

Glossary

Aboriginal

A person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which s/he lives.

In referring to Aboriginal people, this report is referring inclusively to all Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islander people.

Age standardisation

A method of removing the influence of age when comparing populations with different age structures.

Age standardised rate per 100,000

The age standardised rate represents what the crude rate per 100,000 would be if a population had the same age composition as a reference population (for example if the Aboriginal population of NSW had the same age profile as the total NSW population).

Age standardised percentage

Age standardised percentage is the age standardised rate per 100 population.

Average annualised remuneration rate

The average annualised remuneration rate is the average annual salary paid to employees. It reflects the salary that an employee would receive if they worked full-time hours under the relevant award over the full course of the year. It is independent of actual hours worked during the year and of additional overtime, allowances or lump sum payments.

Cohort

A group of subjects from a given population defined by some particular common attribute. For example, Aboriginal students entering the education system in a particular year would form a cohort. A cohort study tracks a cohort over time.

Crude rate per 100,000

The average number of instances of a disease (or other condition) in every 100,000 persons of a population at a specified time. Crude rates are used to appreciate the absolute burden of disease (or other condition) in a population.

Estimated residential population

Estimated Residential Population (ERP) data is the most accurate count of the Australian population, and its components, published by the ABS. It is more accurate than 'raw' 2006 Census data. The ERP makes allowance for the undercount established by the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) conducted about three weeks after the Census.

Estimated Residential Population (ERP) data also makes special provision for the Aboriginal population of Australia. As well as making provision for the undercount established by the PES, the ERP makes allowance for census forms where the Aboriginality question has not been completed.

Hospitalisation

Hospitalisation refers to 'hospital separation', which is a formal process whereby an inpatient leaves a hospital or other health service facility or completes an episode of care. For example, a discharge to home, discharge to another hospital or nursing home, death of a patient, or change in type of care within a period of hospitalisation all constitute a hospital separation. The definitive diagnosis is entered into a patient's record upon separation, as opposed to a provisional diagnosis, which is available at the time of an admission to hospital. Hospital separations refer to and count defined hospital stays and not individual patients.

Hospitalisation rates

The rate, usually per 100,000 of population, at which hospitalisations occur for a particular medical condition or event.

ICD

ICD is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Labour force participation

Labour force participation is the labour force component of a group expressed as a percentage of the population of the same group.

To qualify for the labour force, a person must be a usual resident of Australia 15 years of age or more and be a civilian. The labour force comprises those persons who are in work as well as those who are unemployed and are looking for work.

Labour force participation rates are used extensively in analyses of labour statistics, in particular for monitoring changes in the size and composition of the labour supply.

Labour force unemployment

People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job but are actively looking for work and are available to take up a job if offered one.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy refers to the average number of years a person might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continues throughout his/her lifetime.

Median

The median is the midpoint of a distribution. Half the values are above it and half the values are below it.

Performance indicators

Performance indicators describe the extent to which programs or service systems have been implemented and are performing as intended. Performance indicators include indicators of how much service effort was made, how well services were delivered, and the extent to which customers of services are better off. The aim of this approach is to measure key changes in outcomes for Aboriginal clients and to provide evidence for the extent to which programs and service delivery contribute to population outcomes.

Population indicators

Population indicators describe the state of well-being of whole populations in a community, city, state or nation.

Quartile

Quartiles are groups that result from ranking all people in a population in ascending order (from the lowest to the highest) according to the values of a nominated variable and then dividing the population into four equal groups, each comprising 25 percent of the population.

Service indicators

Some indicators, such as hospitalisation rates, are influenced by a range of factors including both population trends (such as disease rates) and service delivery performance trends (such as barriers to access to hospital services, or the availability of primary care services which may alter the need or demand for hospital services). Such indicators are referred to as service indicators in the report and should be interpreted with caution.

Weekly household income

The sum of the weekly personal incomes of each resident of a household aged 15 or over who were present on Census night. Persons who were temporarily absent on Census night or who had nil or negative income, or who did not state their income, do not contribute to household income.

Weekly personal income

Weekly personal income includes income from all sources: wages and salaries; business income; government pensions and allowances; investment income such as interest, rent and dividends; and other income such as child support payments. While for most people gross income is positive, it may be negative for owners of unincorporated businesses or rental properties making losses.