Indigenous population change and education outcomes

Early findings from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing

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Francis Markham, Heather Crawford and Nicholas Biddle
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, The Australian National University
Indigenous definitions and identification

A person is typically classified as Indigenous if:

• They are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent;
• They identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
• They are accepted as an Aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander by the community in which they live.

The census asks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both ‘Yes’ boxes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the basis of the 2016 census, it is estimated that there were 786,689 Indigenous Australians as of August 9, 2016. This is around 3.3 per cent of the Australian population.
Indigenous population estimates and projections

- Projection range based on previous census, excluding identification change
- Population estimate based on census of that year
Attending preschool, 3-5 year olds not at school – Census

[Graph showing the percentage of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous children attending preschool by age (3, 4, and 5 years) for the years 2006, 2011, and 2016.]
Different preschool measures – Australia

Indigenous 4-5 year olds, Australia

All 4-5 year olds, Australia

Sources: ABS, Census 2011, 2016; Preschool Education (4240.0)
Year 12 completion by age group – Census

Males, 2016

Females, 2016

Year of birth

Percentage who had completed Year 12


Year of birth

Percentage who had completed Year 12


Difference between Indigenous & non-Indigenous Yr 12 attainment rates – percentage points

Indigenous
Non-Indigenous

Gap in Year 12 attainment rates

Year of birth

Percentage who had completed Year 12


Year of birth

Percentage who had completed Year 12


Difference between Indigenous & non-Indigenous Yr 12 attainment rates – percentage points

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Males, 2016

- Percentage who had completed Year 12
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Females, 2016

- Percentage who had completed Year 12
- Difference between Indigenous & non-Indigenous Yr 12 attainment rates – percentage points
Contact

Nicholas Biddle nicholas.biddle@anu.edu.au
Heather Crawford heather.crawford@anu.edu.au
Francis Markham francis.markham@anu.edu.au

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research
The Australian National University

http://caepr.anu.edu.au/
Indigenous population growth and under-count rate

![Graph showing the annual growth rate and final under-count rate from 1986 to 2016. The graph indicates a steady increase in the under-count rate from 1986 to 2016, while the annual growth rate fluctuates.]

- Identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Partially completed census form that did not answer Indigenous origin question
- Imputed persons
Population growth by state and territory

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons
Population pyramids, 2016 and 2011

**Indigenous**

**Non-Indigenous**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Females, 2016</th>
<th>Males, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
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<td>5-9</td>
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<td>10-14</td>
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<td>15-19</td>
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