



FACTSHEET

A profile of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are homeless.

Compared with non-Indigenous Australians, Indigenous people had four times the rate of homelessness (191 per 10,000 compared with 49 per 10,000 in the 2006 Census). They made up 9% of the total homeless population (Indigenous people make up around 2.5% of the whole Australian population).

More Indigenous Australians sleep rough

Homelessness was different among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Homeless Indigenous Australians were more likely to sleep rough, or in improvised dwellings and shelters, than non-Indigenous Australians (27% compared with 15%).

Indigenous homelessness has increased; non-Indigenous stayed the same

Indigenous homelessness increased between 2001 and 2006. Non-Indigenous homelessness remained relatively unchanged. This was the same in most states and territories. In the Northern Territory, homelessness fell for both population groups.

More Indigenous people were assisted by specialist homelessness services

While 2.5% of Australians were Indigenous, and 9% of homeless Australians were Indigenous, about 17% of people assisted by specialist homelessness services in 2008–09 were Indigenous.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people received similar assistance

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who were assisted by specialist homelessness services had similar:

- demographic profiles
- reasons for seeking assistance
- types of assistance provided to them.

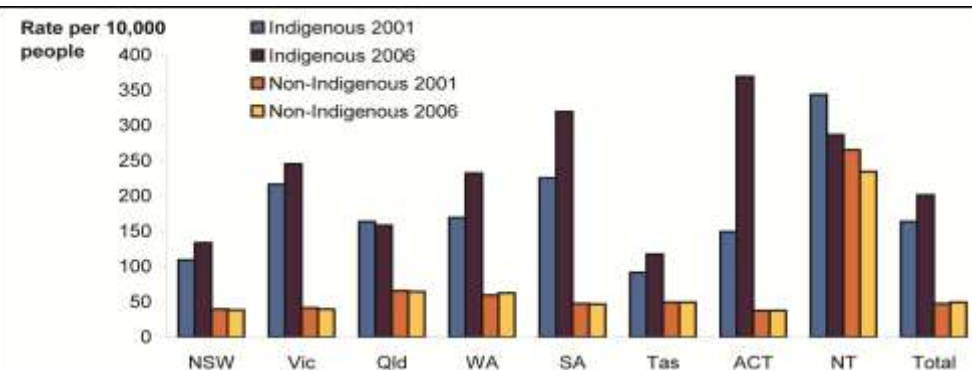
More information

The observatory paper *A profile of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* presents information on both Indigenous and other Australians, with the aim of providing a broad profile of Indigenous Australians experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. Information is also presented on Indigenous Australians accessing specialist homelessness services, and what they require and receive from these services. Information on non-Indigenous Australians is also presented for comparison purposes.

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Indigenous and non-Indigenous homeless population: by state and territory, per 10,000 population, 2001 and 2006



Note

1. Rates calculated from figures in Appendix 2. Chamberlain and MacKenzie 2009a-h.
2. Rates have been calculated using the 2001 and 2006 Australian population.

Sources: Chamberlain & MacKenzie 2009a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.