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Indigenous population estimates

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Abstract

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been actively involved in estimating the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) population from 1994 and projecting it from 1996. Prior to 1994 counts from the Census of Population and Housing were the principle guide to establish the size of the Indigenous population. Issues associated with the estimation and projection of the Indigenous population are covered, drawing upon ABS publications: *Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (ABS Catalogue No. 3230.0), *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (3231.0) and *Population Issues, Indigenous Australians* (4708.0).

Issues to be covered include: propensity to identify as Indigenous on Census forms; births coverage; deaths coverage; measuring the Indigenous undercount; overview of estimation method; and directions for the future.