

National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 14b-Level of workforce participation (survey data), 2020; Quality Statement

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
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Data quality

Institutional environment: The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) and Survey of Education and Work (SEW) were collected, processed and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS operates within a framework that includes the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. These ensure the independence from political influence and impartiality of the ABS and the confidentiality of respondents.

For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](#).

Timeliness: The NATSIHS is conducted approximately every six years. The 2018/19 NATSIHS was conducted between July 2018 and April 2019. Previous NATSIHS was collected in 2012-13 and 2004-05. Results from the 2018/19 NATSIHS were released in December 2019.

The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from the 2018 survey were released in November 2018.

Accessibility: See *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2018/19* (ABS 2019) and *Education and Work, Australia, May 2018* (ABS 2018a) for an overview of results.

Data from these surveys are also accessible in the DataLab and TableBuilder environment. For further details, refer to the [Microdata Entry Page](#) on the ABS website.

Other information from these surveys may also be available on request from the [ABS](#).

Interpretability: Information to aid interpretation of the data is available from the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2018-19* (ABS 2019) and *Education and Work, Australia, May 2018* (ABS 2018a).

Relevance:

The NATSIHS and SEW collect information on workforce participation.

The SEW is conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), with data items collected in the LFS available from the SEW. The publication *Labour Force, Australia, May 2018* (ABS 2018b) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys.

For some respondents, information is supplied by another household resident (referred to as 'Any Responsible Adult'), such as a parent, partner or unrelated adult. While this is a standard survey methodology, answers to some questions may occasionally differ from those that would have been supplied in a personal interview.

While Indigenous status is collected in the SEW, the survey sample and methodology are not designed to provide output that separately identifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The SEW can, however be used for providing non-Indigenous comparisons.

In the NATSIHS and the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all details of the participation of the other in employment. In the NATSIHS and SEW, answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure.

Accuracy:

The NATSIHS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate was 73.4%. Results are weighted to account for non-response.

The SEW was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas (except discrete Indigenous communities). The scope of the SEW is restricted to persons aged 15-74 years who were usual residents of private dwellings. The 2018 SEW response rate was 92% from the Monthly Population Survey.

The data for the SEW are collected from Any Responsible Adult on behalf of other members of the household and are weighted for non-response.

As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates and measurement of changes should be considered with reference to the relative standard error (RSE) of the estimates. Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are generally considered too unreliable for general use.

Proportions should be considered with reference to their corresponding 95% margin of error (MOE) of proportion (or 95 per cent confidence interval). The proportion combined with the MOE of proportion defines a range which is expected to include the true population value with a given level of confidence. This is known as the confidence interval. Proportions with an MOE of proportion greater than 10 percentage points indicate that the range in which the true population value is expected is relatively wide and are subject to high sample variability. Particular consideration should be given to the MOE of proportion when using them. Depending on how the proportion is to be used, an MOE of proportion greater than 10 percentage points may be considered too large to inform decisions. In addition, proportions with a corresponding standard 95 per cent confidence interval that includes 0 per cent or 100 per cent are usually considered unreliable for most purposes.

Coherence: Both the numerator and the denominator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons come from the NATSIHS. Measures based on the 2018-19 NATSIHS are consistent with those supplied from previous cycles of this survey.

Both the numerator and denominator for non-Indigenous persons come from the SEW. This is consistent with those supplied from previous cycles of this survey.

The SEW excludes people living in Indigenous communities. Since 2009, the SEW has included people living in 'very remote' areas who are not in Indigenous communities. Prior to SEW 2009, all persons living in 'very remote' parts of Australia were excluded.

Persons who are permanently unable to work were included in the scope of the SEW for the first time in 2013. There were an estimated 434,255 people who reported being permanently unable to work in May 2014.

The NATSIHS and SEW have different enumeration periods and therefore differences in this indicator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people may reflect changes in the economic cycle.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Origin: For the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population: the ABS 2018-19 NATSIHS.

For the non-Indigenous population: the SEW. Data are available annually.

These surveys are weighted to benchmarks for the total in-scope population derived from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

Reference documents: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2018a. Education and Work, May 2018. ABS Cat. no. 6227.0. Canberra. ABS.

ABS 2018b. Labour Force, Australia, May 2018. ABS Cat. no. 6202.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2019. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2018-19. ABS Cat. no. 4715.0. Canberra: ABS.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 14b-Level of workforce participation \(survey data\), 2019: Quality Statement Indigenous](#), Standard 07/02/2019

Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement: [National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 14b-Level of workforce participation \(survey data\), 2020 Indigenous](#), Standard 23/08/2019