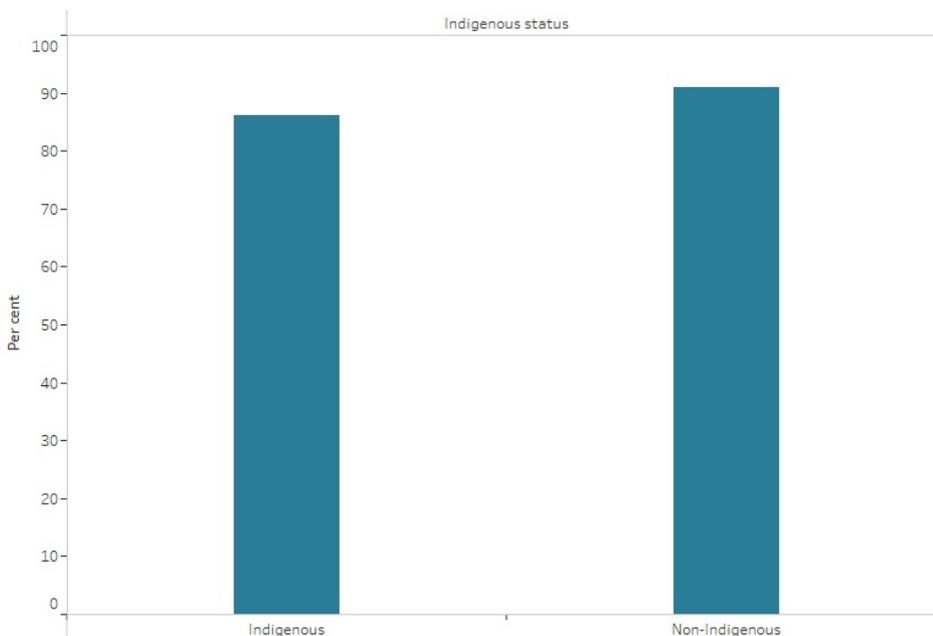
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 who have a current documented case plan at 30 June, by Indigenous status. Data can be selected by year from 2012 to 2021.

**NOOHCS indicator 4.1: Proportion of children and young people aged 0–17 who have a current documented and approved case plan at 30 June**

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 4.1 Case plans: Proportion of children and young people who have a current documented case plan

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years who have a current documented and approved case plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

Denominator	Number of responding children aged 0-17 years who are required to have a current documented and approved case plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
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### Explanatory notes

Children in 'care' are defined as those whose care arrangements have been ordered by the Children's Court, where the parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

A current case plan is one that has been approved and/or reviewed within the previous 12 months.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v20.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 6.1 Reading & numeracy

This indicator measures the same outcome as *NFPAC Indicator 4.5* and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.

It is well known that education is important for the overall wellbeing of children. However, numerous studies have found that children in care have poorer educational outcomes than other children.

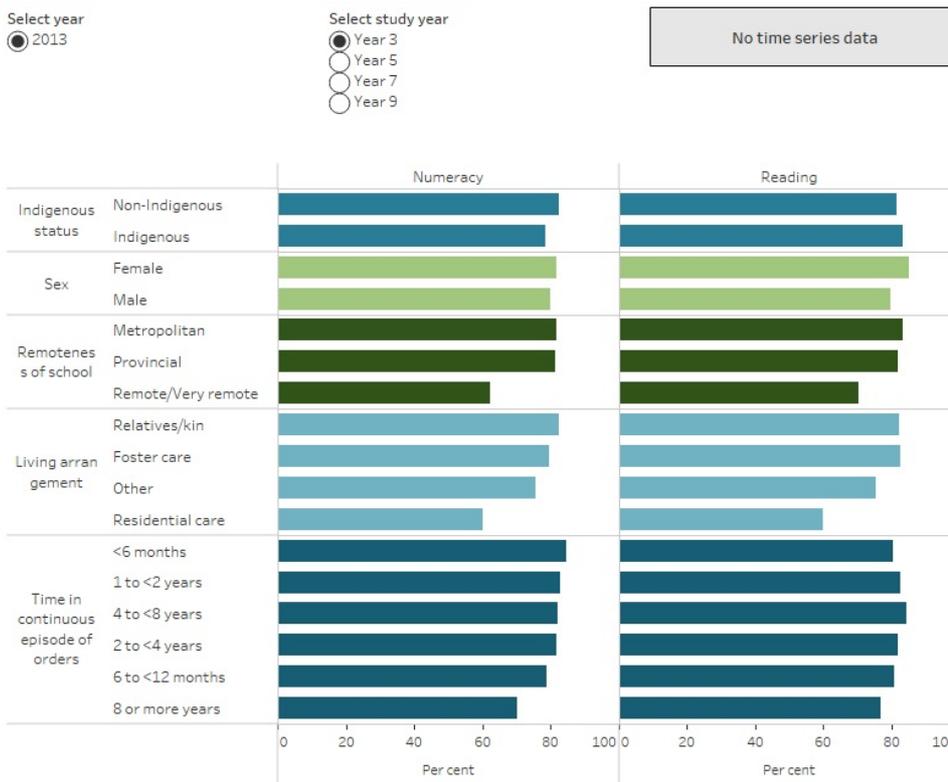
This indicator uses results from the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy to assess if children in care are achieving at or above the national minimum standards for reading and numeracy.

Children ‘in care’ are those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of children on guardianship and custody orders achieving at or above the national minimum standards for numeracy and reading in 2013, by Indigenous status, sex, remoteness of school, living arrangement, time in continuous episode of orders. Data can be selected by study year (3, 5, 7 or 9).

**NOOHCS 6.1: Proportion of children on guardianship and custody orders achieving at or above the national minimum standards for reading and numeracy, 2013**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW (2015) *Educational outcomes for children in care: Linking 2013 child protection and NAPLAN data*, AIHW, Australian Government.

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 6.1 Reading and numeracy: Proportion of children and young people achieving national reading and numeracy benchmarks

For Year 3, 5, 7, 9 a. Reading b. Numeracy	Definition	Data source
Numerator	a. Number of children in care who achieved the Year 3, 5, 7, 9 national minimum standards for reading b. Number of children in care who achieved the Year 3, 5, 7, 9 national minimum standards for numeracy	a, b) AIHW Linked child protection and NAPLAN dataset
Denominator	a. Number of children in care who were assessed for Year 3, 5, 7, 9 reading in the reference year b. Number of children in care who were assessed for Year 3, 5, 7, 9 numeracy in the reference year	a, b) AIHW Linked child protection and NAPLAN dataset

### Explanatory notes

Australian national minimum standards for literacy and numeracy have been developed as part of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

The AIHW dataset was created through the linkage of data from the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS) and NAPLAN, for available states/territories. Further information is provided in the AIHW 2015 report *Educational outcomes for children in care: linking 2013 child protection and NAPLAN data*.

NAPLAN data are only available for selected school year levels. The NAPLAN tests are conducted in May each year for all students across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, on the assessment domains of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

Children 'in care' are defined as children whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children's Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive. Only children who were 'in care' at the time of NAPLAN testing (for example, 14-16 May 2013) are included in the data source.

For both sub-measures, the numerator includes the assessed students who achieved the national minimum standard (i.e. 'present' students whose test score was at or above the national minimum standard). The denominator includes all assessed students (i.e. all 'present' and 'exempt' students); exempt students are deemed to be below the national minimum standard. Absent and withdrawn students are excluded from the calculations.

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## National Standards indicators

### 8.1 Community activity

Children may be in care due to abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children in care have the opportunity to participate in sporting, cultural and community activities.

This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children were asked about whether their carer or someone else encourages them to participate in sporting, cultural or community activities.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar shows the proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 in care who report they may choose to do the same sorts of things (sporting, cultural or community activities) that children and young people their age who aren’t in care do in 2018. Data are disaggregated by Indigenous status, sex, age group, remoteness and living arrangement. Each bar shows the proportion of children in each perceived support category.

**NOOHCS indicator 8.1: Proportion of children and young people aged 8–17 in care who report they are supported to participate in sporting, cultural or community activities, 2018**



Source: AIHW [Out-of-home care survey national dataset 2018](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 8.1 Community activity: Proportion of children and young people who report they may choose to do the same sorts of things (sporting, cultural or community activities) that children and young people their age who aren’t in care do

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 8-17 years in care who report they receive adequate support to participate in sport, community or cultural activities	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 8-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report *The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018*.

Children ‘in care’ are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children’s Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant ‘Children’s Courts’ may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 8-17 years were asked three questions: ‘Does your carer or someone else encourage you to do sports or other physical activities?’, ‘Does your carer or someone else encourage you to do youth or community activities?’, ‘Are there any sports, physical, youth or community activities you would like to try? And one open-ended question: ‘Please tell us which sports, physical, youth or community activities you would like to try.’ Questions one and two had five response categories: ‘All the time’, ‘Most of the time’, ‘Not very often’, ‘Never’, and ‘I am not interested in these things’. Question three had a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ response category. Responses to the open-ended question are available in the report.

The numerator includes children who reported ‘All the time’ or ‘Most of the time’ to the first two questions.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a ‘not stated’ or ‘I am not interested in these things’ response to the questions.

Last updated 5/05/2022 v17.0

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# National Standards indicators

## 9.1 Kinship placement

Care should be taken when interpreting the time series for this indicator, as it has been affected by the implementation of the national definition of out-of-home care.

As of 2019, all states and territories have adopted a nationally consistent definition of out-of-home care which excludes children on third-party parental responsibility orders, children on immigration orders, young people aged 18 and over, and children in pre-adoptive placements from counts of children in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care data from the 2018-19 reporting period onwards are based on this nationally agreed definition and, where possible, back cast to 2016-17. These should not be compared with data for previous years or previously published out-of-home care data.

For more information on the national definition of out-of-home care, see [Child protection Australia 2018-19](#).

Out-of-home care is provided across Australia for children who are unable to live with their families, generally because of child abuse or neglect or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration).

Placing children with relative/kin helps them to maintain their relationships with people who are important to them, such as immediate and extended family where it is safe to do so. These relationships are important to the development of their identity, as well as their feeling of belonging in the world.

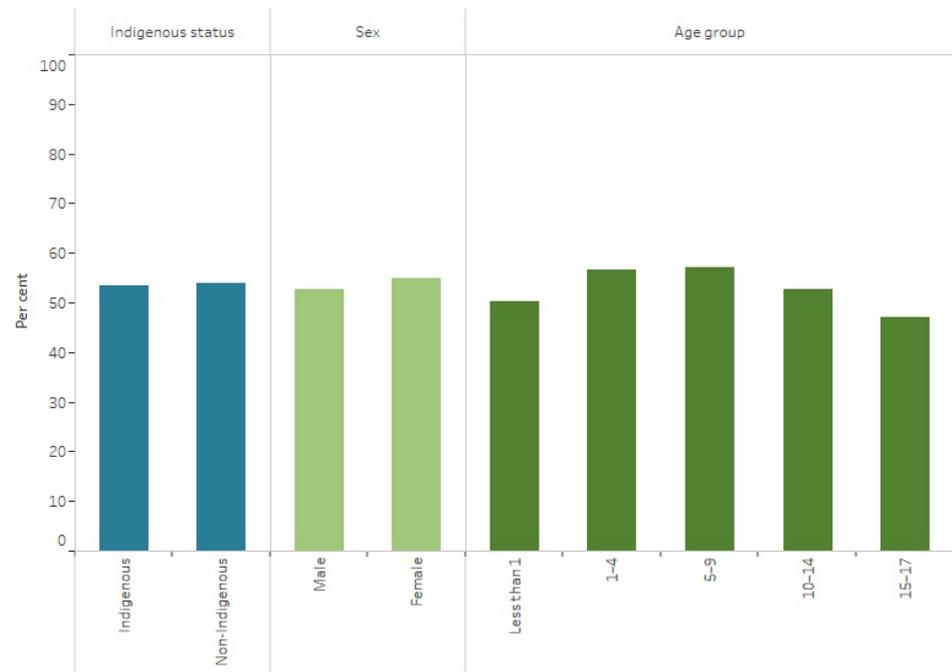
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The first figure shows the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 in out-of-home care who are placed with relatives or kin by Indigenous status, sex and age group. Data can be selected by year from 2010 to 2021.

The second figure is a line graph showing the proportion of children and young people aged 0-17 in out-of-home care who are placed with relatives or kin from 2017 to 2021. Data can be selected by Indigenous status, age group or sex.

**NOOHCS indicator 9.1: Proportion of children and young people aged 0–17 in out-of-home care who were placed with relatives or kin in selected calendar year**

Select year: 2021  
 Select placement type:  Relative/Kinship care



Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

For further information on kinship placement (of Indigenous children) see [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018-19: measuring progress](#).

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 9.1 Kinship placement: Proportion of children and young people in out-of-home care who are placed with relatives and kin

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care at 30 June who were placed with relatives/kin	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

Differences in legislation, policies and practices in relation to out-of-home care across jurisdictions and over time can affect the number and rate of children in out-of-home care and so caution must be taken when interpreting the data.

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## National Standards indicators

### 9.2 Family connection

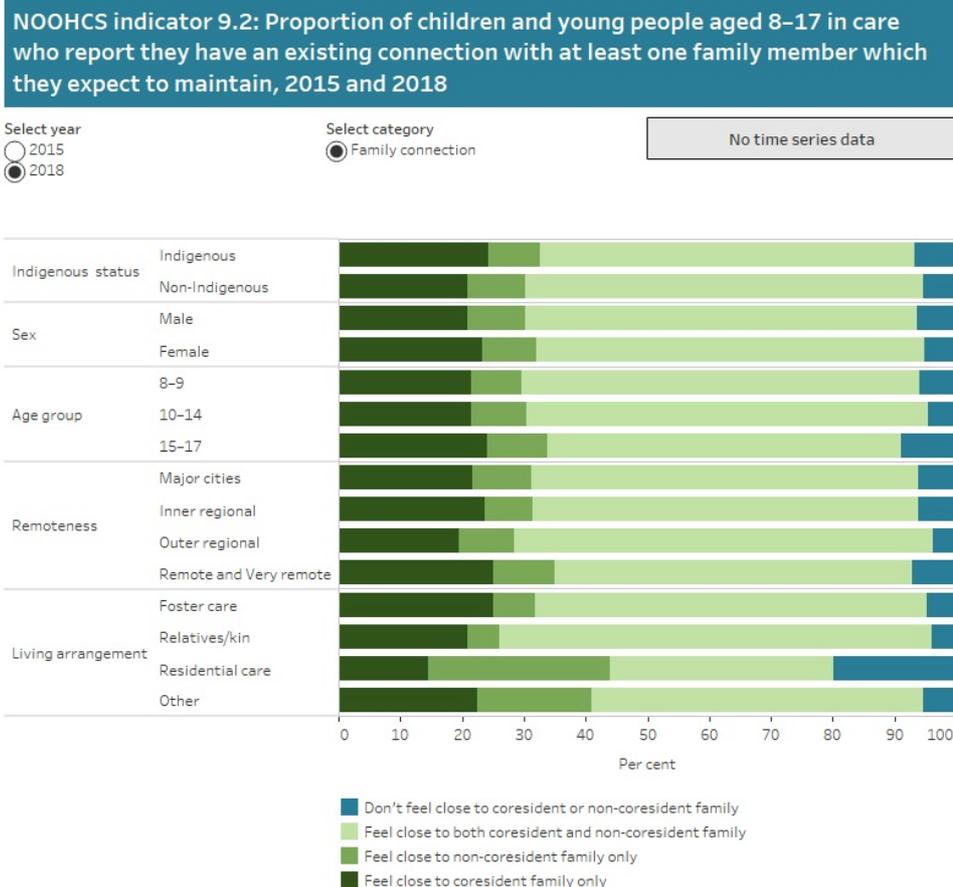
Children may be in care due to abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children maintain connections with family members during their time in care.

This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children were asked about how close they felt (that is, how important and special they are to you) to the people they are living with now (co-resident family) and family they don’t live with (non-co-resident family).

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 in care who report they have an existing connection with at least one family member which they expect to maintain, by Indigenous status, sex, age group, remoteness and living arrangement. Each bar presents the proportion of children in each family connection category. Data can be selected by years 2015 or 2018.



Note: Remoteness data not available for 2015  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Out-of-home care survey national dataset 2015 and 2018](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 9.2 Family connection: Proportion of children and young people who report they have an existing connection with at least one family member which they expect to maintain

Definition	Data source
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Numerator	Number of children aged 8-17 years in care who report they feel close to their coresident family, non-coresident family, or both	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 8-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report *[The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018](#)*.

Children ‘in care’ are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children’s Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant ‘Children’s Courts’ may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 8-17 years were asked two questions ‘How close do you feel to the people you are living with now?’ and ‘How close do you feel to family members who you don’t live with?’ ‘How close’ was described as ‘how important and special they are to you’. The questions had four response categories: Very close, Fairly close, A bit close, Not close at all.

‘Family’ was broadly self-defined by the responding children. Children in care may not distinguish between biological and non-biological relationships, and may feel equally close to their birth family, carer family and others in their current placement.

The numerator includes children who reported ‘Very close’ or ‘Fairly close’ to one or both questions.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a ‘not stated’ response to one or both questions.

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## National Standards indicators

### 9.3 Family contact

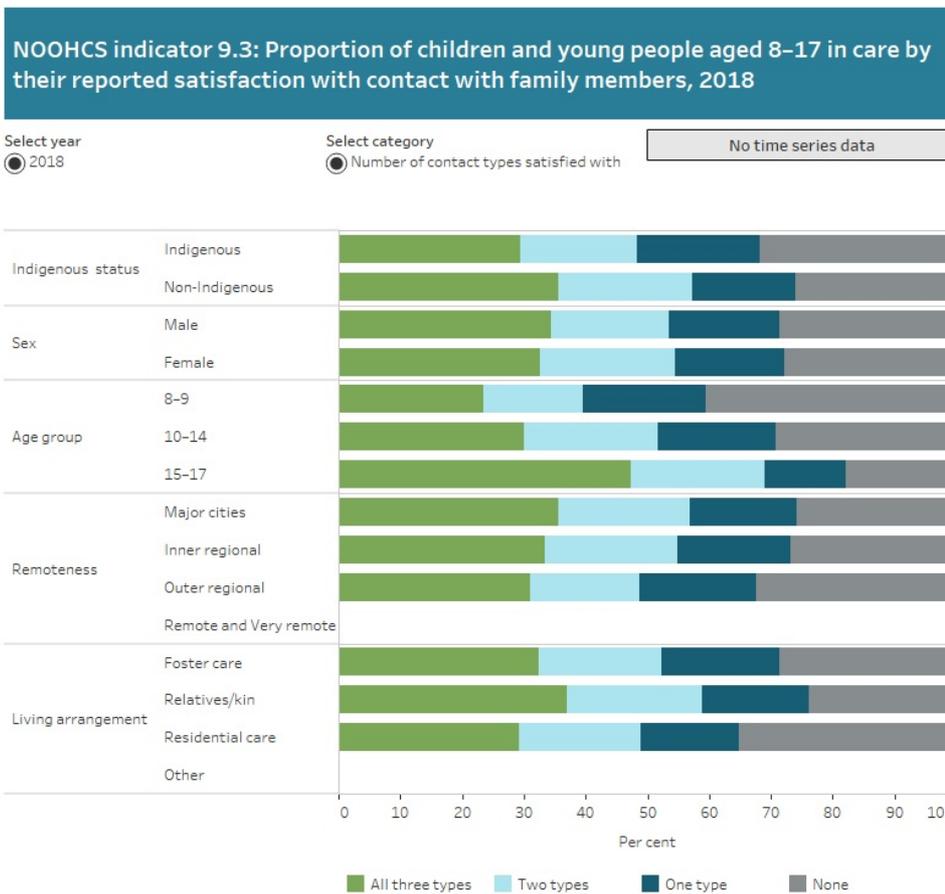
Children may be in care due to abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children maintain contact with family members, as appropriate, during their time in care.

This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children were asked about their satisfaction with three types of contact with family they don’t live with: visiting, talking and writing.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 in care by their reported satisfaction with contact with family members in 2018. Data are disaggregated by Indigenous status, sex, age group, remoteness and living arrangement. Each bar presents the proportion of children that are satisfied with all three types, two types, one type or none.



Source: AIHW [Out-of-home care survey national dataset 2018](#)

‘Satisfactory contact’ refers to the number of family contact types (visiting, talking and writing) the child reported satisfaction with.

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 9.3 Family contact: Proportion of children and young people who report having contact with family members, by the reported frequency of contact, by their reported satisfaction with contact arrangements

	Definition	Data source
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Numerator	Number of children aged 8-17 years in care who report satisfaction with at least one type of contact with non-coresident family	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 8-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report *The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018*.

Children 'in care' are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children's Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant 'Children's Courts' may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 8-17 years were asked three questions 'For family you don't live with: Do you get to visit your family?', 'For family you don't live with: Do you get to talk to your family (including phone calls)', and 'For family you don't live with: Do you get to write to your family? (including emails, messaging, letters)'. The questions had three response categories: Less than I want, As much as I want, More than I want.

'Family' was broadly self-defined by the responding children. Children in care may not distinguish between biological and non-biological relationships (e.g. biological, half, step, de facto, kinship and carer relationships).

For more information how the numerator was derived for each contact type see the [data tables](#) available on the survey website.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a 'not stated' response for one or both questions.

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## National Standards indicators

### 10.1 Cultural support plans

This indicator measures the same outcome as [NFPAC Indicator 5.4](#) and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.

A cultural support plan is an individualised plan that aims to develop or maintain children’s cultural identity through connection to family, community and culture, while they are in care. Cultural support plans help to ensure that planning and decision-making are culturally appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

A cultural support plan is usually developed between the child and the agency, in consultation with members of the cultural community (or relevant officer) and usually includes:

- Relevant cultural information
- Activities that maintain and support the child’s cultural identity and connection with communities and culture
- Supports required to ensure that the child maintains his or her connections and is able to participate in activities documented in the cultural support plan.

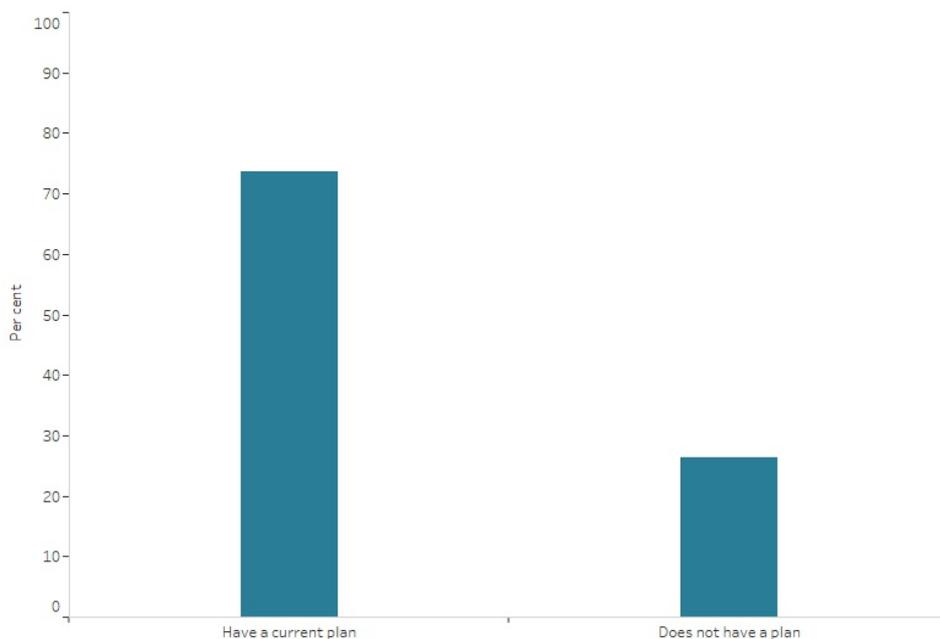
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0-17 in care who have (or do not have) a current cultural support plan. Data can be selected by year from 2014 to 2021.

#### NOOHCS indicator 10.1: Proportion of Indigenous children and young people aged 0–17 in care who have a current documented and approved cultural support plan in selected calendar year

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

For further information on cultural support plans see [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Indicators 2018-19: measuring progress](#).

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 10.1 Cultural support plans: Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people who have a current cultural support plan

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years who have a current documented and approved cultural support plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of Indigenous children aged 0-17 years who are required to have a current documented and approved cultural support plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

A cultural support plan is an individualised plan or support agreement that aims to develop or maintain children’s cultural identity through connection to family, community and culture, while they are in care. Cultural support plans help to ensure that planning and decision-making are culturally appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

Children in ‘care’ are defined as those whose care arrangements have been ordered by the Children’s Court, where the parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v23.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 10.2 Sense of community

Children may be in care due to abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children in care have the opportunity to participate in decision-making about their lives.

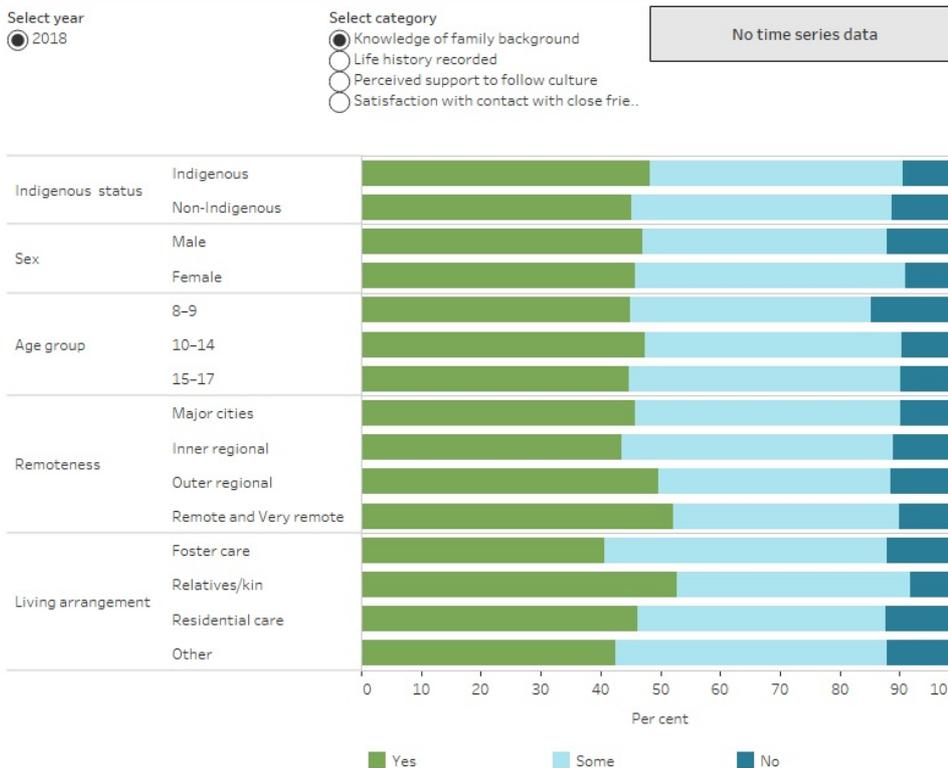
This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children were asked about their sense of community connection through knowledge of family background, participation in religion, beliefs or customs, contact with friends, and whether their life history was being recorded (for example photos, memory box). For these data, sense of community connection is demonstrated when children report ‘at least some’ for the area in question.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 who demonstrate having a sense of connection with the community in which they live in 2018. Each bar presents the proportion who reported yes, some and no. Data are disaggregated by Indigenous status, sex, age group, remoteness and living arrangement. Data can be selected by the type of connection reported.

**NOOHCS indicator 10.2: Proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 who demonstrate having a sense of connection with the community in which they live, 2018**



Note: Rates for 'Remote and Very remote' Remoteness and 'Other' Living arrangements under 'Perceived support to follow culture' reported as 'n.p.'  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Out-of-home care survey national dataset 2018](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 10.2 Sense of community: Proportion of children and young people who demonstrate having a sense of connection with the community in which they live

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 8-17 years in care who report they have at least some knowledge of their family background and culture	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 8-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report *The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018*.

Children 'in care' are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children's Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant 'Children's Courts' may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 8-17 years were asked four questions in relation to this indicator: 'How much do you know about your family background and your culture?', 'Do you keep things about your life, such as photos, a life story book, or a memory box?', 'How much can you follow your culture where you live? By 'culture' we mean things like your religion, beliefs and customs.' and 'Do you see your close friends as much as you want?'

The question 'How much do you know about your family background and your culture?' has been used as the overarching measure for this indicator. This question had four response categories: A lot, Quite a bit, Some things, and Nothing.

The numerator includes children who reported 'A lot', 'Quite a bit' or 'Some things' to the question.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a 'not stated' response to the questions.

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## National Standards indicators

### 11.1 Significant person

Children may be in care due to abuse or neglect, or because their family is unable to care for them (for example, due to illness or incarceration). It is important that children in care have the opportunity to participate in decision-making about their lives.

This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children were asked about whether they could nominate an adult who cares about them. A question on non-adults was also included so that children who were unable to nominate an adult could identify a broader range of support sources. As an additional measure, children were also asked about their satisfaction with the amount of contact with their nominated person.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 who are able to nominate at least one significant adult who cares about them and who they believe they will be able to depend upon throughout their childhood or young adulthood. Each bar presented the proportion of children who report each type of nominated person (significant adult, non-adult or no significant person). Data are disaggregated by Indigenous status, sex, age group, remoteness, satisfaction with contact and living arrangement. Data can be selected by year from 2015 or 2018.

**NOOHCS indicator 11.1: Proportion of children and young people aged 8-17 who are able to nominate at least one significant adult who cares about them and who they believe they will be able to depend upon throughout their childhood or young adulthood, 2015 and 2018**



National Standards Indicator 11.1 Significant person: Proportion of children and young people who are able to nominate at least one significant adult who cares about them and who they believe they will be able to depend upon throughout their childhood or young adulthood

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 8-17 years in care who report they have a significant adult	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 8-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report [\*The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018.\*](#)

Children ‘in care’ are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children’s Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant ‘Children’s Courts’ may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 8-17 years were asked the question ‘Do you have an adult who cares about what happens to you now and in the future?’ The question had two response categories: Yes and No. If the child responded ‘No’ they were asked ‘Do you have someone else (who is not an adult) who cares about what happens to you now and in the future?’ The question had two response categories: Yes and No.

The numerator includes children who reported ‘Yes’ to the question.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a ‘not stated’ response to the questions.

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## National Standards indicators

### 12.1a Foster care households at 30 June

Foster care is one type of out-of-home care provided for children who are unable to live with their families.

Foster carer households are private households containing one or more foster carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care
- for whom reimbursement is available from the state or territory government for expenses incurred in caring for a child
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

This indicator captures foster carer households with at least one foster child placed in the household on the night of 30 June of the selected years.

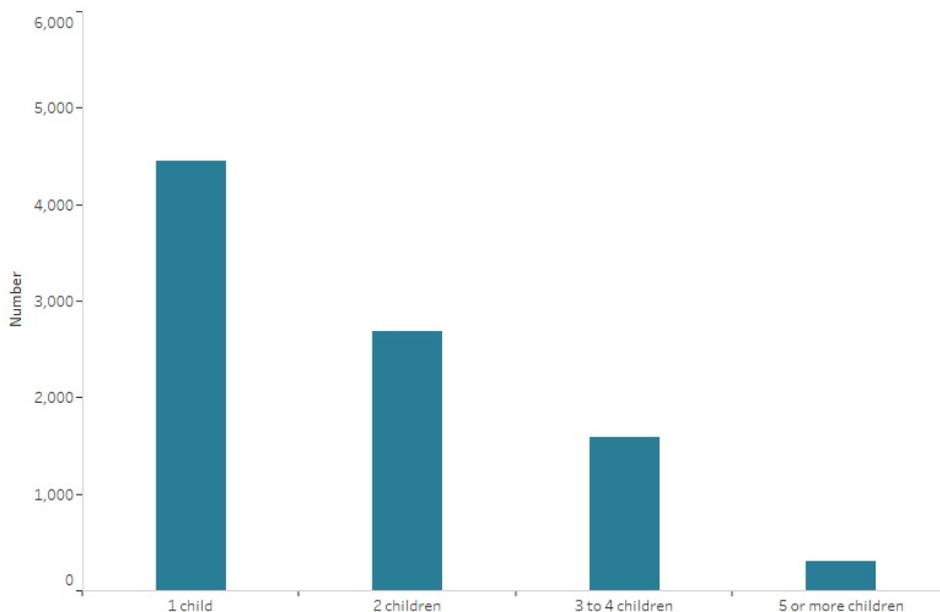
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the number of foster carer households with a placement at 30 June, by number of foster children and young people placed. Data can be selected by year from 2010 to 2021.

#### NOOHCS indicator 12.1a: Number of foster carer households with a placement at 30 June

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 12.1a Foster care households: Number of foster carer households with a placement at 30 June, by number of foster children placed

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of carer households authorised to provide foster care placements during the reference period, that had at least one foster child placed in the household for at least one night during the reference period	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Explanatory notes

All foster carer households that had received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care are included. This includes households that have received provisional authorisation (which may be in order to facilitate a placement), whilst formal approval/registration is being finalised.

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## National Standards indicators

### 12.1b Foster care households during the year

Foster care is one type of out-of-home care provided for children who are unable to live with their families.

Foster carer households are private households containing one or more foster carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process;
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care;
- for whom reimbursement is available from the state or territory government for expenses incurred in caring for a child;
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

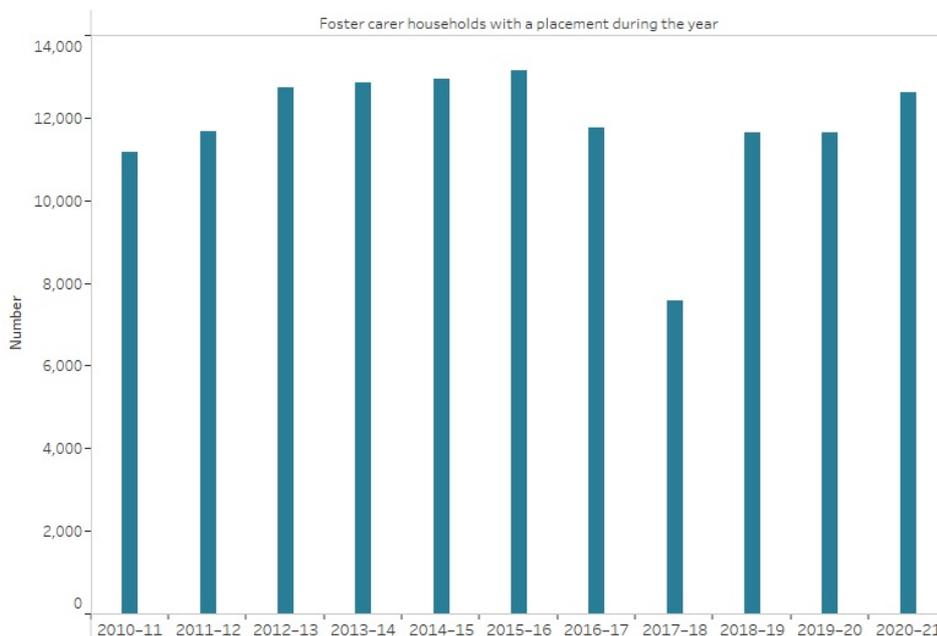
This indicator captures foster carer households with at least one foster child placed in the household for at least one night during the year.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the number of foster carer households with a placement during the year from 2010-11 to 2020-21.

**NOOHCS indicator 12.1b: Number of foster carer households with a placement during the financial year**

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 12.1b Foster care households: Number of foster carer households with a placement during the year

	Definition	Data source

Numerator	Number of carer households authorised to provide foster care placements during the reference period, that had at least one foster child placed in the household for at least one night during the reference period	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Explanatory notes

All foster carer households that had received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care are included. This includes households that have received provisional authorisation (which may be in order to facilitate a placement), whilst formal approval/registration is being finalised.

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## National Standards indicators

### 12.2 Foster care numbers

Foster care is one type of out-of-home care provided for children who are unable to live with their families.

Foster care households are private households containing one or more foster carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process;
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care;
- for whom reimbursement is available from the state or territory government for expenses incurred in caring for a child;
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

This indicator provides information on households that commenced or exited foster care during the year. It also provides the number of foster care households on an average day during the year.

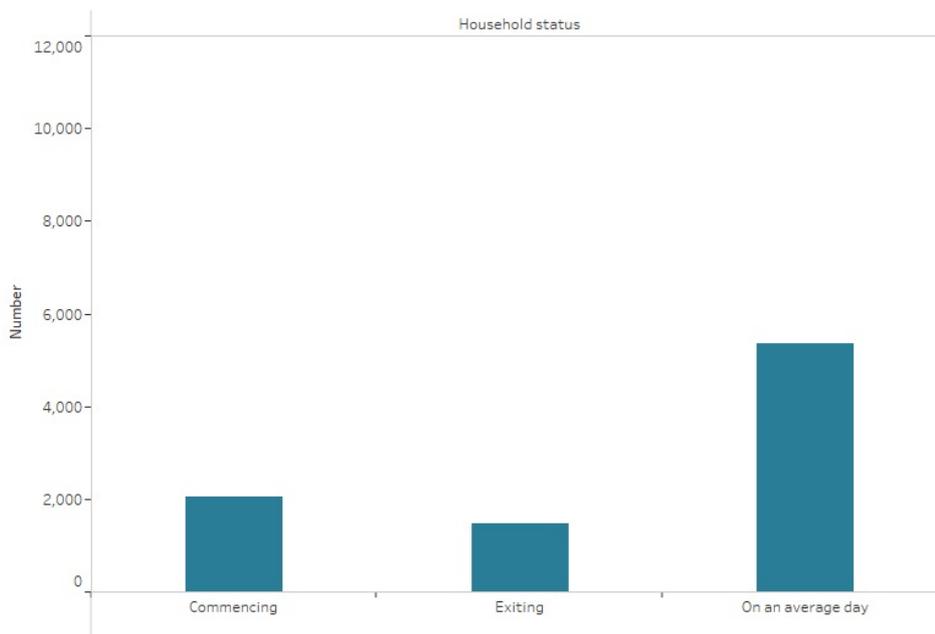
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the number of foster carer households commencing during the year, exiting during the year and on an average day during the year. Data can be selected from 2012-13 to 2020-21.

#### NOOHCS indicator 12.2: Number of foster carer households commencing, exiting, and on an average day during the financial year

Select year  
2020-21

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 12.2 Foster carer household numbers: The number of foster carer households commencing during the year, the number of foster carer households exiting during the year, and the number of foster carer households on an average day during the year

a. Commencing b. Exiting c. On an average day	Definition	Data source
Numerator	a. Number of carer households that received authorisation to provide foster care placements in the reference period b. Number of carer households whose authorisation to provide foster care placements ceased during the reference period c. Number of authorised days for all foster carer households in the reference period	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	a, b, c. Not applicable	a, b, c. Not applicable

### Explanatory notes

All foster carer households that had received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care are included. This includes households that have received provisional authorisation (which may be in order to facilitate a placement), whilst formal approval/registration is being finalised.

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## National Standards indicators

### 12.3 Carer support

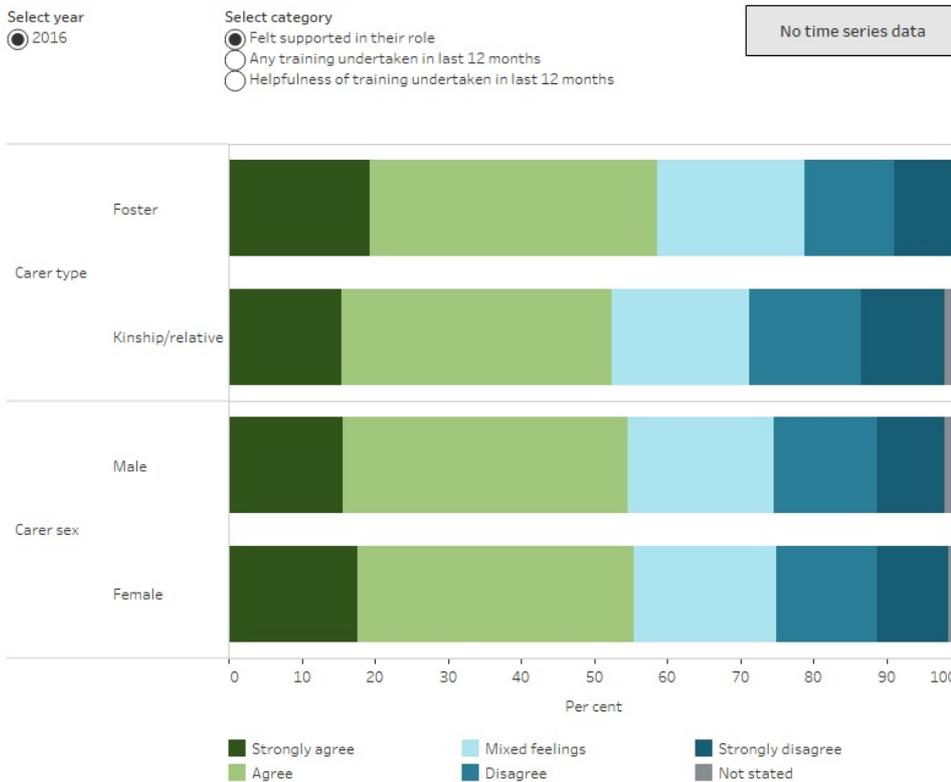
Foster and relative/kinship care are two types of formal care arrangements provided to children who are unable to live with their families. In the context of relative/kinship care, a relative does not necessarily denote a family blood relation. These carers receive training and support to help them deliver the best care possible in often complex circumstances. Meeting the needs of carers is expected to help meet the needs of the children in their care.

This indicator uses results from a national study of foster and relative/kinship carers of out-of-home care children under the age of 18 years. The survey focused on foster and relative/kinship carers who were registered as a formal carer as at 31 December 2015. Participants responded to questions relating to carer training and development, support services and the perceived usefulness of training and services.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar graph shows the proportion of carers who felt supported in their role and that their development needs relevant to their role were catered for in 2016. Each stacked bar presented the proportion of carers who agreed, had mixed feelings or disagreed (or not stated) with feeling supported. Data are disaggregated by carer type and carer sex. Data can be selected by the category of support reported.

**NOOHCS indicator 12.3: Proportion of carers who felt supported in their role and that their development needs relevant to their role were catered for, 2016**



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: ALFS Working Together to Care for Kids: A survey of foster and relative/kinship carers 2016.

See the supplementary data tables for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the quick reference guide.

National Standards Indicator 12.3 Carer support: Proportion of carers (who had at least one child in care under the age of 18 years living with them at 31 December 2015) who had undertaken any training courses/workshops in the last 12 months who had found it to be helpful

a. felt supported in their carer role b. had undertaken training in last 12 months c. helpfulness of training undertaken in last 12 months	Definition	Data source
Numerator	a. Number of carers (foster carers and kinship carers) who ‘strongly agree’ or ‘agree’ that they felt supported by agencies/services in meeting the study child’s needs b. Number of carers (foster carers and kinship carers) who had undertaken any training courses/workshops in the last 12 months c. Number of carers (foster carers and kinship carers) who had undertaken any training courses/workshops in the last 12 months who had found it to be very helpful/fairly helpful	AIFS Working Together to Care for Kids: A survey of foster and relative/kinship carers 2016
Denominator	a,b. Number of carers (foster carers and kinship carers) who had at least one child in care under the age of 18 living with them at 31 December 2015 c. Number of carers (foster carers and kinship carers)	AIFS Working Together to Care for Kids: A survey of foster and relative/kinship carers 2016

### Explanatory notes

The aim of the [Working Together to Care for Kids study](#) was to provide a better understanding of the characteristics and needs of the carers of children who are living in out-of-home care in Australia.

The population for this study was foster and relative/kinship carers who were registered as formal carers in state and territory departments responsible for child protection across Australia, and had at least one child under 18 years of age in out-of-home care who was living with them at 31 December 2015. The population definition applied to all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory did not participate in the study.

Most questions relating to children who were placed under the carers’ care were directed in relation to one child (referred to as “study child” or “study children”).

Last updated 27/04/2022 v23.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 13.1 Leaving care plan

*This indicator measures the same outcome as NFPAC Indicator 4.6 and therefore both indicators report the same numbers.*

Young people leaving out-of-home care and making the transition to independent living often do not have the level of support (emotional, social and financial) available to most young people in their transition to adulthood. The transition often occurs at an earlier age and in a more abrupt manner than it does for their peers not in out-of-home care.

A leaving care plan (also called a transition from care plan) is developed in preparation for a young person's exit from out-of-home care into independent living. Leaving care plans are developed in agreement with the young person and usually include information on goals, planned actions, needs assessments, income support and post-care support (such as counselling, mentoring and ongoing care management).

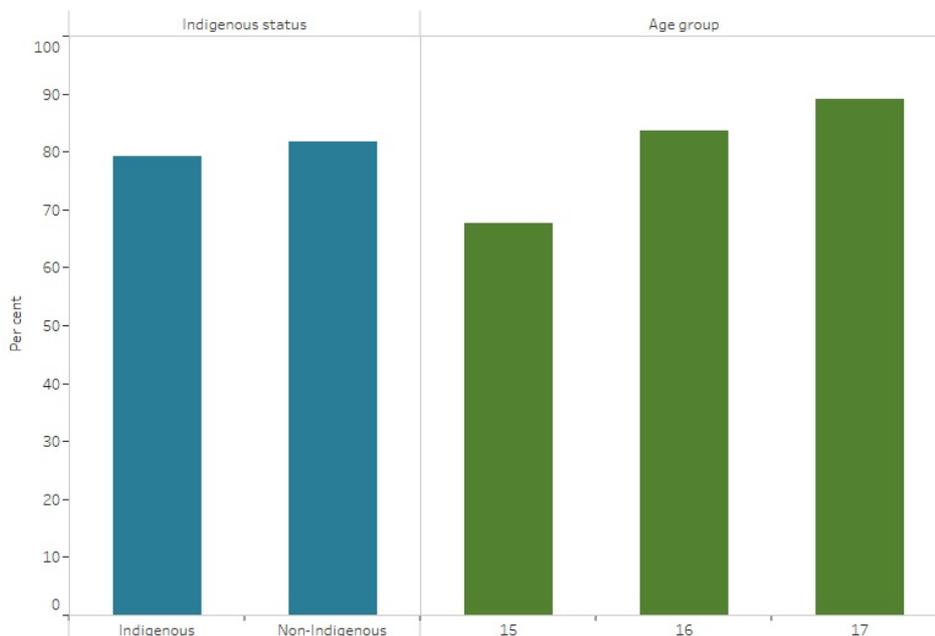
**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on "Yearly Trend" button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a "No time series data" message is shown on the display.

The bar graph shows the proportion of young people aged 15-17 who have a leaving care plan, by Indigenous status and age group. Data can be selected by year from 2012 to 2021.

**NOOHCS indicator 13.1: Proportion of young people aged 15-17 who have a current documented and approved leaving care plan in selected calendar year**

Select year  
2021

No time series data



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Child Protection Collection](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 13.1 Leaving care plan: Proportion of young people aged 15 years and over who have a current leaving care plan

	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Data source</b>
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Numerator	Number of children in care aged 15-17 years who have a current and approved leaving care plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection
Denominator	Number of children in care aged 15-17 years who are required to have a current and approved leaving care plan at 30 June	AIHW National Child Protection Data Collection

### Explanatory notes

A leaving care plan (also called a transition from care plan) is developed in preparation for the young person exiting out-of-home care into independent living.

Children in 'care' are defined as those whose care arrangements have been ordered by the Children's Court, where the parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

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Last updated 12/05/2022 v22.0

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## National Standards indicators

### 13.2 Leaving care

Transitioning from out-of-home care to independence is a gradual process commencing from age 15. It is important for children in care to have practical help and skills to prepare for the future.

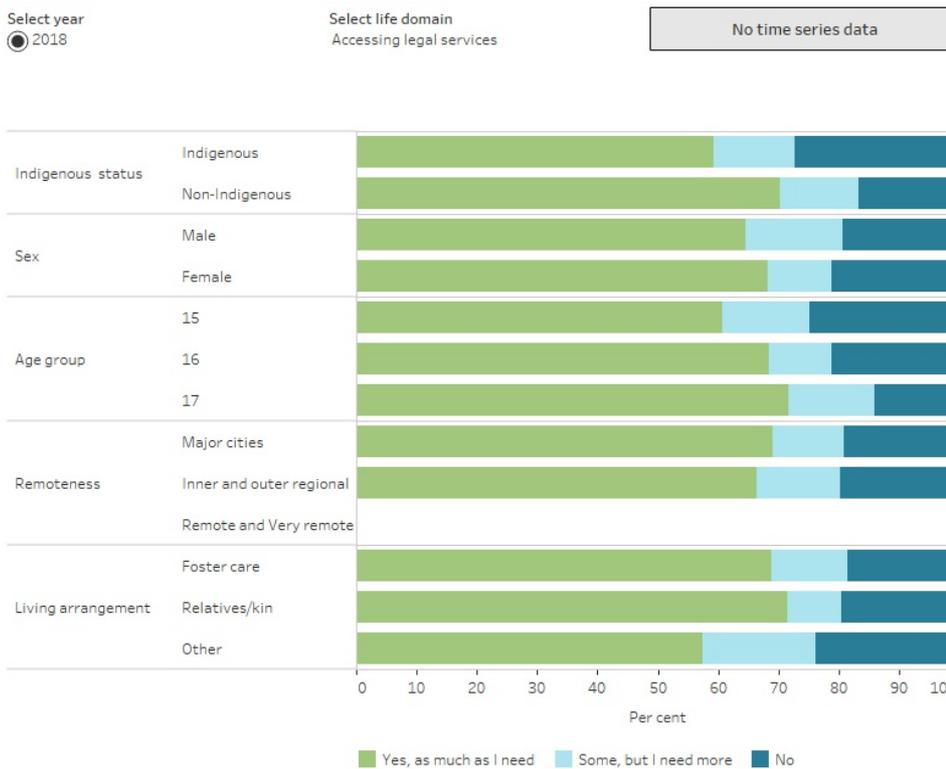
This indicator uses results from a national survey of children in care; those whose care arrangements have been ordered through the Children’s Court, where parental responsibility for the child or young person has been transferred to the Minister/Chief Executive.

Children aged 15-17 years were asked about the adequacy of the assistance they are currently receiving to help prepare them for adult life, including help with making decisions about their future and in eight specified life domains to be considered in transition planning.

**Trend data:** For all indicator displays, the yearly trend is limited to indicators with 3 or more years (including the current year) of comparable time series data. To see the trend click on “Yearly Trend” button on the display. Where 3 or more years of comparable data including the most recent year is not available, a “No time series data” message is shown on the display.

The horizontal stacked bar shows the proportion of young people aged 15-17 who, at the time of exit from out-of-home care, report they are receiving adequate assistance to prepare for adult life in 2018. Each stacked bar presented the proportion who reported receiving as much assistance as they need, some but they need more, or no adequate assistance. Data are disaggregated by Indigenous status, sex, age group, remoteness and living arrangement.

**NOOHCS indicator 13.2: Proportion of young people aged 15-17 who, at the time of exit from out-of-home care, report they are receiving adequate assistance to prepare for adult life, 2018**



Note: Rates for 'Remote and Very remote' Remoteness, 'Other' Living arrangements and '17 years' Age group reported as 'n.p.' for some life domains  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: AIHW [Out-of-home care survey national dataset 2018](#)

See the [supplementary data tables](#) for further information and footnotes about these data.

#### Indicator technical specifications

The information below provides technical specifications for the summary indicator data presented in the [quick reference guide](#).

National Standards Indicator 13.2 Leaving care: Proportion of young people who, at the time of exit from out-of-home care, report they are receiving adequate assistance to prepare for adult life

	Definition	Data source
Numerator	Number of children aged 15-17 years in care who report they are receiving adequate assistance to make decisions about their future	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset
Denominator	Number of responding children aged 15-17 years in the reference period	AIHW Out-of-home care survey national dataset

### Explanatory notes

Data are sourced from a national survey of children in care. Further interpretive information for the indicators, and background information on the survey, is provided in the AIHW report *The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018*.

Children ‘in care’ are those who were residing in out-of-home care (including foster care, relative/kinship care, family group homes, residential care and independent living), whose care arrangements had been ordered by the relevant Children’s Court and where the parental responsibility for the child had been transferred to the Minister or Chief Executive, and who had been on a relevant court order for three months or more. Please note that the titles of the relevant ‘Children’s Courts’ may vary across states/territories.

Children aged 15-17 years were asked the question ‘Do you get enough help to make decisions about your future?’ This question had four response categories: Yes as much as I need, Some but I need more, Not really, and Not at all. Children were also asked ‘Do you get enough help with:

- a. education, training and work?
- b. managing your money?
- c. keeping healthy?
- d. learning household skills like cleaning and cooking meals?
- e. staying in touch with friends and family?
- f. staying in touch with your culture and religion?
- g. housing/accommodation?
- h. accessing legal services?

This question had five response categories: Yes as much as I need, Some but I need more, Not really, Not at all, and Does not apply to me.

The numerator includes children who reported ‘Yes as much as I need’ to the question.

The numerator and denominator exclude children with a ‘not stated’ response to the questions.

Although the title of this indicator specifies young people exiting care, the data for this indicator include all young people (aged 15-17) still in care. When developing the national survey questions it was considered more appropriate to not limit the question to those exiting care.

Last updated 11/05/2022 v30.0

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# Data

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Last updated 7/07/2021 v4.0

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## Related material

### Resources

### Related topics

- [Children & youth](#)
- 

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