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**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations aged 50 and over: updated analyses for 2018–19

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AIHW

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations aged 50 and over: updated analyses for 2018–19



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Summary

In 2018–19 there were an estimated 27,200 surviving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over who had been removed from their families and communities as a result of past government policies. This represents around 1 in 5 (or 21%) of the total estimated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 50 and over in the scope of the 2018–19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

These survivors among the Stolen Generations who are aged 50 or over are of special interest because of their greater needs for health, disability and housing services related to their age. This report presents detailed comparative analyses on a range of health and socioeconomic characteristics between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are also aged 50 and over but who were not removed from their families, and the general non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over.

The findings of this report show that the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over are more likely to be worse off than other Indigenous Australians of the same age on a range of health and socioeconomic outcomes. These results are consistent with a previous Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW 2018a) report which analysed a similar set of outcomes for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over from an earlier 2014–15 survey.

We acknowledge the suffering of Stolen Generations survivors across Australia, including those who have passed on, and thank them for their ongoing courage in sharing their experiences.

Key Findings

In 2018–19 among the estimated 27,200 surviving Stolen Generations aged 50 and over:

- a greater proportion were women (59%) than men (41%), and 28% were aged 65 or over
- most (81%) lived in non-remote locations (this is similar to the distribution of the broader Indigenous population)
- the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 50 and over who reported being removed from their families was highest in Western Australia (33%).

Results from multivariate-regression analyses showed the surviving Stolen Generations aged 50 and over, compared with a reference group of other Indigenous persons aged 50 and over who were not removed from their families, were more likely to be:

Living in tough economic circumstances

- 1.8 times as likely not to be the owner of a home
- 1.6 times as likely to live in a household that could not raise \$2,000 in an emergency
- 1.5 times as likely to have government payments as their main income source

Living with ill health and other stressors

- 1.7 times as likely to have experienced discrimination due to being Indigenous
- 1.5 times as likely to have experienced actual or threatened physical harm
- 1.4 times as likely to have a severe or profound disability
- 1.4 times as likely to have poor mental health
- 1.3 times as likely to have been diagnosed with a mental health condition

Living with higher levels of some health risk factors

- 1.8 times as likely to be a current smoker.

Additional estimates from the 2018–19 survey showed

- a total of 33,600 Stolen Generations survivors in all age groups among those who were born before 1972 (i.e. aged at least 46 at time of survey)
- approximately another 129,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 18 and over who were descendants of relatives removed in the past (but who are not themselves part of the estimated total Stolen Generations population of 33,600).

Stolen Generations

The Stolen Generations are the current survivors of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were removed from their families as a result of government policies across Australian jurisdictions in the 20th century. As described in the *Bringing Them Home report* (HREOC 1997):

'... between one in three and one in ten Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and communities in the period from approximately 1910 until 1970.'

Using data from surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), it is possible to identify older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who report having being removed from their families.

The ABS survey questions do not ask for details about the timing of, or reasons for, any type of removal from family. However, 1972 is a commonly used watershed (for instance in Peeters et al. (2014)) to distinguish between the removal of children who constitute the Stolen Generations and other types of more recent removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

Hence the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people born before 1972 who report having been removed in the ABS surveys can be used as a proxy for the Stolen Generations. A similar approach was followed in previous AIHW reports on the Stolen Generations prepared for The Healing Foundation (AIHW 2018a, 2018b).

Analysis of the 2018–19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) suggests that in that year there were an estimated 33,600 survivors of the Stolen Generations who were born before 1972.

This report focuses on the subgroup of the Stolen Generations who were aged 50 and over at the time of the 2018–19 survey. This group is referred to in this report as the 'Stolen Generations aged 50 and over'.

Introduction

The Stolen Generations are the current survivors among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were removed from their families as a result of government policies across Australian jurisdictions in the 20th century.

This report focuses on the sub-group of the Stolen Generations who are aged 50 and over, given their special needs for health, disability and housing services related to their age. It describes their demographic profile and regional location in 2018–19, and presents more detailed analyses of the comparative differences between them and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait people who were not removed from their families, on a range of socioeconomic and health outcomes. Some additional comparisons are made between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the general non-Indigenous population in the same age group.

A series of surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population ask questions on whether the survey respondent had been removed from their family, and on other types of relatives removed. These responses can be used to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people born before 1972 who reported having been removed from their families. These individuals can then be used as a proxy for the current survivors among the Stolen Generations (see Box on ‘Stolen Generations’).

The most recent survey in the ABS series is the 2018–19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). This report tabulates the estimated counts and characteristics of the cohort of Stolen Generations aged 50 and over in this survey. It presents comparative analyses of the differences between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over who were not removed from their families. Differences between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the general non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over on a range of socioeconomic and health outcomes are also investigated.

This report updates a previous AIHW report prepared for The Healing Foundation (AIHW 2018a), which analysed the data for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over from the 2014–15 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) on a range of 20 health-related and socioeconomic-related outcomes.

The range of outcomes covered in the NATSIHS is also extensive and includes many non-health measures. Some special topics covered in the NATSISS, such as experience of homelessness and contacts with the criminal justice system, were not included in the NATSIHS and so cannot be updated in this report.

Demographic characteristics

There were an estimated 27,200 Stolen Generations survivors aged 50 and over in 2018–19. This represents a substantially higher number than the equivalent estimate made in the previous report (AIHW 2018a) of around 13,800 surviving Stolen Generations aged 50 and over in 2014–15 based on analysis of data from the 2014–15 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (ABS 2016).

The 2 reasons for this increase are a higher proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 50 and over who reported being removed from family in the 2018–19 survey, and a higher number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are aged 50 and over in 2018–19 due to ageing.

Around 21% of this age group reported being removed in the 2018–19 survey, compared to around 14% in the 2014–15 survey (AIHW 2018a). While this is a large increase it is likely that, over time, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were removed as children are becoming more willing to report their experiences. In addition, the number of Indigenous Australians aged 50 and over increased from around 96,500 to 127,500 over this period (ABS 2019a). So even if the proportion reporting being removed from family had not increased in the 2018–19 survey, the estimated total Stolen Generations aged 50 and over in 2018–19 would have been higher by around 4,350.

In 2018–19 there was a greater proportion of women (59%) than men (41%) among the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over, and 28% were aged 65 or over. Most of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over (81%) lived in non-remote locations (Table 1). The regional location of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over is similar to the overall distribution of the broader Indigenous population.

The proportion of the Indigenous population aged 50 and over who reported having been removed from their families did not differ much by age-group or remoteness; but this proportion was slightly higher for women (23%) compared to men (19%) (Table 1, final column).

The remoteness area profile of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over in Table 1 reflects their current place of residence. The ABS survey data do not identify the locations where the original removal of children occurred. The regional profile of where the actual removal of children occurred can differ substantially from the pattern of where the survivors among the children who were removed are currently living.

Table 1: Estimated population and proportions of Indigenous Australians aged 50 and over, who reported having been removed from their families, by age, sex and remoteness, 2018–19

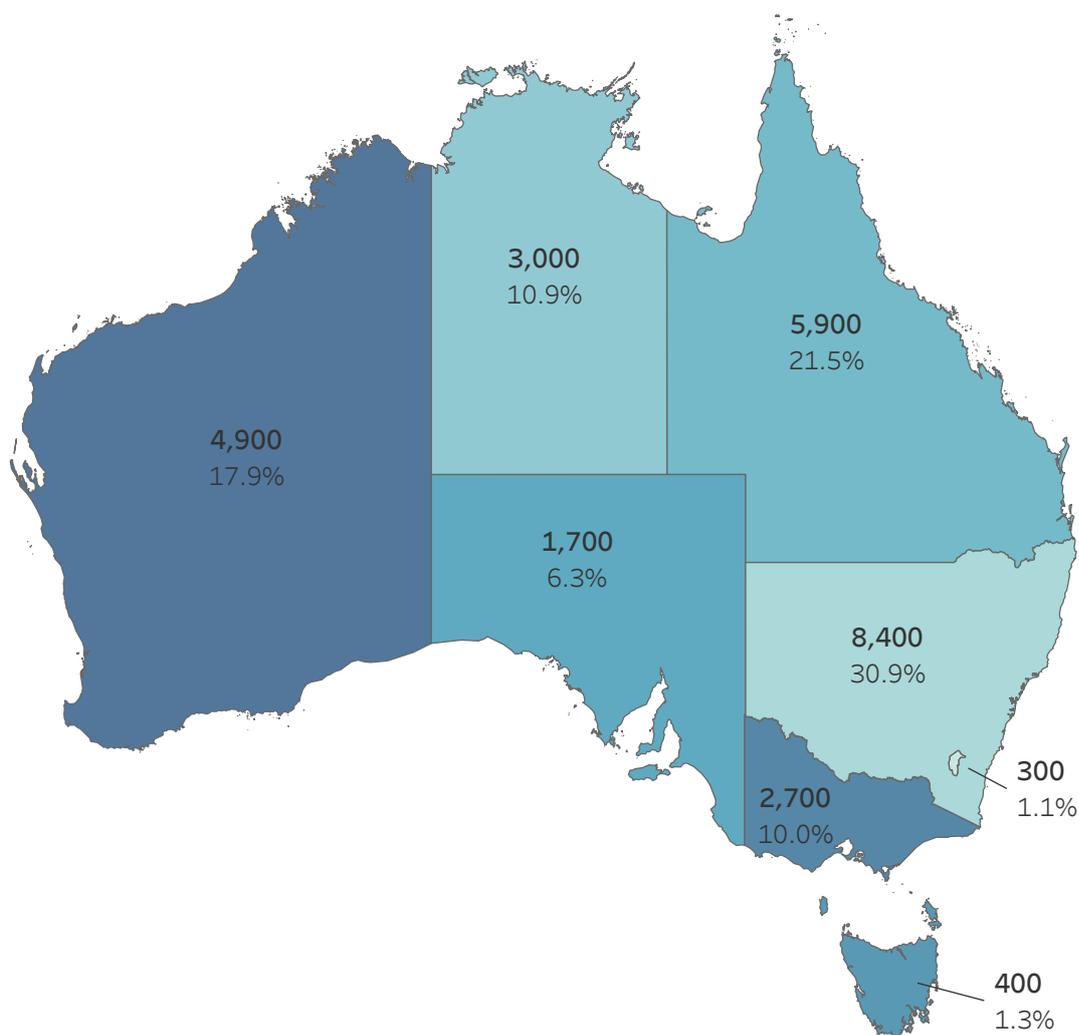
	Estimated Indigenous population	Estimated number reporting being removed	Distribution of those who were removed (%)	Percentage who were removed (rate of being removed)
Total aged 50 and over	127,500	27,200	100	21.4
By age group (years)				
50–64	90,500	19,500	71.7	21.6
65 and over	37,100	7,700	28.3	20.8
By sex				
Men	58,400	11,200	41.1	19.2
Women	69,100	16,000	58.9	23.2
By remoteness^(a)				
Remote	23,100	5,100	18.9	22.2
Non-remote	104,400	22,100	81.1	21.2

(a) Remoteness refers to current location of residence at time of the survey.

Note: The estimated total Indigenous population and number reporting being removed from family are rounded to the nearest hundred. The percentages reported as the distribution of the removed population and rate of being removed, however, are based on the actual unrounded estimates.

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b).

Figure 1: Number and proportional distribution of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over, by state or territory of current residence, 2018–19



Notes

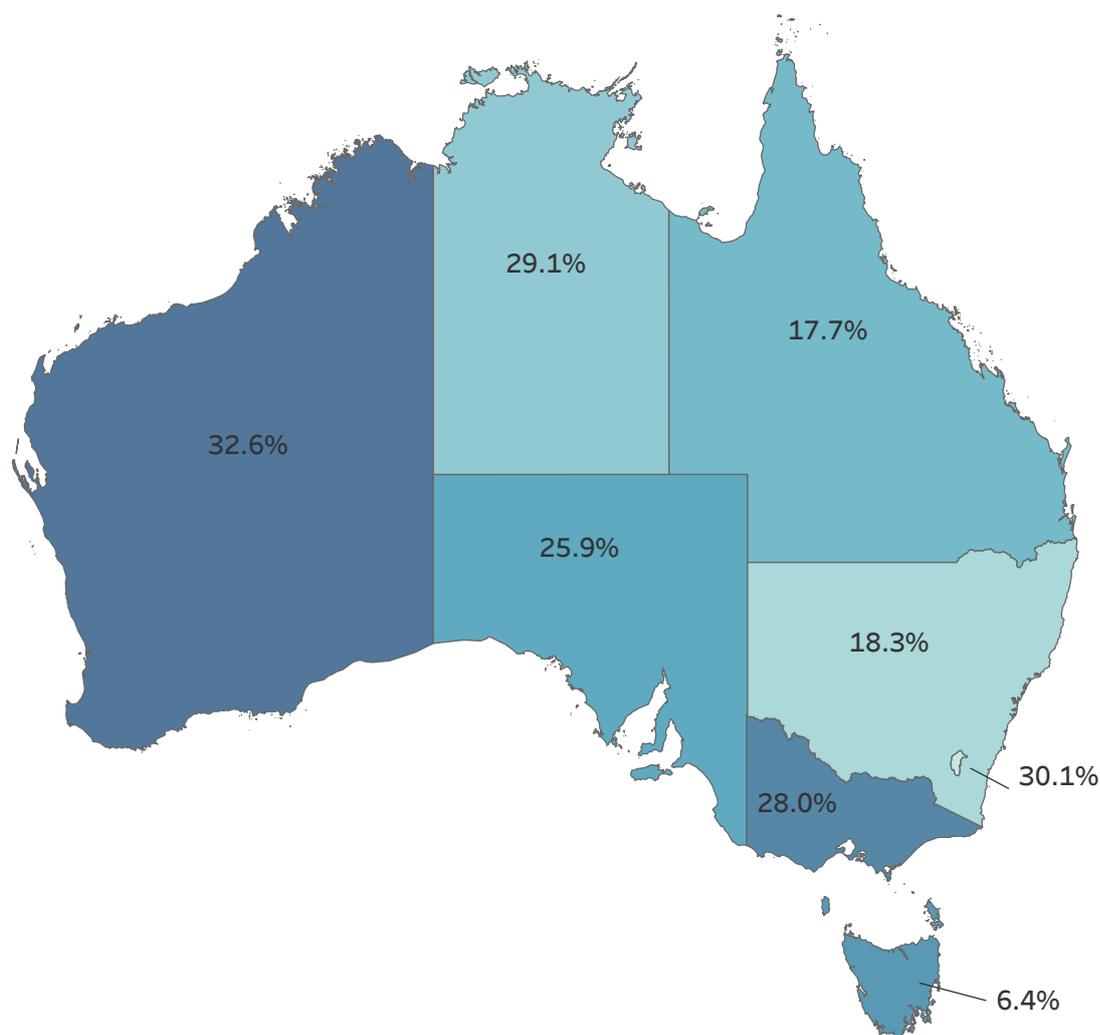
1. The estimated number of persons reporting being removed from family in Figure 1 were rounded to the nearest hundred. The percentages reported above as the proportional distribution, however, are based on the actual unrounded estimates.
2. The ACT and TAS estimates of the number of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over are based on a small sample size of relevant persons in that category and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b).

In 2018–19 more than 2 in 3 of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over lived in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. New South Wales had the largest numbers of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over (around 8,400 or 31% of the total cohort), followed by Queensland (5,900 or 22%) and Western Australia (4,900 or 18%). Around 11% of the total cohort lived in the Northern Territory, 10% in Victoria, 6% in South Australia, 1% in Tasmania and the remaining 1% in the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 1).

The estimated rates of being removed vary by state and territory of current residence. The highest rate of being removed in this age cohort was for Western Australia, where 33% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 50 and over reported they had been removed from their families. Tasmania had the lowest reported rate of removal (6%), but the Tasmania estimate should be treated with caution due to a small sample size in the survey. The next lowest reported rate of removal was in Queensland and New South Wales, both 18% (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Proportion of the Indigenous population aged 50 and over who were removed, by state or territory of current residence, 2018–19



Notes

1. The estimated number of persons reporting being removed from family in Figure 2 were rounded to the nearest hundred. The percentages reported above as the rate of being removed, however, are based on the actual unrounded estimates.
2. The ACT and TAS estimates of the proportion of the population aged 50 and over who were removed from family are based on a small sample size of relevant persons in that category and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b).

The jurisdiction-level distribution and rate of removal reported in Figures 1 and 2 refer to the current place of residence of the Stolen Generations who are aged 50 and over. This should not be inferred as the actual rate of removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children before 1972 in these jurisdictions, nor the share of the jurisdictions among all children removed. These are not known from the ABS surveys.

The estimated 21% national rate of removal should also not be interpreted as 1 in 5 of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander born before 1972 were removed from their families. The correct inference is that among the currently living Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 50 and over, 1 in 5 reported being removed from their families. This proportion can also vary across surveys conducted in different time periods due to sampling variation. The actual historical population of the Stolen Generations survivors, however, can only decrease over time due to mortality.

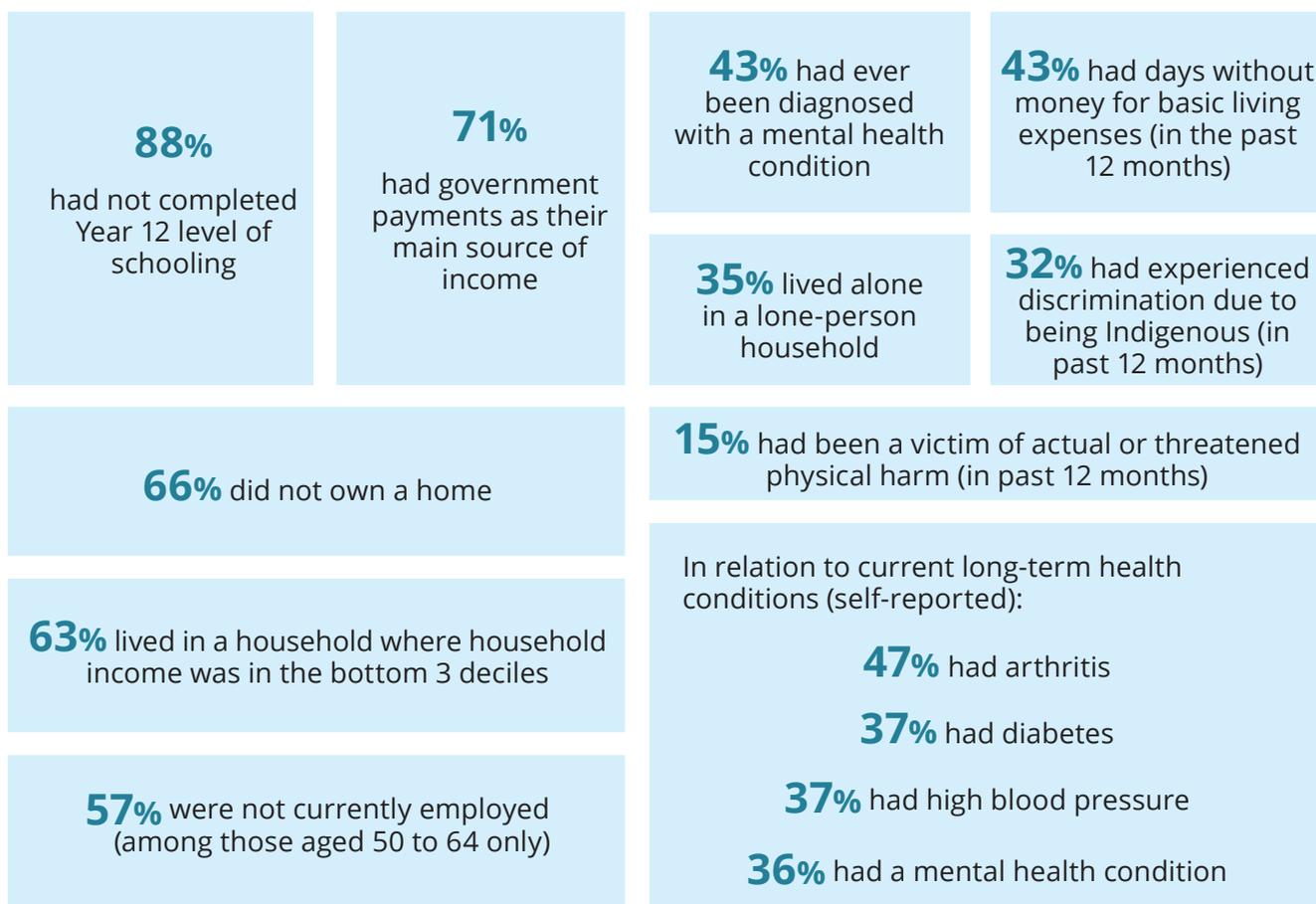
How are the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over faring?

This section summarises how the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over are faring in life, drawing on results from 30 selected outcomes that include socioeconomic status, health and cultural engagement topics covered in the 2018–19 NATSIHS. Results for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over are compared with a reference group of Indigenous Australians also aged 50 and over, but who did not report being removed from their families.

The results and comparisons in this section look at each outcome individually, without adjusting for the role of other potential influences on that outcome for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over. The next section of this report ('Effects of having been removed from family') contains additional analyses that identify differences that remain between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over, even after accounting for differences in other factors that might contribute to the outcomes for both groups.

Selected outcomes in 2018–19 for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over

In 2018–19, among the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over:



Comparison between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over who were not removed

The data series in Figure 3 compare the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over who were not removed from their families on 30 selected outcomes from the 2018–19 NATSIHS. It shows the simple proportional rates of these outcomes (as percentages) for the 2 comparative groups and also notes whether the differences between the 2 percentages are statistically significant. (Table S1 on page 24 presents the actual data values).

These proportional rate differences in the characteristics of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over should not be interpreted to be the effects of being removed only. Other factors are not taken into account in the percentage comparisons in Figure 3. This is done in the multivariate analyses results in the next section.

Differences in socioeconomic and financial stress outcomes were some of the most pronounced when comparing the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over with the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over in 2018–19. The Stolen Generations aged 50 and over relied on government payments as their main income source at a significantly higher rate than the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over (71% compared with 61%, respectively). A significantly higher proportion of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over did not have access to household emergency funds (63% compared with 49%, respectively), and they were also significantly more likely to have had days without money for basic living expenses in the past 12 months (43% compared with 32%, respectively) (Figure 3a).

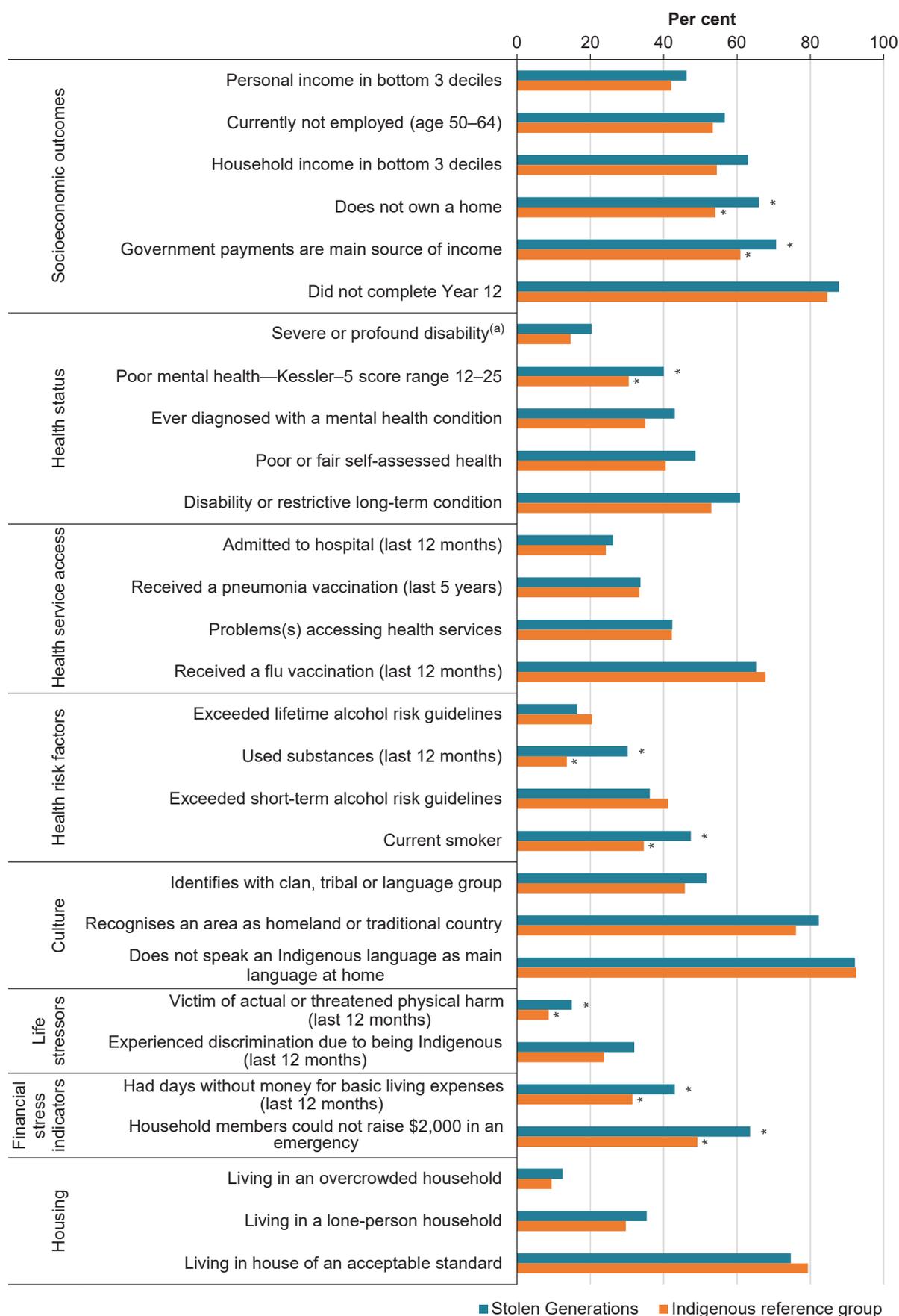
Significant differences between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over were also observed for having poor mental health as measured by the Kessler–5 (K-5) score (40% compared with 31%, respectively), and for experiencing actual or threatened harm in past 12 months (15% compared to 8.6%, respectively). Significantly higher rates of health risk factors, such as smoking and substance use, were also found among the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over (Figure 3a).

Overall, statistically significant differences were found in 8 of the 29 selected outcomes reported in Figure 3a (which excludes specific long-term health conditions), with the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over faring worse in each case compared to the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over.

The comparisons related to long-term health conditions show the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over had higher, but not statistically different, proportions of having many of these conditions, including asthma, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and high blood pressure (Figure 3b). The only statistically significant difference was for mental health conditions (36% for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over compared with 26% for the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over).

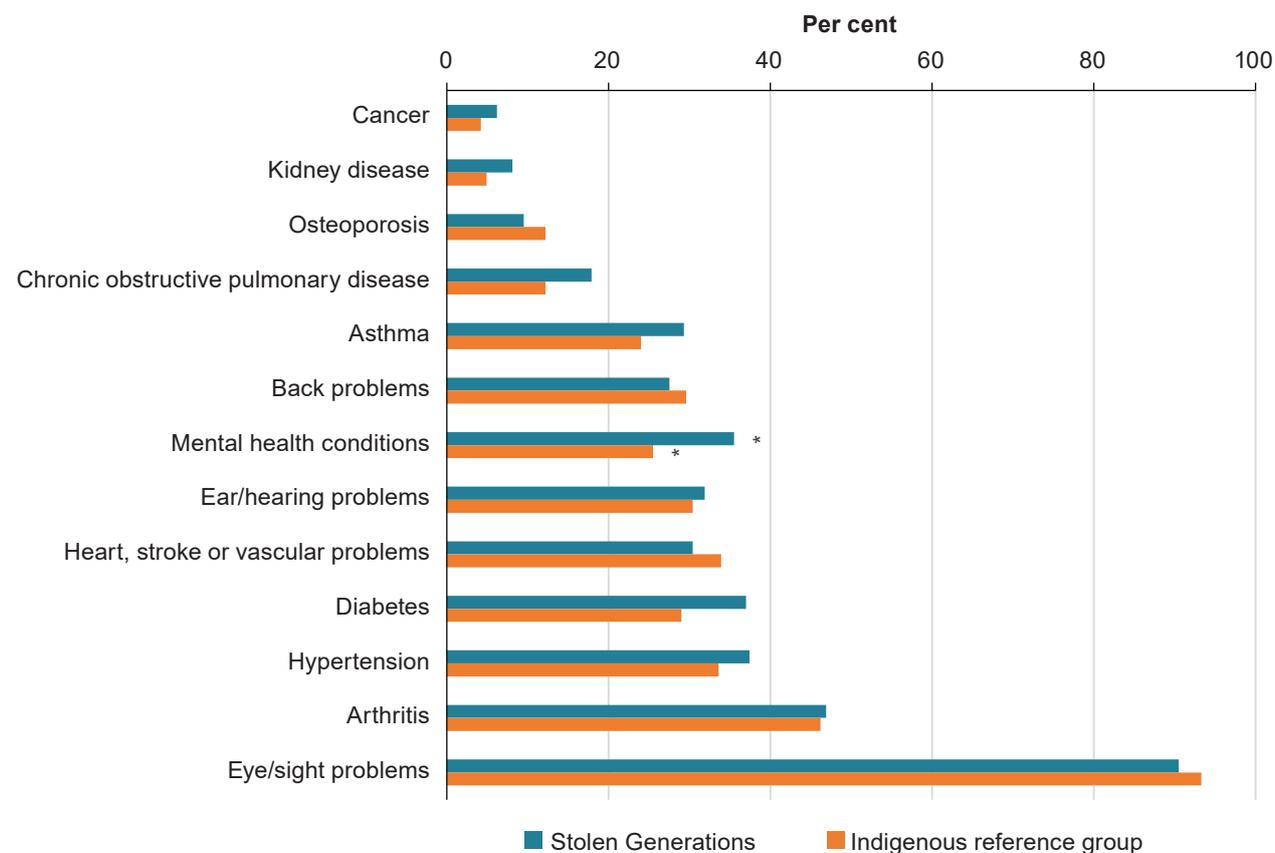
The Stolen Generations aged 50 and over also had similar rates of access/use of health services, such as the proportions reporting problems in accessing health services, using specific services such as vaccination and hospital admission in the last year, as the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over who were not removed (Figure 3a).

Figure 3a: Comparison of selected outcomes for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over, 2018–19



(a) People who sometimes or always need help with at least one of the core activities (self-care, mobility and communication).
 Note: * denotes that the difference between the 2 groups was statistically significant at the 5% test level.
 Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b, 2020). Data values are available in Table S1.

Figure 3b: Comparison of specific long-term health conditions for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over, 2018–19



Note: * denotes that the difference between the 2 groups was statistically significant at the 5% test level.

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2020). Data values are available in Table S1.

A high proportion the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over reported having multiple long-term health conditions. Of the 13 specific conditions listed in Figure 3b, 21% of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over had 7 to 9 of these conditions and 24% had 10 or more. A combined 45% of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over had more than half of the 13 specific conditions listed (7 or more).

The Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over had slightly lower proportions in these same frequency categories: 17% with 7 to 9 conditions, 22% with 10 or more, leading to a combined 39% with 7 or more conditions. These proportions, however, were not significantly different from the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over. Because all individuals in both comparison groups are aged 50 and over, it is to be expected that they commonly report having multiple health conditions. The median number of current long-term conditions was 5 for both the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over.

Effects of having been removed from family

This section presents more detailed multivariate analyses on the sources of the differences on a selected set of socioeconomic and health outcomes between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over, and more clearly identifies the impacts of having been removed from family.

The impact of being removed from family is identified through multivariate logistic regression analyses which take into account the interrelationships between a particular outcome of interest and several explanatory variables, including being a Stolen Generations survivor aged 50 and over. This approach isolates the effect that can be attributed to having been removed from family, after allowing for other factors to also affect the outcomes being analysed.

A subset of 17 of the same 29 outcomes tabulated in the simple comparative analyses of Figure 3a were selected for the regression analyses. The choice of the 17 outcomes was partly based on including those that showed relatively larger differences in the simple comparisons of Figure 3a, and also reflected the desire to update the results for the outcomes chosen for the regression analyses in the previous (AIHW 2018a) report for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over.

For this report the multivariate regression analysis was not carried out for any of the long-term health conditions specified in Figure 3b. Only 1 of those conditions showed a significant difference between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the reference group; and that condition, related to mental health, is already covered in 2 slightly different measures of mental health among the 17 outcomes selected.

The results of the regression analysis are presented as the estimated odds ratio associated with being a Stolen Generations survivor aged 50 or over. The odds ratios are related to how much more or less likely the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over are to experience the selected outcomes, compared to the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over who were not removed from family (see Box on 'Logistic regression models and what odds ratios show').

The estimated models for each of the 17 selected outcomes include other characteristics of the Indigenous population aged 50 and over, such as further age groups, gender, education level, household characteristics and regional location. All of these other characteristics are also defined as categorical variables. This report does not present the odds ratio results for these additional characteristics. The focus of this report is to identify the effects of being removed from family, represented by the odds ratio related to the characteristic of being removed from family, but ensuring that the potential effects of several other characteristics are also taken into account. This leads to more reliable estimates of the effect that can be attributed to having been removed from family.

Logistic regression models and what odds ratios show

Logistic regression modelling involves calculating the odds of an outcome occurring (such as having poor mental health or experiencing financial stress) for varying levels of a characteristic in the study population (such as being male or female, or having been removed from family).

Odds are a measure of the likelihood of a particular outcome in the study population. They are calculated as the ratio of the number of events of a particular characteristic associated with the outcome of interest to the number of events of that same characteristic that is not associated with the outcome.

For example, if the outcome of interest is poor mental health, the calculation of the odds in reference to the characteristic of being male is the number of men who have poor mental health divided by the number of men who do not have poor mental health.

Results of logistic regression are usually presented as estimated odds ratios attributed to a particular population characteristic. For characteristics defined as categorical variables, 1 category (i.e. being male) is assigned as the reference category.

Odds ratios are then estimated as the odds of the relevant outcome occurring for individuals in any other particular category (i.e. being female) relative to the odds of being in the reference category.

For characteristics that have only 2 possible categories, only 1 odds ratio is estimated. For characteristics that have multiple categories (i.e. 5-year age groups, or highest level of education) 1 odds ratio is estimated for each category that is different from the reference category.

The results of the logistic regression analyses for this report (in Figure 4) consist only of the odds ratio estimated for the characteristic of being a Stolen Generations survivor in the aged 50 and over cohort, relative to not having been removed from family:

- An odds ratio **higher than 1** in Figure 4 indicates that the outcome is **more likely** to occur in the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over than in the Indigenous reference group also aged 50 and over.
- An odds ratio of **less than 1** indicates that the outcome is **less likely** to occur in the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over than in the Indigenous reference group.
- An odds ratio of **1** indicates **no difference** in the odds of that outcome between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group.

The further away the odds ratio is from 1, the stronger the effect of being removed. Standard statistical procedures are applied to test if the estimated odds ratios for the effects of being removed are significantly greater, or less, than 1.

A difference in the odds of an outcome between 2 groups, expressed as an odds ratio, is related to, but not the same as, the difference in the probability or relative frequency of that outcome between the 2 groups.

For the sake of simplicity, this report adopts the convention to loosely represent the differences in the odds as differences in how many times that outcome is more or less likely to occur for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over compared to the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over.

The logistic regression analysis carried out in this section is equivalent to the regression analyses carried out in the first AIHW report on the Stolen Generations (AIHW 2018b), which also contains a more detailed explanation of the methods and interpretation of the odds ratio results.

The odds ratio results on the effect of having been removed are summarised in Figure 4. They show consistently higher odds of experiencing adverse outcomes by the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over for a wide range of the selected 17 outcomes. In 2018–19, the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over had significantly higher odds of an adverse outcome in 10 of the 17 outcomes examined (using the conventional 5% significance test level corresponding to a 95% confidence interval, marked in gold in Figure 4). For an additional 3 outcomes, the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over experienced higher odds that were statistically significant at the 10% test level (corresponding to a 90% confidence interval, marked in pink in Figure 4).

Figure 4: Odds ratio estimates of the effects of being removed for those aged 50 and over, on 17 selected outcomes, 2018–19

Compared with the Indigenous reference group, the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over were

- 1.8 X as likely** Does not own a home
- 1.8 X as likely** Used substances (last 12 months)
- 1.7 X as likely** Current smoker
- 1.7 X as likely** Experienced discrimination due to being Indigenous (last 12 months)
- 1.6 X as likely** Household members could not raise \$2,000 in an emergency
- 1.5 X as likely** Victim of actual or threatened physical harm (last 12 months)
- 1.5 X as likely** Government payments are main source of income
- 1.4 X as likely** Severe or profound disability
- 1.4 X as likely** Poor mental health—Kessler-5 score range 12–25
- 1.3 X as likely** Ever diagnosed with a mental health condition
- 1.3 X as likely** Currently not employed (age 50–64)
- 1.3 X as likely** Household income in bottom 3 deciles (lowest 30%)
- 1.2 X as likely** Poor or fair self-assessed health
- 1.2 X as likely** Living in an overcrowded household
- 1.1 X as likely** Problem(s) accessing health services
- 1.1 X as likely** Does not speak an Indigenous language as main language at home
- 0.8 X as likely** Did not complete Year 12

(Continued)

Figure 4 (continued): Odds ratio estimates of the effects of being removed for those aged 50 and over, on 17 selected outcomes, 2018–19

Note: The numerical values cited in this graphic are estimates of odds ratios. They represent the difference in the odds of these specific outcomes occurring among the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over compared to the odds of these outcomes occurring among the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over not removed from their families. A difference in the odds of an outcome between 2 groups, expressed as a odds ratio, is related to, but not exactly the same, as the difference in the probability or relative frequency of that outcome between the 2 groups.

For the sake of simplicity, this report, however, adopts the convention to loosely represent the differences in the odds as differences in how many times that outcome is more or less likely to occur for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over compared to the Indigenous reference group. The 'x times likely' terminology used above refers to the differences in the odds and not in the differences in the exact probability of that outcome between the 2 groups. A similar convention was adopted in previous AIHW reports on the Stolen Generations (AIHW 2018a, 2018b), and consistency has been maintained in this report.

The colour scheme indicates whether the estimated odds ratio (OR) is close to 1 or statistically different from 1 at the 5% and 10% test levels.

Gold denotes the OR is significantly different from 1 at the conventional 5% test level, consistent with the 95% confidence interval.

Pink denotes the OR is significantly different from 1 at the 10% level, consistent with the wider 90% confidence interval.

Light blue means the estimated OR is not significantly different from 1 (meaning the outcome measured does not vary significantly between those who were removed from their families and the reference group in this age cohort who were not removed).

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b).

For 4 of the selected 17 outcomes (marked in light blue in Figure 4: living in an overcrowded household, having problem(s) accessing health services, not speaking an Indigenous language as the main language at home, and not having completed Year 12), the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over had the same odds of experiencing these outcomes, indicating the effect of being removed was not statistically significant for these outcomes.

Comparisons with the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over

This section presents simple comparisons on a limited set of outcomes between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and a comparable cohort of non-Indigenous Australians aged 50 and over.

The non-Indigenous data are sourced from the 2017–18 National Health Survey (NHS) and these tabulations are based on the NHS sample of respondents who are clearly identified as being non-Indigenous persons. The outcomes that can be chosen for comparison are restricted by what variables are common in the 2018–19 NATSIHS and the 2017–18 NHS.

Table 2 presents comparative data on the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over for a subset of 16 selected socioeconomic and health outcomes (counting the list of specific long-term health conditions as 1 outcome). The first column presents the percentage rate on these outcomes for the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over (for instance, an estimated 31.7% of them had personal income in the bottom 3 deciles (lowest 30%)).

The main comparison of interest in this section is between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over. These differences, as expected, are more dramatic than the differences between the Stolen Generations and the Indigenous reference group noted in the previous sections.

The second column of Table 2 presents the comparative difference between the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over on the selected outcomes as a ratio of their percentage rates (rate ratio), after age standardisation. For completeness, the last column shows the equivalent age-standardised rate ratio between the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over and the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over. (See Box on 'Age standardisation and rate ratios' on why adjusting for age differences is necessary for meaningful comparisons between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, and how to interpret the age-standardised rate ratios in Table 2).

When comparing the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over with the general non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over, the highest values of the age-standardised rate ratios (indicating substantially higher levels of disadvantage for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over) are seen for these outcomes:

- 6.4 times the rate of living in an overcrowded house (needs extra bedrooms)
- 4.1 times the rate of not owning a home
- 3.5 times the rate of being a current smoker
- 3.0 times the rate of having a severe or profound disability
- 2.7 times the rate of having poor mental health—Kessler-5 score range 12–25
- 2.3 times the rate of having poor or fair self-assessed health
- 2.2 times the rate of having government payments as main source of income
- 2.0 times the rate of not being employed (age 50–64).

Among specific long-term health conditions, the highest values of age-standardised rate ratios for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over (indicating higher levels of these conditions occurring among them than in the reference non-Indigenous population) are:

- 4.6 times the rate of having kidney disease
- 3.1 times the rate of having diabetes
- 3.0 times the rate of having chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- 2.7 times the rate of having heart, stroke or vascular diseases
- 2.3 times the rate of having asthma.

Age standardisation and rate ratios

Age standardisation is a technique that improves the comparability of mean values or percentage rates from different populations that have differences in age structure, and when these mean values and percentage rates differ across specific age groups.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations have very different age structures, and these differences carry over even among the sub-populations aged 50 and over.

For instance, among all Indigenous persons aged 50 and over in the 2018–19 NATSIHS, 8.7% were aged 75 and over compared to 18.4% in the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over in the 2017–18 NHS. Such large differences in population age structure mean simple comparisons of the average Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates of an outcome are not meaningful.

The method of direct age standardisation was adopted. This takes the age-specific rates (that is, the proportional rates for outcomes within specific age groups) and calculates the aggregate rates by assigning a common age structure to all 3 population sub-groups: the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over, the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over and the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over. The common age structure is derived from the 30 June 2001 Standard Population released by the ABS (ABS 2013). The specific age groups used for the age standardisation in Table 2 within the population aged 50 and over were: 50–59, 60–69, and 70 and over.

A rate ratio higher than 1 in column 2 of Table 2 indicates the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over had a higher age-standardised rate on that outcome than the comparative non-Indigenous population; and a rate ratio higher than 1 in the last column of Table 2 indicates the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over who were not removed had a higher age-standardised rate than the non-Indigenous population. Similarly, a rate ratio of less than 1 indicates that the age-standardised rate of that outcome is lower in the 2 Indigenous sub-groups than in the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over.

On the outcome, for example, of personal income in the bottom 3 deciles (lowest 30%), compared to the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over, the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over had an age-standardised rate ratio of 1.60. After adjusting for age differences, the percentage of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over who had personal income in the bottom 30% was 1.6 times (or 60%) higher than the equivalent rate for the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over. The rate ratio for the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over on this outcome is 1.48, indicating the proportion of the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over in this outcome was 48% higher than the proportion for the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over, after adjusting for age differences.

Tests of statistical significance for whether the rate ratios are significantly different from 1 (to indicate that the age-standardised rates differ significantly between any 2 of the 3 population sub-groups) are not available because the non-Indigenous and Indigenous data are tabulated from different surveys.

The age-standardised rate ratios between the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over (not removed) and the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over (Table 2, last column) also consistently show higher disadvantage for the Indigenous reference group; but in most cases those rate ratios are lower, as expected, than the rate ratios comparing the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over.

Table 2: Comparison of selected outcomes of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over with the non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over, 2017–18 and 2018–19

Outcome description	Proportion (%)		Rate ratio (age-standardised)	
	Non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over (2017–18)	Stolen Generations aged 50 and over compared with non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over	Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over (not removed) compared with non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over	
Socioeconomic outcomes				
Personal income in bottom 3 deciles	31.6	1.6	1.5	
Household income in bottom 3 deciles	38.2	1.8	1.6	
Government payments are main source of income	36.5	2.2	1.9	
Did not complete Year 12	58.4	1.5	1.5	
Currently not employed (age 50–64)	30.5	2.0	1.8	
Does not own a home	15.9	4.1	3.4	
Health status				
Poor or fair self-assessed health	21.5	2.3	1.9	
Poor mental health—Kessler-5 score range 12–25	12.9	2.7	2.2	
Disability or restrictive long-term condition	36.7	1.7	1.5	
Severe or profound disability ^(a)	6.7	3.0	2.3	
Current specific long-term health condition:				
Asthma	12.0	2.3	2.0	
Arthritis	41.4	1.2	1.2	
Cancer	4.8	1.3	1.0	
Diabetes	12.4	3.1	2.6	
Heart, stroke or vascular disease	20.5	2.7	2.7	
Kidney disease	2.3	4.6	2.4	
Back problems	26.5	1.0	1.1	

(continued)

Table 2 (continued): Comparison of selected outcomes of the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over and the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over with the non-Indigenous reference population aged 50 and over, 2017–18 and 2018–19

Outcome description	Proportion (%)		Rate ratio (age-standardised)	
	Non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over (2017–18)	Stolen Generations aged 50 and over compared with non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over	Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over (not removed) compared with non-Indigenous population aged 50 and over	
Current specific long-term health condition (continued):				
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	5.6	3.0		2.2
Ear/hearing problems	29.7	1.2		1.1
Eye/sight problems	92.0	1.0		1.0
Hypertension	27.7	1.6		1.3
Osteoporosis	10.7	1.0		1.3
Health risk factors				
Current smoker	12.0	3.5		2.5
Exceeded lifetime alcohol risk guidelines	17.4	0.8		1.1
Exceeded short-term alcohol risk guidelines	29.3	1.1		1.2
Housing quality indicators				
Living in an overcrowded household	1.7	6.4		4.5
Household structure				
Living in a lone-person household	23.4	1.5		1.4

(a) People who sometimes or always need help with at least one of the core activities (self-care, mobility and communication).

Notes

1. Refer to Box on 'Age standardisation and rate ratios'.

2. Tests of statistical significance of the rate ratios are not reported in Table 2 because the non-Indigenous and Indigenous data are tabulated from different surveys.

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b, 2020) and NHS 2017–18 (ABS 2018, 2019c).

Stolen Generations total population estimates and demographic profile

This section presents estimates of the size and location by state and territory of the total population of the Stolen Generations survivors (not just the 50 and over age group) based on the 2018–19 NATSIHS. The total population of the Stolen Generations consists of those born before 1972 who reported being removed from their families. The cut-off age in the 2018–19 NATSIHS to define this full population of the Stolen Generations is being aged 46 and over. This estimated total population of the Stolen Generations survivors born before 1972 in the 2018–19 survey will all be aged 50 and over by 2022.

Based on the 2018–19 NATSIHS, there were approximately a total of 33,600 Stolen Generations survivors in 2018–19. This consists of the previous estimate of 27,200 Stolen Generations survivors who were aged 50 and over, and an additional 6,400 individuals who were aged 46–49 years in 2018–19 and reported to have been removed from their families.

The 50 and over cohort thus accounts for 81% of the total number of Stolen Generations survivors. Hence the demographic characteristics and regional location of the full population aged 46 and over are similar to the 50 and over cohort analysed in the previous sections.

The overall reported rate of removal among the full population aged 46 and over is 21%, which was the same as the rate among the 50 and over cohort (Table 3 and Table 1). The estimated rate of being removed by gender was slightly higher for women (23%) than men (19%) (Table 3, final column).

Of the Stolen Generations survivors aged 46 and over, 59% were women, and 41% were men; 23% were aged 65 and over and 82% resided in non-remote locations. The estimated rate of removal by gender was slightly higher for women (23%) than men (19%) (Table 3).

The proportion of the total Stolen Generations population aged 46 and over living in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia was almost three-fourths (73%). New South Wales remains the jurisdiction with the highest proportion of currently residing Stolen Generations survivors at 34%. This is followed by Queensland (20%), and Western Australia (19%). Around 10% of this total population live in the Northern Territory and 9% in Victoria (Table 4).

Table 3: Estimated population and proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 46 and over, who reported having been removed from their families, by age, sex and remoteness, 2018–19

	Estimated Indigenous population	Estimated number reporting being removed	Distribution of those who were removed (%)	Percentage who were removed (rate of being removed)
Total aged 46 and over	159,900	33,600	100	21.0
By age group (years)				
46–64	116,400	19,500	77.1	16.8
65 and over	37,100	7700	22.9	20.8
By sex				
Men	72,600	13,700	40.9	18.9
Women	87,300	19,900	59.1	22.8
By remoteness^(a)				
Remote	29,400	6,100	18.0	20.6
Non-remote	130,500	27,600	82.0	21.1

(a) Remoteness refers to current location of residence at time of the survey.

Note: The estimated total Indigenous population and the number reporting being removed are rounded to the nearest hundred. The percentages reported in the columns on distribution of the removed population and the rate of being removed, however, are based on the actual unrounded estimates.

Source: AIHW tabulations of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b).

Table 4: Estimated population and proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 46 and over, who reported having been removed from their families, by state or territory, 2018–19

	Estimated Indigenous population	Estimated number reporting being removed	Distribution of those who were removed (%)	Percentage who were removed (rate of being removed)
Total aged 46 and over	159,900	33,600	100	21.0
By state/territory^(a)				
NSW	58,400	11,400	33.9	19.5
VIC	11,700	3,100	9.2	26.5
QLD	41,200	6,700	20.0	16.3
SA	8,300	2,100	6.1	24.7
WA	19,000	6,400	19.0	33.7
TAS ^(b)	7,100	400	1.2	5.6
NT	12,900	3,200	9.6	24.9
ACT ^(b)	1,300	400	1.0	27.0

(a) Refers to current state/territory of residence at time of survey.

(b) Denotes that the ACT and TAS estimates of the proportion of the population aged 46 and over who were removed from family are based on a small sample size of relevant persons in that category and should be interpreted with caution.

Note: The estimated total Indigenous population and the number reporting being removed are rounded to the nearest hundred. The percentages reported in the columns on distribution of the removed population and the rate of being removed, however, are based on the actual unrounded estimates

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2019b).

In the full Stolen Generations population the highest rate of removal occurred in Western Australia at 34% (Table 4, final column). The next highest reported rates of removal were in the Australian Capital Territory (27%), Victoria (27%), and the Northern Territory (25%). New South Wales and Queensland remain the 2 jurisdictions to have the lowest rate of removal from their families among the full population aged 46 and over in 2018–19, with rates of 20% and 16%, respectively.

The estimates reported in Table 4 are in reference to the current place of residence of the Stolen Generations survivors who are aged 46 and over, and should not be inferred to reflect the actual rate of removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children born before 1972 in these jurisdictions.

Descendants of all people who were removed

The 2018–19 NATSIHS also asked survey respondents aged 18 and over if they had any relatives removed from their families in the past, and what type of relatives were removed. This information can be used to define a specific category of the current adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who are descendants of relatives removed in previous generations. See Box on ‘Descendants’.

Descendants

The question on type of relatives removed in the 2018–19 NATSIHS (and in previous other Indigenous-specific surveys conducted by ABS) separately identify the following: children, brothers and/or sisters, parents, (great)grandparents, aunts and/or uncles, cousins, nieces and/or nephews, and other. Responses can indicate removal of more than 1 type of relative.

To be classified as a descendant the removal of relatives should be from an older generation. Hence, the specific definition of descendants adopted for this report (as in AIHW 2018b) are the currently living Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 18 and over who indicated they had relatives removed in the past and identified at least 1 of those relatives to be a parent, (great) grandparent, or an aunt or uncle.

The time periods when these elder relatives were removed are not known, nor the birth cohorts they belonged to. So the descendants defined in this report are not specifically the descendants of the Stolen Generations only, where the Stolen Generations have been defined to come from specific cohorts born before 1972.

The descendants identified in this report represent a larger group of all adults aged 18 and over at the time of the survey who are descended from all people removed in earlier generations, irrespective of the timing and reason for those removals.

See AIHW (2018b) for details on all types of relatives reported to have been removed in the previous 2014–15 survey, as well as for a fuller account of the characteristics of the descendants identified in that report.

In the 2018–19 survey there were an estimated 142,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (aged 18 and over) who could be classified as descendants. This represented 36% of the total adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population covered by that survey (and who provided valid responses about the types of relatives reported to have been removed).

Tables 5 and 6 present additional details on the estimated size and distribution of the descendants in 2018–19 by age, sex, and remoteness, and by state and territory.

Of the descendants, 56% were women and 44% were men, 84% lived in non-remote areas and 16% in remote areas. By age groups, the highest proportion of the descendants, around 51%, are aged 18–39, and a small proportion, 6%, are aged 65-plus.

The majority of descendants lived in New South Wales, Queensland or Western Australia (75% of the total descendants). New South Wales had the largest number of the estimated descendants, 40,600, or 29% of the total, followed by Queensland (37,700 or 27% of total) and Western Australia (27,900 or 20%). Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory had the smallest number of descendants, 2,200 and 2,500, respectively (and less than 2% of the total descendants in each instance).

Table 5: Estimated population and proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 and over, who reported to be descendants of all people removed, by age, sex and remoteness, 2018–19

	Estimated Indigenous population	Estimated number of descendants	Distribution of descendants (%)	Proportion who are descendants in total population (%)
Total aged 18 and over	398,000	142,200	100	35.7
By age group (years)				
18–39	218,900	72,700	51.1	33.2
40–45	43,000	18,200	12.8	42.3
46–64	107,000	43,400	30.5	40.6
65 and over	28,800	8,100	5.7	28.1
By sex				
Men	184,400	62,200	43.7	33.7
Women	212,900	80,000	56.3	37.6
By remoteness^(a)				
Remote	78,400	22,300	15.7	28.4
Non-remote	319,200	119,800	84.3	37.5

(a) Remoteness refers to current location at time of the survey.

Note: The estimated total Indigenous population and the number of descendants are rounded to the nearest hundred. The percentages reported in the columns on distribution of descendants and the proportion who are descendants, however, are based on the actual unrounded estimates.

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2020).

In 2018–19, an estimated 38% of all adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and 34% of all adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men reported to be descendants of people removed (Table 5, final column). By remoteness areas, 38% of all Indigenous adults living in non-remote areas were descendants compared to 28% in remote areas. The proportion of the total population by age group who are descendants is highest for the 40–45 age group (42%) and for the 46–64 age group (41%). In the 65 and over age group the proportion who reported being a descendant is considerably lower (28%).

Among the total adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in each state or territory, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion who were descendants, but that estimate should be treated with caution due to a small sample size in the survey. Excluding the Australian Capital Territory, the highest proportion of the adult population who were descendants occurred in Western Australia (56%) followed by South Australia (48%) (Table 6, final column). The high proportion of descendants found in Western Australia is consistent with the high proportion (34%) of all persons aged 46 and over being Stolen Generations in Western Australia (Table 4).

Table 6: Estimated population and proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 and over, who reported to be descendants of all people removed, by state or territory, 2018–19

	Estimated Indigenous population	Estimated number of descendants	Distribution of descendants (%)	Proportion who are descendants in total population (%)
Total aged 18 and over	396,100	142,200	100	35.7
By state/territory^(a)				
NSW	126,400	40,600	28.6	32.1
VIC	27,700	11,500	8.1	41.5
QLD	112,100	37,700	26.5	33.6
SA	22,800	10,900	7.7	47.8
WA	50,200	27,900	19.6	55.6
TAS ^(b)	14,200	2,200	1.5	15.5
NT	38,600	9,800	6.9	25.4
ACT ^(b)	4,100	2,500	1.8	61.0

(a) Refers to current state/territory of residence at time of survey.

(b) The ACT and TAS estimates of the number of descendants and the proportion of the population aged 18 and over who are descendants are based on a small sample size of relevant persons in that category, and should be interpreted with caution.

Note: The estimated total Indigenous population and the number of descendants are rounded to the nearest hundred. The percentages reported in the columns on distribution of descendants and the proportion who are descendants, however, are based on the actual unrounded estimates.

Source: AIHW analysis of NATSIHS 2018–19 (ABS 2020).

The descendants of all people removed in the past also includes people who reported they themselves had been removed from their families in the 2018–19 survey.

Some of this overlap between being a descendant and also being removed occurs with the Stolen Generations population. Among all of the descendants who were aged 46 and over in 2018–19, around 26% also reported to have been themselves removed from their own families, and such individuals are already included in the estimated total population of the Stolen Generations. Excluding the estimated 13,200 Stolen Generations who also reported being descendants, the estimated population of the remaining descendants is around 129,200.

For policy and planning purposes, this enables a clearer distinction to be made between the 2 groups:

- the estimated 33,600 survivors of the Stolen Generations in all ages (irrespective of what they reported about the removal of relatives in older generations)
- the estimated 129,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 18 and over who are descendants of people removed in the past (but are not themselves part of the estimated total Stolen Generations population of 33,600).

Table S1: Comparison of selected outcomes for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over with the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over, 2018–19

No.	Outcome description	Stolen Generations aged 50 and over (%)	Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over (%)	Gap (percentage points)
Socioeconomic outcomes				
1	Personal income in bottom 3 deciles (lowest 30%)	46.2	42.1	4.1
2	Household income in bottom 3 deciles (lowest 30%)	63.1	54.5	8.6
3	Government payments are main source of income	70.7	60.9	9.8*
4	Did not complete Year 12	87.8	84.6	3.2
5	Currently not employed (age 50–64)	56.6	53.4	3.2
6	Does not own a home	66.0	53.9	12.1*
Financial stress indicators				
7	Household members could not raise \$2,000 in an emergency	63.5	49.2	14.3*
8	Had days without money for basic living expenses (last 12 months)	43.0	31.5	11.5*
Physical and mental health				
9	Poor or fair self-assessed health	48.6	40.6	8.0
10	Poor mental health—Kessler-5 score range 12–25	40.0	30.5	9.5*
11	Ever diagnosed with a mental health condition	43.0	35.0	8.0
12	Disability or restrictive long-term condition	60.8	53.0	7.8
13	Severe or profound disability ^(a)	20.3	14.6	5.7
14	Admitted to hospital (last 12 months)	26.3	24.2	2.1
15	Received a flu vaccination (last 12 months)	65.2	67.8	-2.6
16	Received a pneumonia vaccination (last 5 years)	33.7	33.3	0.4

(a) People who sometimes or always need help with at least one of the core activities (self-care, mobility and communication).

* Denotes a significant difference between the two comparison groups (i.e. gap as percentage points is different from zero at the 5% test level).

(continued)

Table S1 (continued): Comparison of selected outcomes for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over with the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over, 2018–19

No.	Outcome description	Stolen Generations aged 50 and over (%)	Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over (%)	Gap (percentage points)
Access to services				
17	Problems(s) accessing health services	42.3	42.2	0.1
Risky health behaviour				
18	Current smoker	47.4	34.6	12.8*
19	Exceeded lifetime alcohol risk guidelines	16.4	20.5	-4.1
20	Exceeded short-term alcohol risk guidelines	36.2	41.2	-5.0
21	Used substances (last 12 months)	30.2	13.6	16.6*
Language and culture				
22	Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	51.6	45.8	5.8
23	Recognises an area as homeland or traditional country	82.3	76.1	6.2
24	Does not speak an Indigenous language as main language at home	92.2	92.5	-0.3
Life stressors				
25	Experienced discrimination due to being Indigenous (last 12 months)	32.0	23.8	8.2
Safety, law and justice				
26	Victim of actual or threatened physical harm (last 12 months)	14.9	8.6	6.3*
Housing quality indicators				
27	Living in an overcrowded household (needs extra bedrooms)	12.5	9.4	3.1
28	Living in house of an acceptable standard	74.6	79.3	-4.7

* Denotes a significant difference between the two comparison groups (i.e. gap as percentage points is different from zero at the 5% test level).

(continued)

Table S1 (continued): Comparison of selected outcomes for the Stolen Generations aged 50 and over with the Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over, 2018–19

No.	Outcome description	Stolen Generations aged 50 and over (%)	Indigenous reference group aged 50 and over (%)	Gap (percentage points)
Household structure				
29	Living in a lone-person household	35.4	29.7	5.7
Has a specific long term health condition (self-reported)^(b)				
30.1	Asthma	29.3	24.0	5.3
30.2	Arthritis	46.9	46.2	0.7
30.3	Cancer	6.2	4.2	2.0
30.4	Diabetes	37.0	29.0	8.0
30.5	Heart, stroke or vascular disease	30.4	33.9	-3.5
30.6	Kidney disease	8.1	4.9	3.2
30.7	Back problems	27.5	29.6	-2.1
30.8	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	17.9	12.2	5.7
30.9	Ear/hearing problems	31.9	30.4	1.5
30.10	Eye/sight problems	90.5	93.3	-2.8
30.11	Hypertension	37.4	33.6	3.8
30.12	Osteoporosis	9.5	12.2	-2.7
30.13	Mental health condition	35.5	25.5	10.0*

(b) The percentages for the self-reported long term health condition are derived from ABS TableBuilder tabulations of NATSIHS 2018-19 (ABS 2020), using the ICD conditions code to define these specific conditions.

* Denotes a significant difference between the two comparison groups (i.e. gap as percentage points is different from zero at the 5% test level).

Source: AIHW tabulations of ABS 2019 and ABS 2020.

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We acknowledge the suffering of the Stolen Generations across Australia, including those who have passed on, and thank them for their ongoing courage in sharing their experiences.

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
WHO	World Health Organization
NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NHS	National Health Survey
K-5	Kessler-5 measure of psychological distress consisting of a subset of five questions taken from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale-10

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Related publications

This report, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations aged 50 and over: updated analyses for 2018–19*, is part of a series of reports prepared by AIHW for The Healing Foundation. Three previous reports are listed below, and this current report is an update of the first report below, with analyses of new data from a 2018–19 survey compared to the 2014–15 data analysed previously.

- AIHW 2018a. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations aged 50 and over*. Cat. no. IHW 199. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2018b. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations and descendants: numbers, demographic characteristics and selected outcomes*. Cat. no. IHW 195. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2019. *Children living in households with members of the Stolen Generations*. Cat. no. IHW 214. Canberra: AIHW.



This report provides estimates of and analysis of comparative differences for the Stolen Generations survivors who were aged 50 and over in a 2018–19 survey. They were more likely to be worse off than other Indigenous Australians of the same age on a range of health and socioeconomic outcomes. The findings in the report will be useful to assess the needs of the Stolen Generations and their families.

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