

## *Indigenous Portrait:*

# South West Hospital & Health Services

A profile of the Indigenous community of South West HHS, compared with Queensland, from the 2016 and earlier Censuses.

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**Prepared for the Western Queensland Public Health Network**

South West HHS covers the Local Government Areas of Balonne, Bulloo, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, at the 2016 Census.

## Preface

This report uses data from the Census, held every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to paint a profile of the Indigenous population of South West HHS as it was in August 2016, and show how it had changed over the previous decade.

**Language in this report** In this Portrait, the term 'Indigenous' is used to describe the 'first nations' peoples living in South West HHS, including Aboriginal nations and people from the Torres Strait. This recognises that Aboriginal people were the original inhabitants of Queensland.

**Who is included?** The people described in this Portrait were the usual residents of South West HHS in 2016. They had lived there for more than half the year. They are counted as 'usual residents' even if they completed the Census away from home. People who were visiting South West HHS on Census night, but did not live there, are not included.

**Who are Indigenous?** Indigenous people, in this Portrait, means all people who, in completing the Census, responded that they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins, or both. Non-Indigenous people are those who said they did not have these origins. Note: the Census question asks people about their origins; it does not ask how they identify in their daily lives.

**Are all Indigenous people counted?** Not all Indigenous people completed the Census and identified their origins: 11.5% of the region's Census respondents said they had Indigenous origins, but another 8.4% did not answer this question. The ABS estimates that the net undercount rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 17.5% in 2016 (equivalent to 137,750 persons nationally). This is slightly higher than 2011 (17.2%). This means that, on average, the Indigenous population was about a fifth larger than counted. However, despite such omissions, the Census is a vital source of information about Indigenous Australians.

**National trends** Nationally, the number of people with Indigenous origins counted in the Census rose by a fifth (21%) between 2011 and 2016. Almost three-quarters of the increase was from births; the rest was caused by more people identifying Indigenous origins than previously.

**Sources of data** The data for this report are drawn from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Indigenous) Profiles and Community Profiles published by the ABS from the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses. Data in this portrait for 2011 and 2006 censuses have been produced using the 2016 boundary regardless of changes to previous LGA or other geographical classifications over time.

**A warning about accuracy** Small Census numbers are not precise – they are randomised by the ABS to protect privacy. In this Portrait, numbers less than 5 are reported as 'a few'. Note: difference and changes shown in this Portrait are rounded to the nearest significant figure but are calculated from the unrounded data, so small anomalies are possible in the text.

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# Snapshot: South West Hospital & Health Services, 2016

- ⌘ In the 2016 Census, 2,786 of the 24,156 residents (11.5%) counted in South West HHS said that they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins, or both. Of these, 97% were Aboriginal.
  - ⌘ Between 2011 and 2016, the counted Indigenous population fell by 8%, from 3,024; the overall population of South West HHS fell by 6%.
  - ⌘ About 12% of the Indigenous population were under 5 in 2016. This growth from births since 2011 was not enough to offset the population decline in other age groups.
- ⌘ The Indigenous community in South West HHS is younger than the non-Indigenous population, with a median age of 23 vs 40 years.
  - ⌘ The proportion under 18 years old was higher: 40% compared with 22% for non-Indigenous.
  - ⌘ The proportion aged 65+ was lower: 6% compared with 16% for non-Indigenous.
- ⌘ Indigenous households had an average of 2.9 residents, which was larger than non-Indigenous households (2.4) in the health region.
  - ⌘ Almost three in ten Indigenous households were couples with children.
  - ⌘ Almost three in ten Indigenous households were one parent families.
  - ⌘ 20% of the Indigenous households were single persons (vs 31% of non-Indigenous households).
- ⌘ Indigenous households most commonly lived in rented dwellings (56%), with 21% in mortgaged and 17% in fully owned dwellings.
  - ⌘ In all, 38% of Indigenous households in South West HHS were home-owners (with or without a mortgage), which was up by 2% since 2011.
- ⌘ The median income of Indigenous adults in South West HHS was about \$487 a week, which was 67% that of all adult residents (\$728).
  - ⌘ The median income gap had increased by 1% since 2011, after having increased by 6% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ 55% of Indigenous adults were in the labour force, compared with 73% of non-Indigenous adults.
  - ⌘ 16% of the Indigenous workforce were unemployed, compared with 3% of the non-Indigenous workforce.
- ⌘ Almost three in ten Indigenous residents (785 people) were attending an educational institution.
  - ⌘ 433 Indigenous people had completed Year 12, which was 10% more than in 2011 and 39% more than in 2006.
  - ⌘ Compared with non-Indigenous residents of the same age, there were:
    - similar rates of Indigenous people aged 25+ year olds in education;
    - 12% fewer Indigenous people aged 15–19 year olds in education.
  - ⌘ 34% of Indigenous adults had some type of post-school qualification, compared with 57% of non-Indigenous adults in the health region (2% had a degree or higher, compared with 20%).
- ⌘ 164 Indigenous people (5.9% of the Indigenous population) reported that they had a severe or profound disability.
  - ⌘ Indigenous people had higher disability rates than average in all age groups.
    - the disability rate for Indigenous people aged 55–64 year olds was 3 times the average for this age group in South West HHS.
    - for 45–54 year olds, the Indigenous rate was 3 times the average in the health region.
  - ⌘ 11% of Indigenous adults (aged 15+) gave assistance to a person with a severe disability.
- ⌘ 57% of the region's Indigenous households had an internet connection, which was 5% higher than in 2011.

## Tracking changes in South West HHS

In the table below, some indicators of community structure and well-being are calculated for Indigenous people in South West HHS. The difference or gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in South West HHS is shown for 2016. Changes in the Indigenous rates are tracked over the past five years and decade.

Indicator	South West Hospital & Health Services, 2016			Change in Indigenous rate	
	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Gap in 2016	last 5 years 2011–2016	last decade 2006–2016
				up 2%	up 4%
<b>home ownership</b> % of households owning/buying their home	38%	64%	<b>-26%</b>	up 2%	up 4%
<b>personal income*</b> median weekly income of adults (15+)	\$487	\$728	<b>-33%</b>	up 14%	up 34%
<b>household income</b> median weekly income of households	\$984	\$1,292	<b>-24%</b>	dn 1%	up 26%
<b>workforce participation</b> % of adults 15+ in labour force	55%	73%	<b>-18%</b>	dn 4%	dn 4%
<b>unemployment</b> % of unemployed in workforce	16%	3%	<b>+13%</b>	up 1%	up 3%
<b>employment</b> employed adults as % of population	30%	57%	<b>-27%</b>	dn 1%	dn 2%
<b>pre-school</b> % of infants under 5 in education	15%	15%	<b>-1%</b>	up 9%	up 4%
<b>teenage education</b> % of 15–19 year-olds in education	46%	58%	<b>-12%</b>	up 3%	up 5%
<b>children at school</b> % of 5–14 year olds in education	87%	94%	<b>-7%</b>	up 10%	same
<b>Year 12 completion</b> % of adults (15+) who have left school	26%	45%	<b>-19%</b>	up 3%	up 7%
<b>average schooling</b> average school Year completed	9.9 yrs	10.6 yrs	<b>-70%</b>	0.1 yrs	0.4 yrs
<b>tertiary qualifications</b> % of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification	34%	49%	<b>-15%</b>	up 3%	up 8%
<b>degree</b> % of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification	2%	13%	<b>-10%</b>	same	same
<b>postgrad</b> % of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification	0%	2%	<b>-2%</b>	dn 0%	up 0%
<b>disability*</b> % of people with a severe, long-term disability	5.9%	4.4%	<b>+1.5%</b>	up 2%	up 2%

\* Personal income and disability data compare Indigenous rates with those of the whole population in South West HHS.

## Indigenous population and growth

In the 2016 Census, the region's Indigenous population was counted as 2,786 people, of whom 2,689 identified as Aboriginal and 49 as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; 41 identified as Torres Strait Islander.

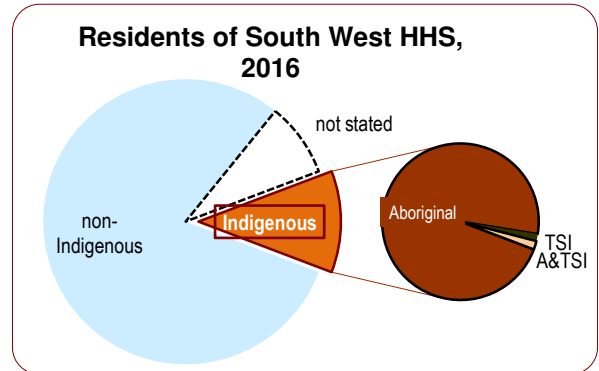
- Indigenous people comprised 11.5% of the region's population, compared with 4.0% in Queensland.

8.4% of South West HHS people did not say whether they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins.

- Among the Indigenous people here, there were 106 females per 100 males.

There were 105 males per 100 females among non-Indigenous people.

- The ABS estimates that the net Census undercount rate nationally for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 17.5% in 2016, meaning one in six was not counted.



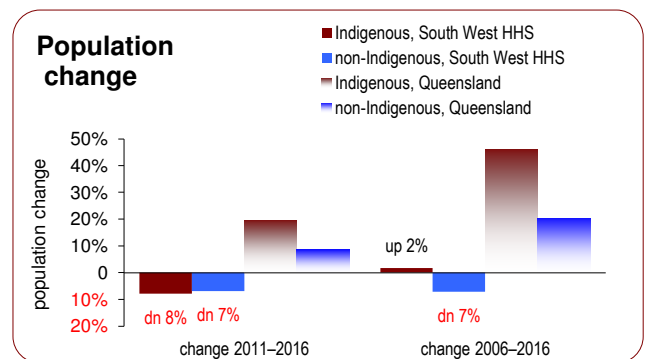
Between 2011 and 2016, the counted Indigenous population in South West HHS fell by 8% (by 238) from 3,024; in total, the region's population fell by 6%.

The number of infants born over the last five years was not enough to offset the population decline in other age groups.

- Between 2006 and 2016, the region's Indigenous population rose by 2% (from 2,738 in 2006).

The region's non-Indigenous population fell by 7% over the decade.

The Indigenous population counted in Queensland rose by 46% over the decade.



On Census night 2016, 2,542 Indigenous residents of South West HHS were at home (91%), and 222 were staying away from home (8%). Offsetting those away were 213 Indigenous visitors staying in South West HHS that night, equivalent to 8% of the Indigenous resident population.

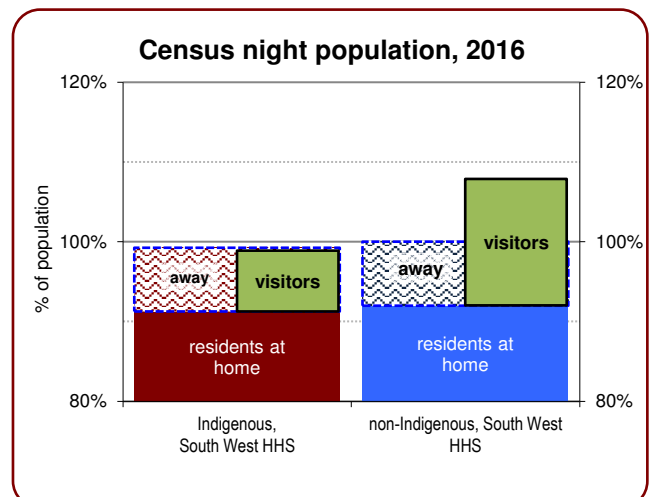
- There were a few visitors from the same locality (eg. overnighing with neighbours).

83% of the visitors were from Queensland and 8% were from New South Wales; 5% were from Victoria.

- The proportion of Indigenous residents away from home on Census night was 2% lower than in 2011.

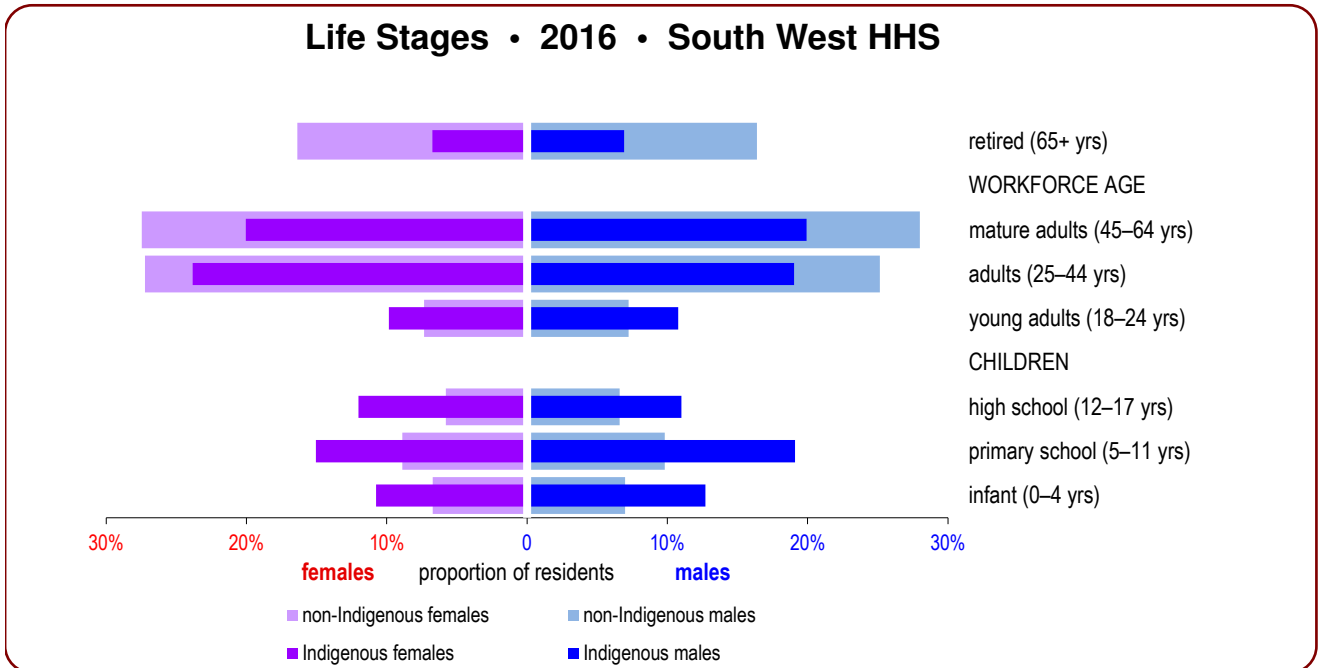
The proportion away from home was similar to non-Indigenous residents here; it was 2% higher than for Indigenous residents of Queensland.

- There were 47 fewer Indigenous visitors than in 2011, when there were 260, equal to 9% of the Indigenous population.



## Life stages

The Indigenous population of South West HHS had a smaller proportion in the working stage of life (15–64 years) than the non-Indigenous population, with a much higher proportion of children under 15 and a much smaller proportion of people aged 65 or older.



In the region's Indigenous population in 2016:

⌘ 1,484 people (53% or over five in ten) were adults aged 18–64.

- 302 (or 11%) were aged 18–24
- 608 (or 22%) were aged 25–44
- 574 (or 21%) were aged 45–64

The number of adults aged 18–64 was down 3% from 2011; and up 8% from 2006.

⌘ 1,114 Indigenous residents (40% or four in ten) were children under 18.

- 330 (or 12%) were under five
- 483 (or 17%) were aged 5–11
- 301 (or 11%) were aged 12–17

The number of children was down 18% since 2011; and down 10% since 2006.

⌘ 175 of Indigenous residents were aged 65+ years (6% of the total).

The number aged 65+ had risen by 43% since 2011; it was 46% higher than in 2006.

The proportion aged 18–64 among Indigenous people was 8% lower than for non-Indigenous (61%).

4% more of the Indigenous population were young adults (18–24 yrs), and 7% fewer were mature adults (45–64 yrs), compared with the non-Indigenous population of the health region.

Those aged 18–64 made up 54% of the Indigenous community in Queensland; their number had risen by 23% from 2011.

The proportion of Indigenous children in South West HHS was 18% higher than the average for non-Indigenous people.

In Queensland, 42% of the Indigenous community were children under 18; the number was up 13% since 2011.

16% of non-Indigenous people in South West HHS were aged 65+.

Across Queensland, 4% of Indigenous people were aged 65+; their number had risen by 54% since 2011, and by 114% since 2006.

## Age profile

The Indigenous population of South West HHS has an age profile that is younger than the non-Indigenous population, with a much lower median age (23 vs 40 years).

For the region's Indigenous population in 2016:

- ⌘ The average age was 29 years in 2016, with half the population aged under 23 years (the median age).  
The largest 5-year age groups were 5–9 years (13%), 0–4 years (12%) and 10–14 years (11%).
- ⌘ The median age was 3 years higher than in 2011 and similar to in 2006.

Proportionally, the biggest increases since 2011 were of 65+ year olds (43% more), 50–54 year olds (38% more) and 55–59 year olds (26% more).

- ⌘ 175 Indigenous people (6%) were aged 65+ years, compared with 16% of non-Indigenous residents.
- ⌘ There were noticeably more males than females aged 55–59 years, 5–9 years and 0–4 years.

The average age was 11 years younger than for the non-Indigenous residents; the median age was 17 years younger.

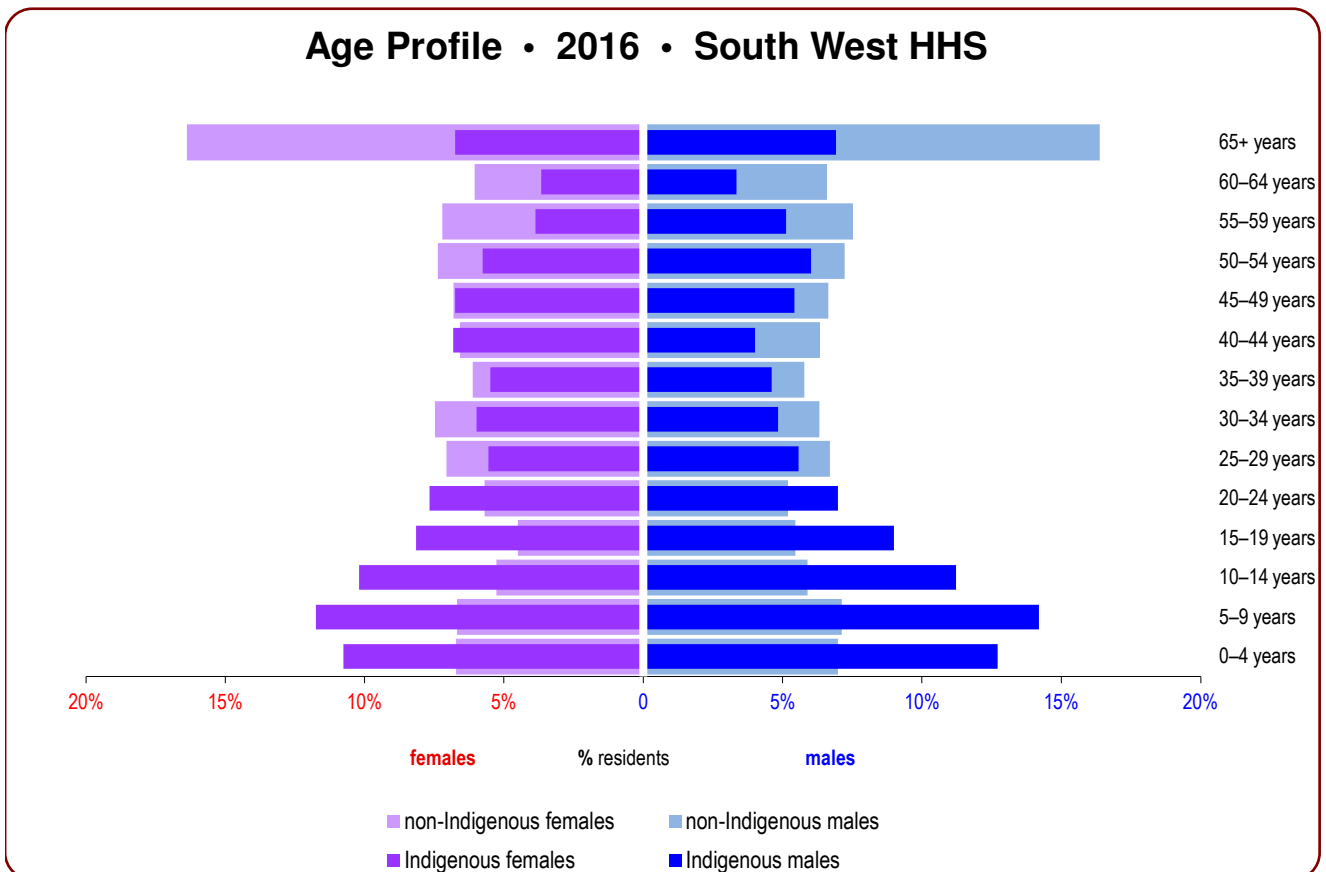
Non-Indigenous population: about 7% were 5–9 years and also 0–4 years and 6% were 10–14 years.

The median age of Indigenous people in Queensland had risen by 2 years since 2011, but had changed little since 2006.

Among the State's Indigenous population, the increases since 2011 were: 65+ year olds (54%); 50–54 year olds (33%); and 55–59 year olds (41%).

The number aged 65+ was 43% higher than in 2011; the percentage of people this age was up by 2% since 2011, when it was 4%.

There were many more females than males among those aged 40–44 years, and those aged 45–49 years and 30–34 years.



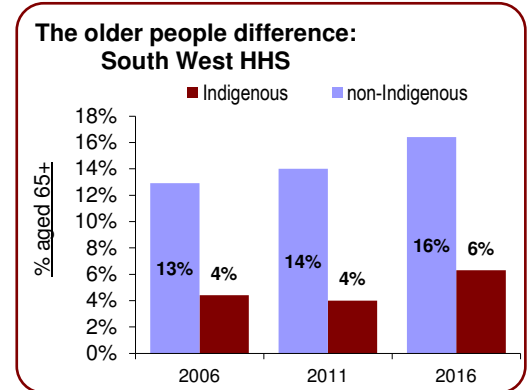
## Population Indicators

### The older people difference

% aged 65+ in population

Commonly, Indigenous communities have a lower proportion of people aged over 65, due to a shorter average life-span and higher birth rates.

- ⌘ In 2016, 6.3% of the region's Indigenous residents were aged 65 or over, compared with 16.4% of non-Indigenous residents. The older people difference was -10%.
- ⌘ The older people difference had changed little since 2011, after having increased by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The older people difference in Queensland was -11%. It had widened by 1% since 2011 and widened by 1% over the previous five years.

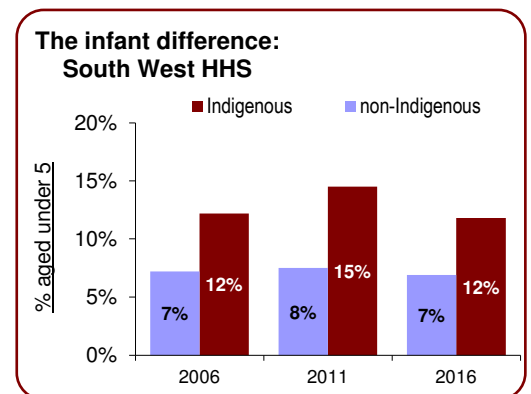


### The infant difference

% aged under 5 in population

Indigenous communities generally have a higher proportion of young people due to larger families and fewer older people.

- ⌘ In 2016, 11.8% of the region's Indigenous residents were infants, compared with 7% of non-Indigenous residents. The infant difference was +5%.
- ⌘ The infant difference had closed by 2% since 2011, after having widened by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The infant difference in Queensland was +6%. It had closed by 1% since 2011 and changed little over 2006 to 2011.

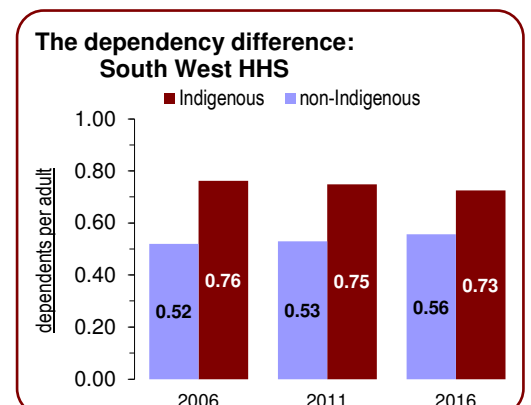


### The dependency difference

ratio of dependents to working age adults

The dependency ratio is the average number of people of dependent age (under 15 or 65+) for each person of working age. The national average is 0.5 dependents per adult. A higher ratio means each person of working age has more dependents to support, on average.

- ⌘ In 2016, the region's Indigenous community had a dependency ratio of 0.73, compared with 0.56 for the non-Indigenous community. The Indigenous dependency ratio was 0.17 higher.
- ⌘ The dependency difference had decreased by 0.05 since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The dependency difference in Queensland was 0.14 and had closed by 0.06 since 2011. It had closed by 0.04 over 2006 to 2011.





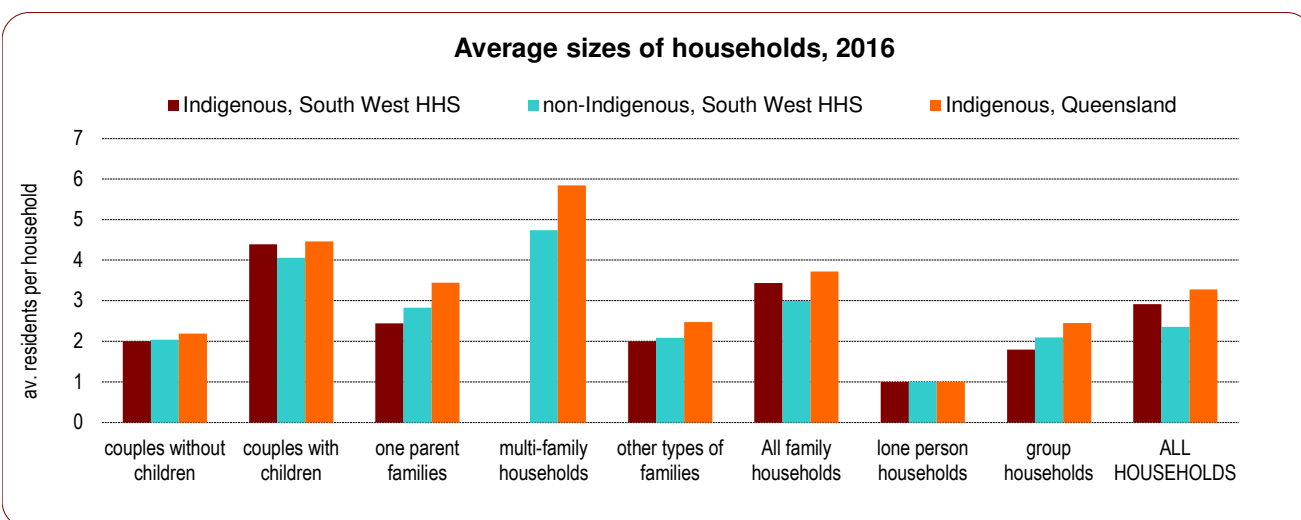
## Household types and sizes

In 2016, the 2,786 Indigenous residents of South West HHS were living in 1,147 households, 2% more than in 2011

The main types of Indigenous households\* in the health region in 2016 were:

- ⌘ Almost three in ten were couples with children (326 households, or 28%). similar to non-Indigenous here
- ⌘ Almost three in ten were one parent families (316 households, or 28%). 21% more than non-Indigenous
- ⌘ One in six were couples without children (200 households, or 17%). 13% less than non-Indigenous
- ⌘ One in five were one-person households (232 households, or 20%). 11% less than non-Indigenous
- ⌘ There were 31 multi-family households, and 17 other types of households.

\* Indigenous households are those with at least one Indigenous resident.



The region's Indigenous households had an average of 2.9 residents in 2016, which was 0.4 lower than in 2011, and 0.4 lower than in 2006.

- ⌘ Indigenous households here were 0.4 persons smaller than in Queensland, which averaged 3.3 residents. The average size of the State's Indigenous households was down by 0.1 since 2011.
- ⌘ The average size of non-Indigenous households in the health region was 2.4 residents; Indigenous households were 24% larger, on average. The average size of non-Indigenous households changed little from 2011.
- ⌘ The larger average size of Indigenous households was partly due to lower proportions of people living alone. Indigenous households: 20% lone person; Other households: 31%.
- ⌘ Indigenous couple families here had an average of 2.4 children, compared with 2.1 for non-Indigenous families. Indigenous families in Queensland averaged 2.5 children. The average size of Indigenous nuclear families was little changed since 2011. It was little different from 2006.
- ⌘ Indigenous one-parent families here averaged 1.4 children compared with 2.4 in Queensland (non-Indigenous one-parent families here had 1.8). The average number of children in one-parent families was down by 1.0 since 2011. It was down by 0.8 since 2006.
- ⌘ At an average size of 2.9 persons, the 1,147 Indigenous households had some 3,300 members, but only 2,516 Indigenous people were counted in these households. This suggests that some 830 people in the region's Indigenous households (one in four) did not identify as Indigenous in the Census.

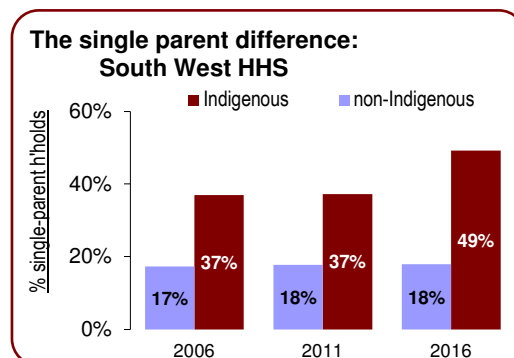
## Household Indicators

### The single parent difference

% of families with children having one parent

Single parent families often have low incomes because it is difficult for the parent to work without adequate child care and support. High proportions of one-parent families can indicate a higher need for support services.

- ⌘ In 2016, 49% of the region's Indigenous family households with children had one parent, compared with 18% of non-Indigenous families. The difference was +31%.
- ⌘ The single parent difference had increased by 12% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The single parent difference in Queensland was +19%. It had changed little since 2011 after having increased by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

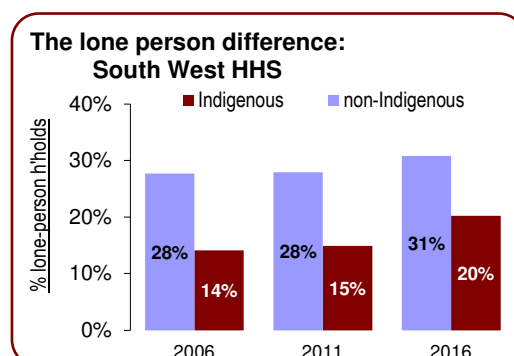


### The lone person difference

% of households with one person

Living alone is less common for Indigenous people than for others, so most communities have a large lone person difference. The difference is influenced locally by the availability of small dwellings.

- ⌘ In 2016, 20% of the region's Indigenous households were lone persons, compared with 31% of non-Indigenous households. The lone person difference was -11%.
- ⌘ The lone person difference had reduced by 2% since 2011, after having reduced by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The lone person difference in Queensland was -10% and had closed by 1% since 2011. It had changed little between 2006 and 2011.

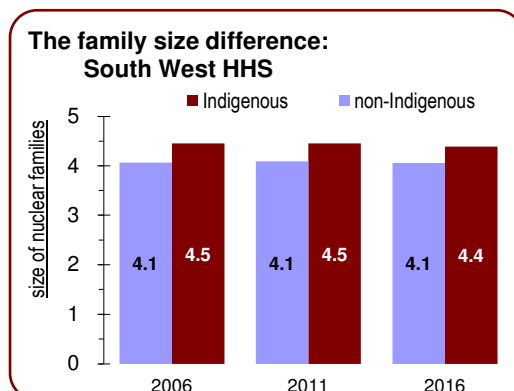


### The family size difference

average size of two-parent families

The family size difference is the gap between the average sizes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous 'nuclear families' (couples with children). Larger families have to spread their income among more members, so living standards tend to be lower.

- ⌘ In 2016, the average size of the region's Indigenous nuclear families was 4.4 persons (i.e. 2.4 children), compared with 4.1 persons (2.1 children) for non-Indigenous families, a difference of +0.3 children per family.
- ⌘ The family size difference had reduced by 0.1 since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The family size difference in Queensland was 0.5 children per family, and had decreased by 0.1 since 2011. It had increased by 0.1 from 2006 to 2011.



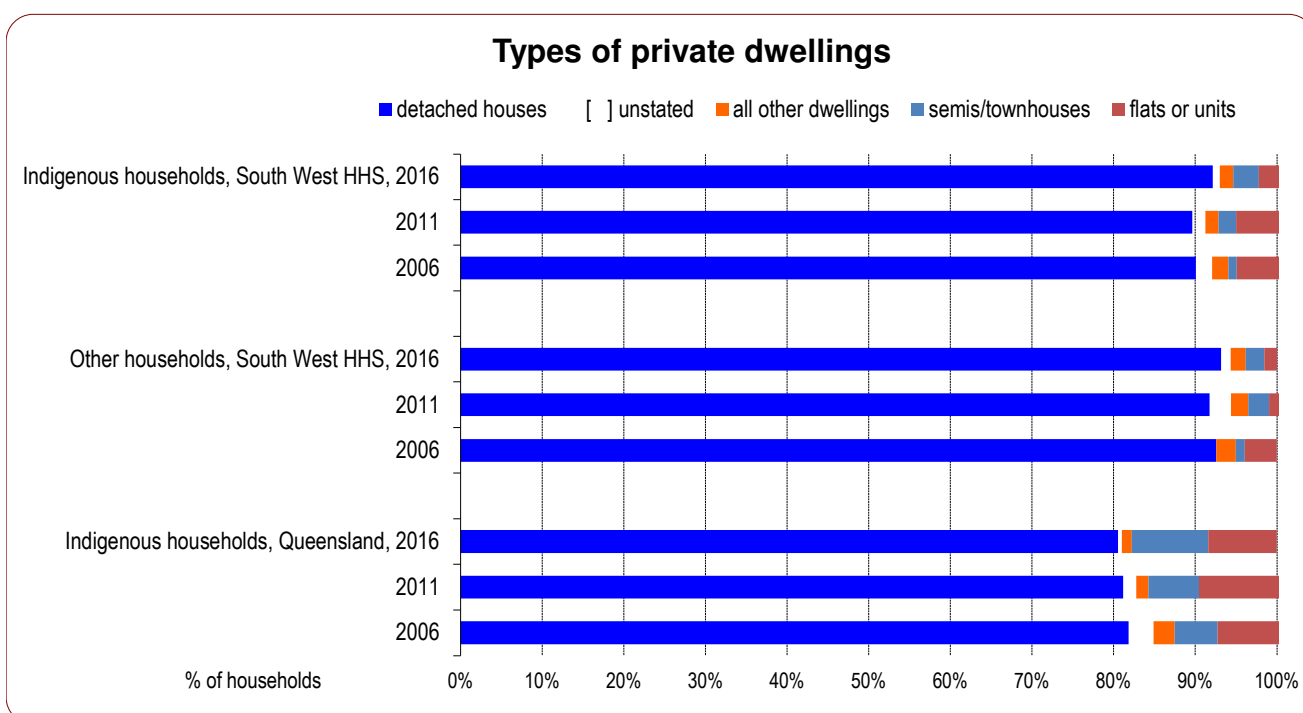
## Types of housing

In 2016, most Indigenous households in South West HHS (92%) were living in detached houses, with 3% living in flats or units and 3% living in semis/townhouses.

- ⌘ Compared with other households in South West HHS, 2% more Indigenous households lived in flats or units.
- ⌘ The proportion of Indigenous households living in detached houses in South West HHS was up by 2% since 2011, and was 2% higher than in 2006.

The proportion in detached houses was 12% more than that of Indigenous households in Queensland; the proportion in semis/townhouses was 6% lower.

The proportion of non-Indigenous households in detached houses in South West HHS was up by 1% since 2011 and up by 1% since 2006.



25 Indigenous people in the health region were counted living in institutional accommodation on Census night (eg. nursing homes, hospitals, boarding houses, correctional centres, barracks or boarding schools).

- ⌘ There were 40 Indigenous people living in institutional accommodation in South West HHS in 2011, and 132 in 2006.
- ⌘ There were 1.6 males per female among Indigenous people in institutional accommodation.

In 2016, there were 580 people living in institutional accommodation in South West HHS; 2% of the non-Indigenous population lived in institutions.

Note: very small numbers are randomly altered by the ABS to protect privacy, so are not precise.

No Indigenous people were reported living in improvised accommodation (eg. shacks, tents or sleeping out) in the health region on Census night.

- ⌘ This was virtually unchanged since 2011.

There were 22 non-Indigenous people reported in improvised accommodation in South West HHS in 2016.

## Housing costs and tenure

In 2016, Indigenous households in South West HHS most commonly lived in dwellings that were rented (56% of the households). Another 21% lived in dwellings that were being purchased, and 17% in homes that were fully owned.

⌘ The proportion of Indigenous households that rented, 56%, was 26% higher than the rate for other households here.

The proportion living in rented dwellings was down by 3% since 2011, and was 5% lower than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Indigenous households was \$178. It was \$136 in 2011 and \$112 in 2006.

⌘ The proportion living in dwellings that were being bought (21%) was 6% lower than for Other households.

The proportion living in mortgaged dwellings was little changed since 2011; and 2% higher than in 2006.

The median monthly mortgage paid by Indigenous households in the health region in 2016 was \$1,112. It was \$1,055 in 2011 and \$637 for 2006.

⌘ The proportion of Indigenous households in fully owned dwellings (17%) was 20% lower than for non-Indigenous households.

The proportion in fully owned dwellings was up by 3% since 2011; and 2% higher than in 2006.

Among Indigenous households, the proportion renting in South West HHS was 6% lower than the rate in Queensland.

30% of Other households in South West HHS were renting, similar to 2011, and 1% higher than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Other households in South West HHS was \$167. It was \$126 in 2011 and \$79 in 2006.

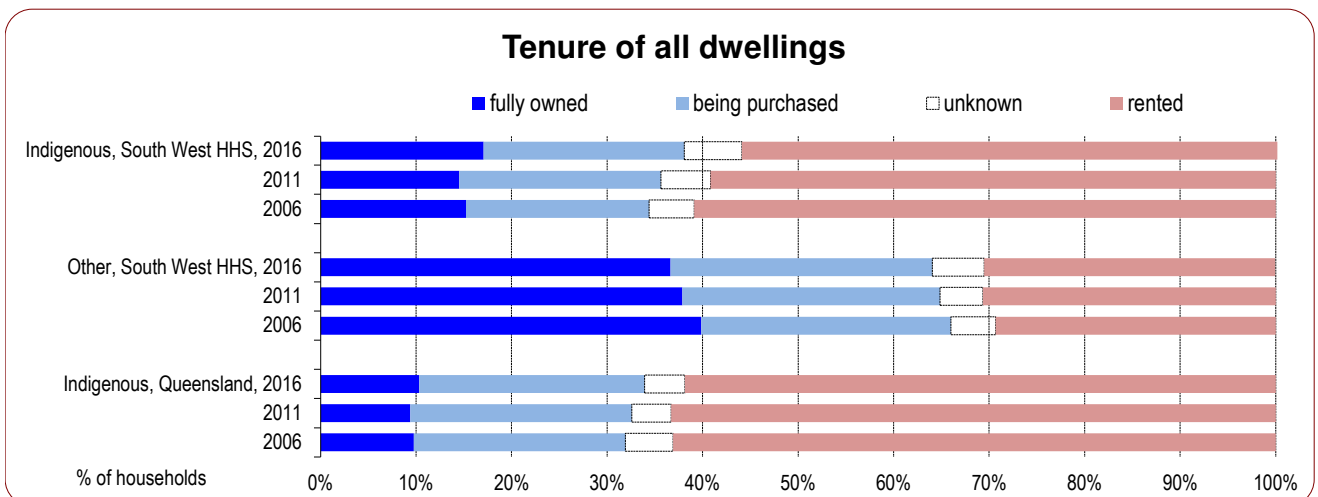
In Queensland, 24% of Indigenous households were home-buyers with a mortgage.

27% of the Other households in South West HHS had a mortgage, little changed since 2011, and up by 1% since 2006.

The median mortgage paid by Other households in South West HHS was \$1,210. It was \$1,241 in 2011 and \$819 in 2006.

The proportion of Indigenous households in fully owned dwellings in South West HHS was 7% higher than the average in Queensland.

The proportion of Other households in fully owned dwellings in South West HHS was down by 1% since 2011, and down by 3% since 2006.



Of 643 Indigenous rental households, 31% were managed by public housing and 28% were managed by real estate agents.

⌘ 201 Indigenous households lived in public housing (17% of all households).

This number had fallen by 47 since 2011.

Only 2% of the Other households lived in public housing. Indigenous households occupied 52% of public housing.

The number of Other households in public housing in South West HHS had fallen by 65.

## Housing Indicators

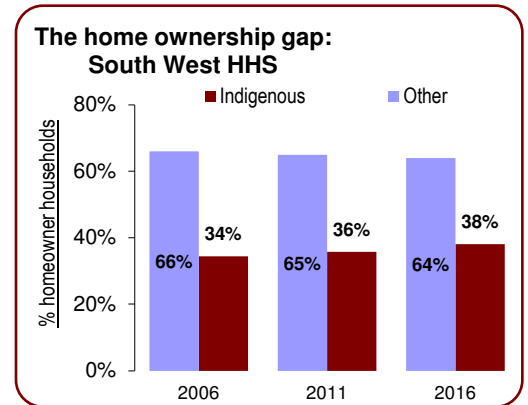
Note: these indicators are based on a small number of households so are not precise.

### The home ownership gap

% of households owning/buying their home

Ownership of a home is the main way that most Australians accumulate wealth and ensure secure accommodation.

- ⌘ In 2016, 38% of Indigenous households in South West HHS were either buying or owned their home, compared with 64% of Other households, a home ownership gap of -26%.
- ⌘ The gap had closed by 3% since 2011, after having closed by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The home ownership gap in Queensland was -30% and had closed by 2% since 2011. It had closed by 3% between 2006 and 2011.

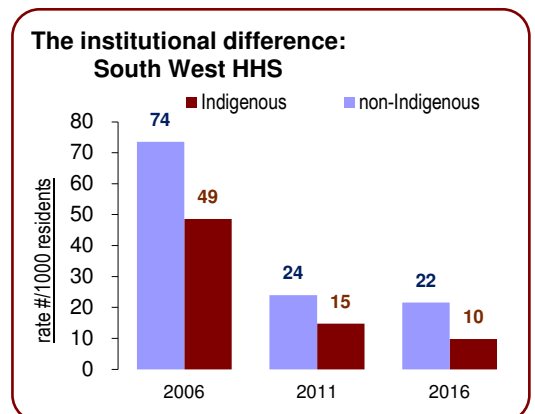


### The institutional difference

rate per 1000 of residents in non-private dwellings

Differences in proportion of people in institutional accommodation will reflect the nature and extent of these institutions in the area – they might include hotels, boarding houses, nursing homes, correctional centres, barracks or hospitals.

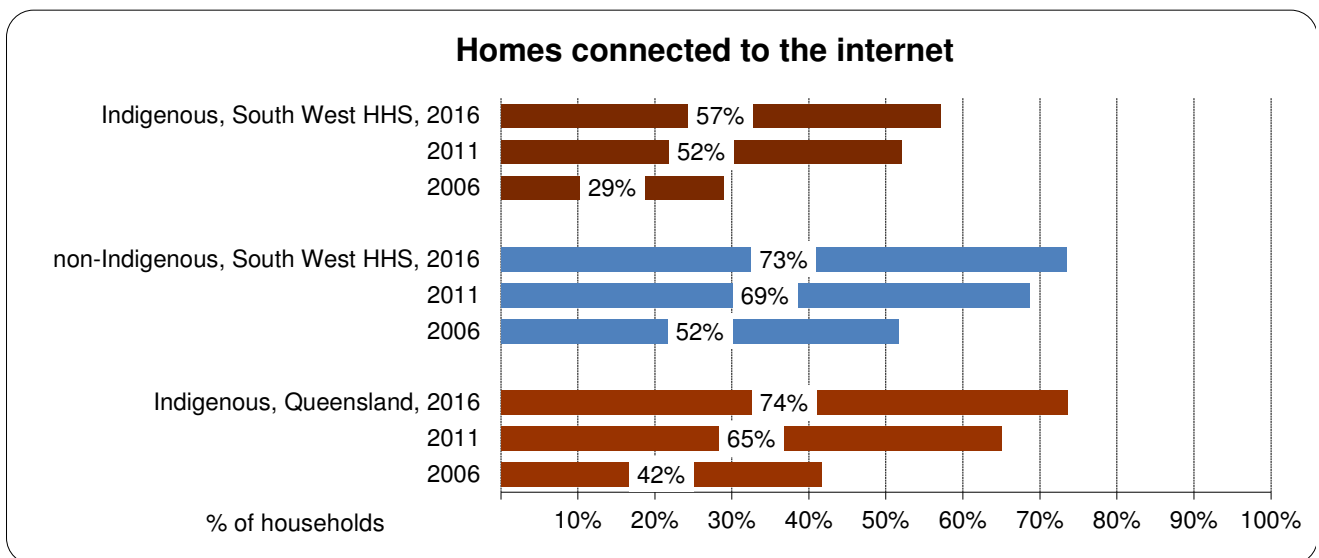
- ⌘ In 2016, there were 10 in every 1000 Indigenous residents in South West HHS living in institutional housing, compared with 22 per 1000 non-Indigenous residents. The institutional difference was -12 per 1000.
- ⌘ The institutional gap had increased by 3 per 1000 since 2011, after having decreased by 16 per 1000 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The institutional difference in Queensland was 15 per 1000 and had increased by 1 per 1000 since 2011. It had fallen by 1 per 1000 between 2006 and 2011.



## Internet @ home

In 2016, 57% of Indigenous households in South West HHS had an internet connection while 38% did not (441 households); 5% did not answer the question.

- ⌘ The proportion of Indigenous households connected to the internet was 17% lower than in Queensland (74% connected), ... and 16% lower than non-Indigenous households in South West HHS (where 73% of homes were connected).
- ⌘ The proportion of Indigenous households with internet was up by 5% from 52% in 2011. The proportion was up by 8% for Indigenous households in Queensland. It was up by 5% for non-Indigenous households in this health region (from 69% in 2011).
- ⌘ In 2006, 29% of the region's Indigenous people had the internet at home. This compared with 42% of Indigenous people in Queensland and 52% of non-Indigenous people in this health region.



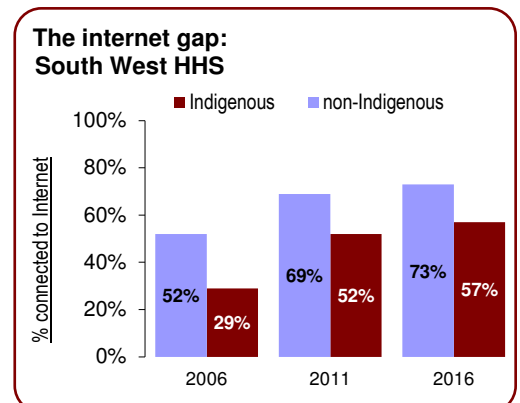
## The internet gap

% of households with an internet connection

The internet is increasingly important as a source of communication and exchange, and is becoming an essential service.

- ⌘ In 2016, 57% of the region's Indigenous households had an internet connection, compared with 73% of other households, an internet gap of -16%.
- ⌘ The internet gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having closed by 6% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The internet gap in Queensland was 10% and had narrowed by 4% since 2011. It narrowed by 7% between 2006 and 2011.

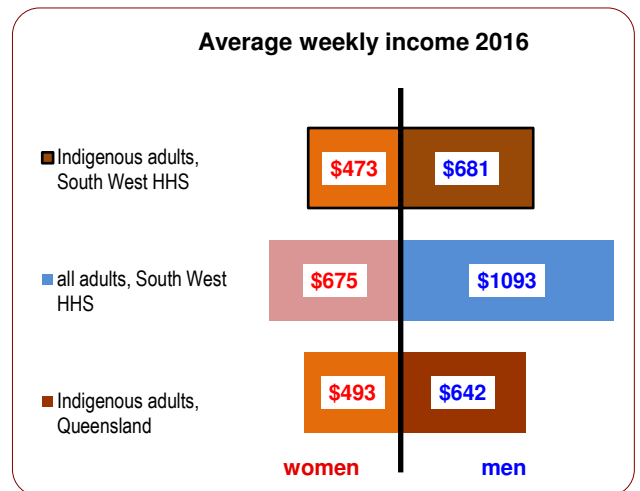
The 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses had different questions about the internet.



## Personal income

In 2016, the average weekly income of Indigenous adults (aged 15+) in South West HHS was about \$615, which was close to that of Indigenous adults in Queensland (\$597), but 37% less than the average of all adults in the health region (\$972).

- ⌘ Indigenous men in South West HHS averaged \$681 a week (62% of the overall male average here). Indigenous women averaged \$473 a week (70% of the overall female average).
- ⌘ The average weekly income of Indigenous men was \$39 higher in the health region than in Queensland. The average weekly income of Indigenous women here was \$20 lower than in Queensland.
- ⌘ Half of the Indigenous adults received under \$487 a week (the median income).



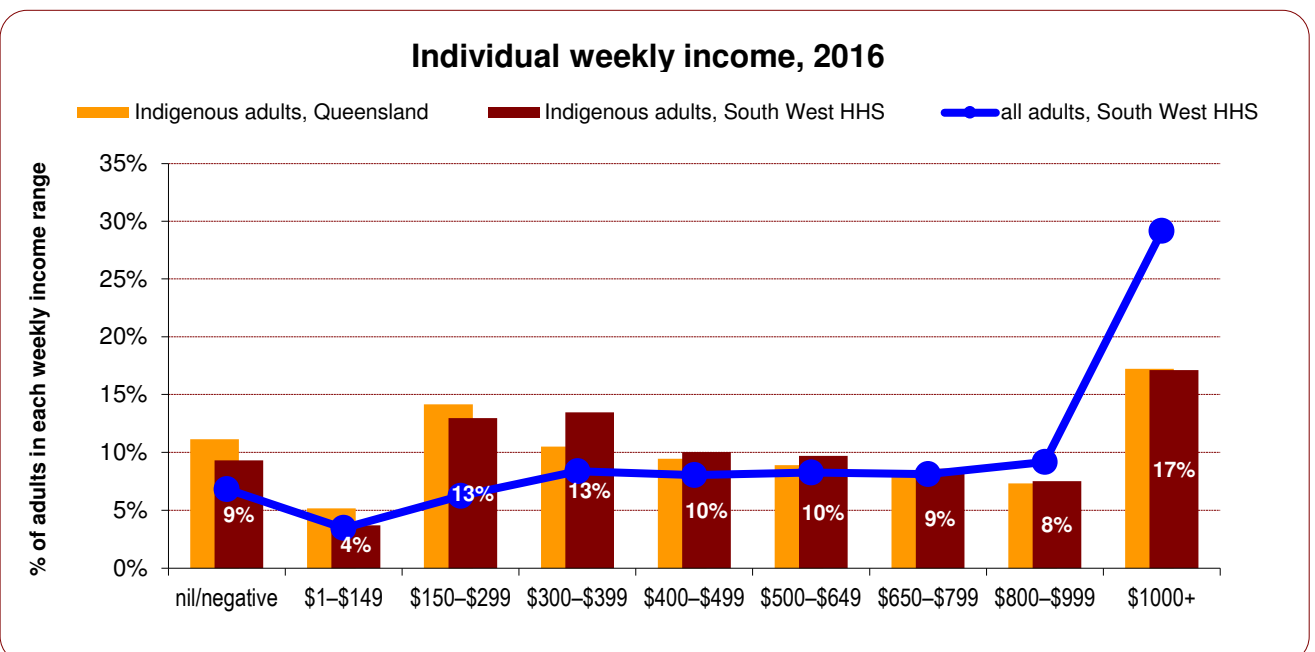
The income distribution pattern among Indigenous adults in South West HHS was similar to Indigenous adults in Queensland; it was somewhat different from all adults in the health region.

Compared with Indigenous adults across Queensland:

- ⌘ proportionally more Indigenous adults here were in the \$300–\$399 and \$500–\$649 ranges.
- ⌘ fewer were in the nil/negative and \$1–\$149 ranges.

Compared with all adults in this health region:

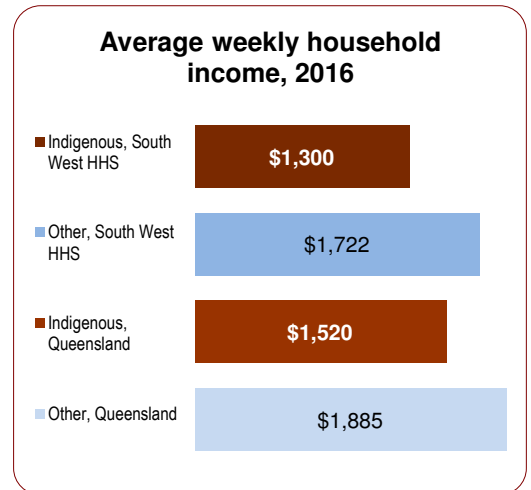
- ⌘ more Indigenous adults were in the \$150–\$299 and \$300–\$399 ranges, and in the nil/negative range.
- ⌘ proportionally fewer were in the \$1000+ range.



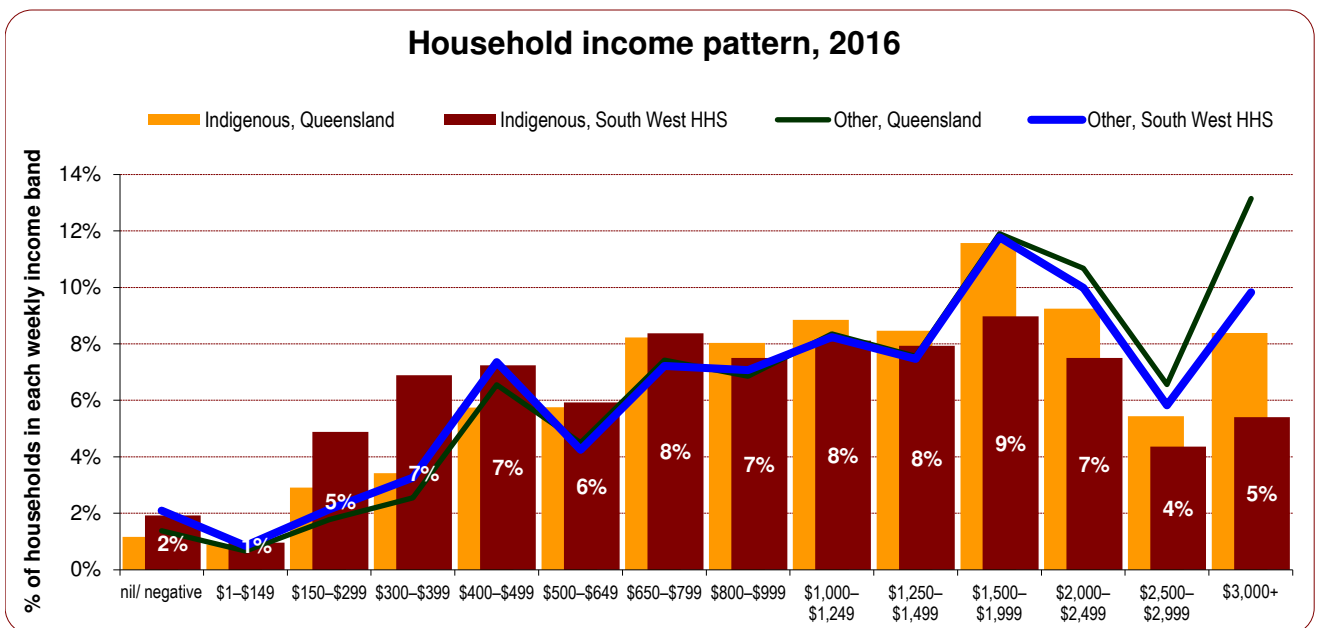
## Household income

In 2016, the average income of 1,155 Indigenous households in South West HHS was about \$1,300 a week. Household income is not a strong indicator of well-being because the benefit the income gives household members is affected by the household's size.

- ⌘ The average Indigenous household income in South West HHS was 14% less than the average of Indigenous households in Queensland (\$1,520 a week).
- ⌘ It was 24% less than the average of other households in South West HHS – \$1,722 a week.
- ⌘ Half the Indigenous households received less than \$984 a week (the 'median household income').
- ⌘ Indigenous households in the health region had an average size of 2.9 residents, compared with 2.4 for non-Indigenous households. Household incomes thus had to be spread among more people, compared to other households.



The income distribution pattern among Indigenous households in South West HHS was similar to the State's Indigenous households, and partly different from other households in the health region.



Compared with Indigenous households across Queensland:

- ⌘ more Indigenous households here were in the \$300-\$399 and \$150-\$299 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Indigenous households were in the \$3,000+ and \$1,500-\$1,999 income ranges.

Compared with non-Indigenous households in this health region:

- ⌘ more Indigenous households were in the \$300-\$399 and \$150-\$299 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Indigenous households were in the \$3,000+ and \$1,500-\$1,999 income ranges, or in the \$2,000-\$2,499 range.



## Income Indicators

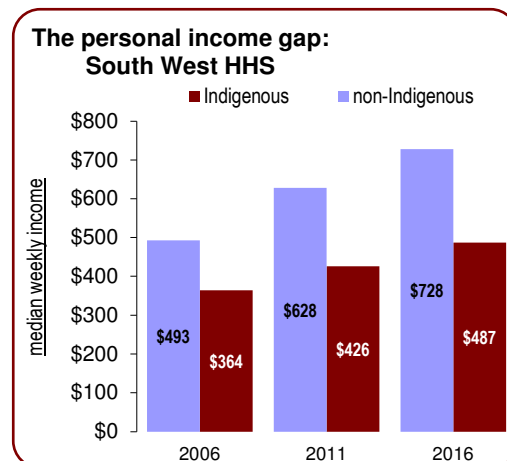
Note: these indicators are based on a small number so are not precise.

### The personal income gap

median weekly income of adults (15+)

Income is a major contributor to well-being. One indicator of disadvantage is a low median income – the amount which fewer than half the people earn.

- ⌘ In 2016, the median income of 1,783 Indigenous adults in South West HHS was \$487, which was 67% that of non-Indigenous adults here (\$728). The personal income gap was -33%.
- ⌘ The personal income gap had widened by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 6% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The personal income gap in Queensland was -32% and had narrowed by 3% since 2011. It had increased 1% between 2006 and 2011.

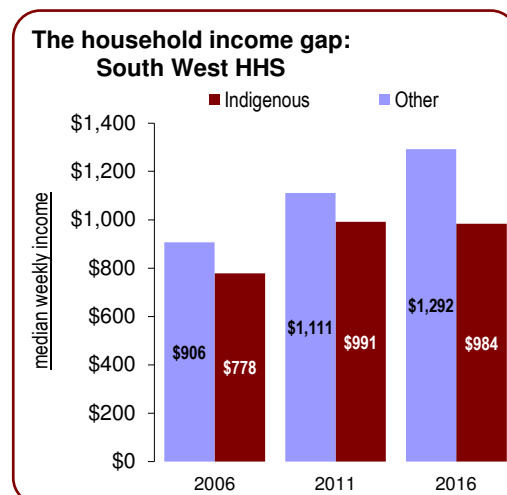


### The household income gap

median weekly income of households

Another indicator of disadvantage is a low median household income; half of all households receive less than this amount. However, Indigenous households tend to be larger, with more dependents, so household income does not reflect disadvantage as well as individual income does.

- ⌘ In 2016, the median income of 1,155 Indigenous households in South West HHS was \$984, compared with \$1,292 for Other households in the health region. This was 24% lower – this is the household income gap.
- ⌘ The household income gap had widened by about 13% since 2011, after having narrowed by about 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The household income gap in Queensland was 13% and had closed by 1% since 2011. It had increased by 1% between 2006 and 2011.



[‘Other’ households are those that did not include any Indigenous people AND households that did not say.]

# Employment

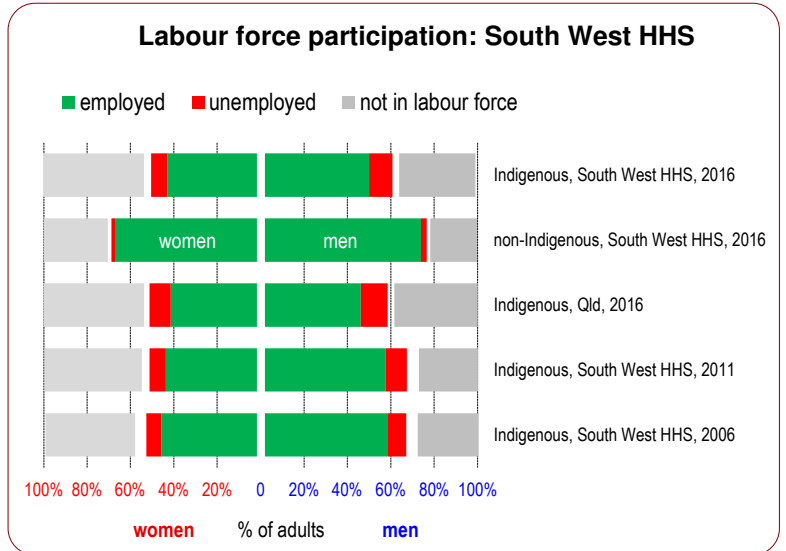
Employment is a prime determinant of a community's income, so it is an important indicator of well-being. In South West HHS, 834 out of 1,783 Indigenous adults (15+) were employed in 2016 – 47% of adults.

The workforce participation rate (employed + unemployed) was 55% of all Indigenous adults aged 15+.

Indigenous workforce participation was ...

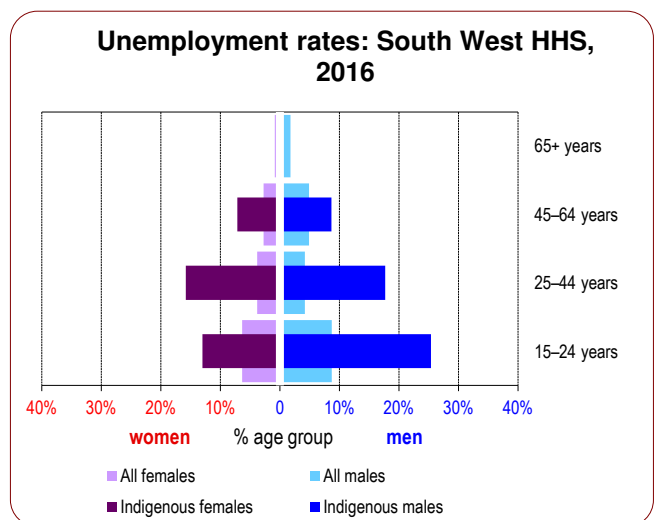
- ⌘ lower for women at 50% than for men at 60%.
- ⌘ 18% lower than the average for non-Indigenous adults in the health region.
- ⌘ similar the average for Indigenous adults in Queensland.

The Indigenous workforce participation rate here was 4% lower than in 2011 and 4% lower than in 2006.

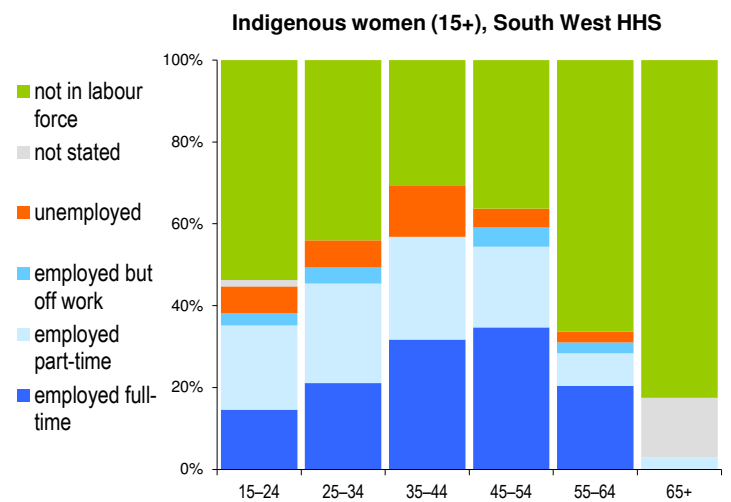
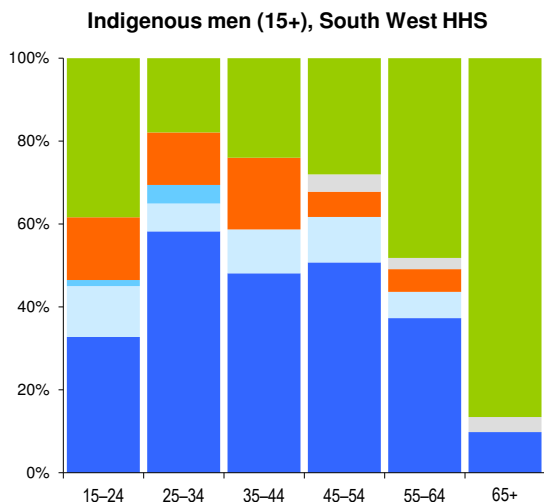


In 2016, the Indigenous unemployment rate in South West HHS was 16%, with 156 people out of work.

- ⌘ This rate was much higher than the 3% rate among non-Indigenous adults here.
- ⌘ The Indigenous unemployment rate was 18% for men and 15% for women.
- ⌘ The Indigenous unemployment rate was 1% higher than in 2011, and 3% higher than in 2006.
- ⌘ Indigenous unemployment was highest among those aged 15–24 years (18%) and 25–44 years (16%). It was lowest among those aged 45–64 years (11%).



These graphs show the employment patterns for men and women, by age, in 2016.



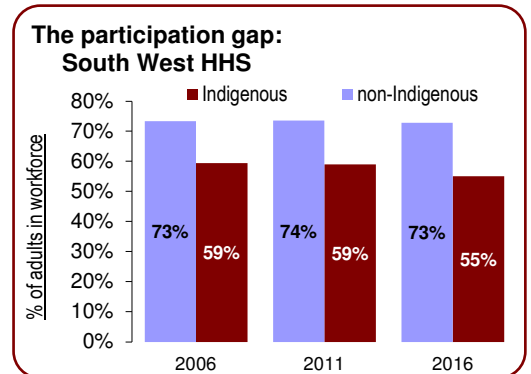
## Workforce Gap Indicators

### The participation gap

% of adults 15+ in labour force

Workforce participation, measured as the proportion of adults in the workforce, is an important indicator of a community's income and independence. When participation is low, communities become more dependent on income support, and poverty increases.

- ⌘ In 2016 in South West HHS, there were 982 Indigenous people in the workforce, 55% of the adult residents. The proportion of non-Indigenous adults in the workforce was 73%, so the participation gap was -18%.
- ⌘ The participation gap had widened by 3% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The participation gap in Queensland was -11% and had changed little since 2011. It had widened by 2% between 2006 and 2011.

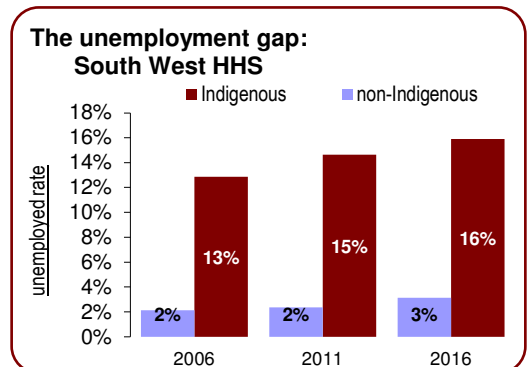


### The unemployment gap

% of unemployed in workforce

High unemployment indicates an absence of jobs in occupations for which local people have had training. High unemployment rates have many damaging effects on those unemployed and their community.

- ⌘ In 2016, 16% of the Indigenous workforce in South West HHS were unemployed (156 people), and 3% of the non-Indigenous workforce were unemployed. The unemployment gap was +13%.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap had widened by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap between in Queensland was +13% and had widened by 1% since 2011. It had widened by 3% between 2006 and 2011.

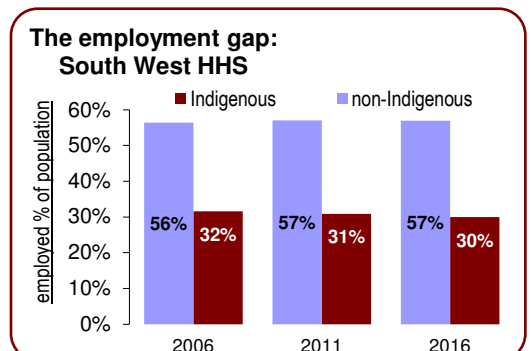


### The employment gap

employed adults as % of population

A useful indicator of the financial strength of a community is the proportion of the total population who are employed. A lower proportion means that, on average, each employed person has more people to support.

- ⌘ In 2016, 30% of the Indigenous population of South West HHS were employed (834 people), and 57% of the non-Indigenous workforce were employed. The employment gap was -27%.
- ⌘ The employment gap had widened by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The employment gap in Queensland was -21% and had closed by 1% since 2011. It had widened by 2% between 2006 and 2011.



## Education participation by age

Having high proportions of people in education is a good indicator of positive individual and community development. In South West HHS, almost three in ten Indigenous residents (785 people) were attending an educational institution in 2016.

Indigenous participation in education varied with age. In education in South West HHS were:

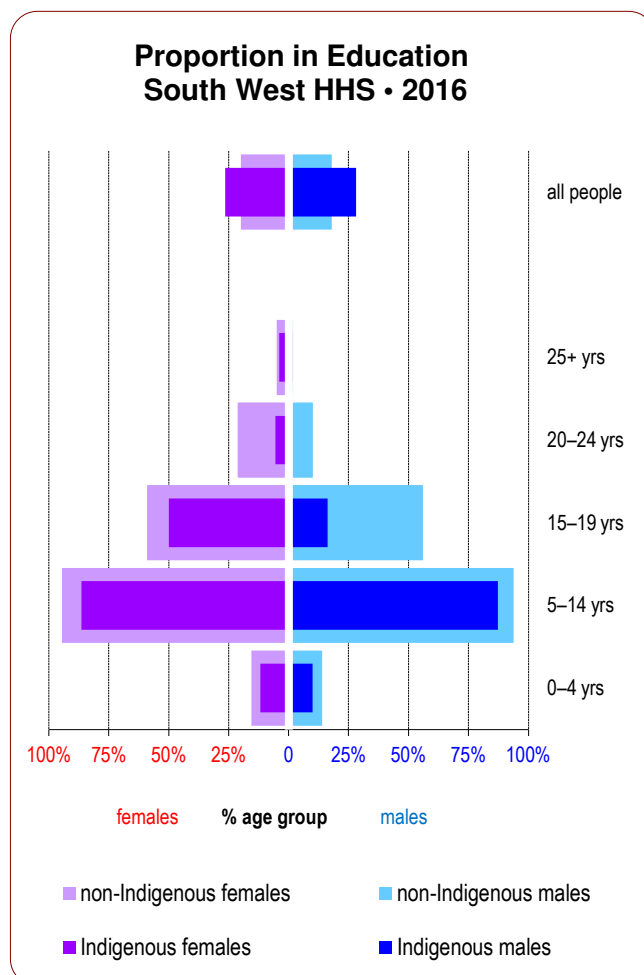
- 15% of the 0–4 year olds
- 87% of the 5–14 year olds
- 46% of the 15–19 year olds
- 4% of the 20–24 year olds
- 3% of those aged 25+.

Overall participation in education by Indigenous residents here, 28%, is much higher than for non-Indigenous, 19%. This is partly because the Indigenous population has a much higher proportion of children under 18. Relative to non-Indigenous people of the same age, there were, in education:

- similar proportions of 25+ year olds
- 11% fewer Indigenous 20–24 year olds
- 12% fewer Indigenous 15–19 year olds
- 7% fewer Indigenous 5–14 year olds
- similar proportions of 0–4 year olds

South West HHS's Indigenous population had 101 males per 100 females in education. This ratio varied with age. Of those in education, there were:

- 1.1 females per male among 0–4 year olds
- 1.1 males per female among 5–14 year olds
- 1.2 females per male among 15–19 year olds
- only females among 20–24 year olds
- 2.5 females per male among 25+ year olds



Since 2011, overall participation in education by Indigenous people in South West HHS had increased by 3%, but this masks changes among the age groups.

- The proportion of 0–4 year olds in education was up by 9% since 2011; the rate was up by 4% since 2006.
- The proportion of 5–14 year olds in education was up by 10% since 2011, and steady since 2006.
- The proportion of 15–19 year olds in education was up by 3% since 2011, and up by 5% since 2006.
- The proportion of 20–24 year olds in education was up by 3% since 2011; the rate was up by 1% over the decade.
- The proportion of 25+ year olds in education was steady since 2011. The rate was up by 1% from 2006.

## Current education

In 2016, some 722 Indigenous children and teenagers in South West HHS were attending school, with 47 in pre-school, 425 in primary school, and 250 in high school.

The number of Indigenous pre-schoolers was little changed since 2011; it was down by 34% since 2006.

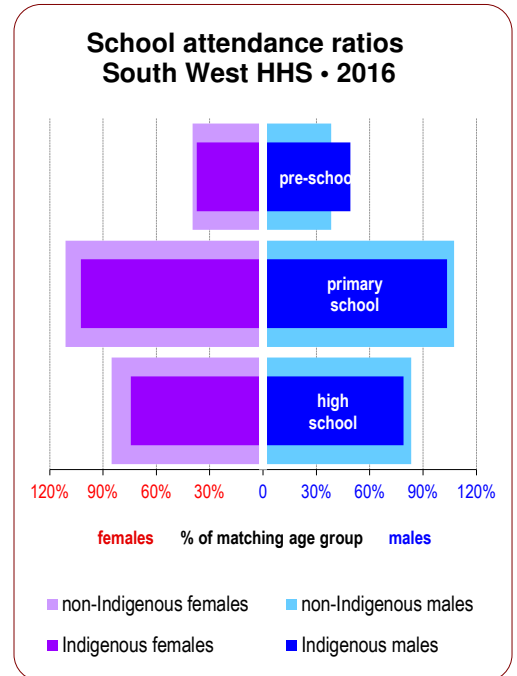
- ⌘ The 47 Indigenous pre-schoolers equalled 35% of the Indigenous children aged 4–5.
- ⌘ In Queensland, Indigenous pre-schoolers equalled 40% of the number aged 4–5 years. Non-Indigenous pre-schoolers in this health region represented 40% of their age group.

The number of Indigenous primary students (425) was up by 22 or 5% since 2011; it was 10% lower than in 2006.

- ⌘ Indigenous primary students were 99% of the number aged 6–11.
- ⌘ This rate was 8% lower than the Indigenous rate in Queensland and 40% higher than for non-Indigenous children here.

The number of Indigenous secondary students (250) was down by 4 since 2011 and 18% higher than 2006.

- ⌘ Indigenous secondary students were 83% of the Indigenous children aged 12–17.
- ⌘ This rate was 2% lower than the rate for non-Indigenous secondary students here; it was 4% higher than for Indigenous students in Queensland.



53 Indigenous residents of South West HHS were in post-school education in 2016. This was 7 more than in 2011, and 5 more than in 2006.

In 2016, there were a few Indigenous 15–24 year olds from the health region enrolled in TAFE.

- ⌘ 4% of Indigenous 15–24 year olds in Queensland attended TAFE, with 50% full-time.
- ⌘ 5% of non-Indigenous 15–24 year olds in this health region attended TAFE, with 22% full-time.

10 Indigenous 15–24 year olds from the health region attended university or other tertiary education (2% of the number this age); 70% were full-time.

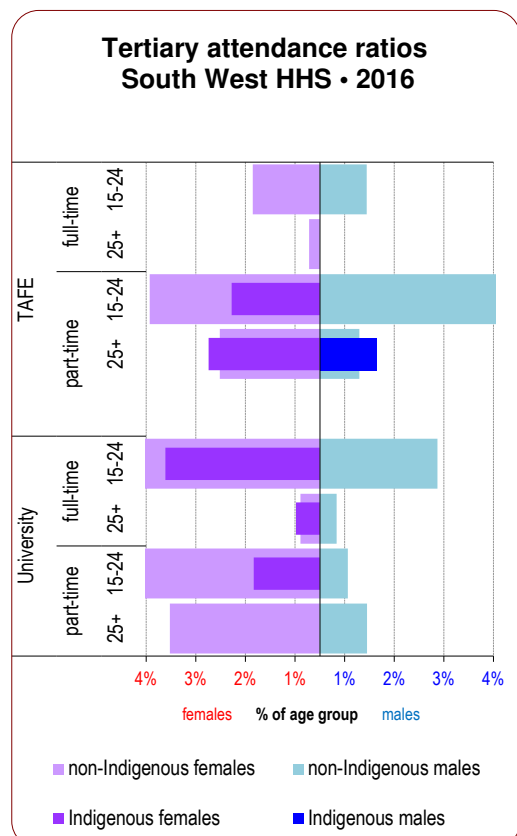
- ⌘ 6% of Indigenous 15–24 year olds in Queensland were at university, with 84% full-time.
- ⌘ 7% of the non-Indigenous 15–24 year olds in this health region were at university, with 63% full-time.

There were 15 Indigenous students aged 25+ from South West HHS attending TAFE in 2016 (1% of those aged 25–64), with 20% full-time.

- ⌘ 2% of Indigenous 25–64 year olds in Queensland attended TAFE, with 37% full-time.
- ⌘ 2% of the non-Indigenous 25–64 year olds in this health region attended TAFE, with 9% full-time.

A few Indigenous residents aged 25+ from South West HHS were in university or other tertiary in 2016.

- ⌘ 3% of Indigenous 25–64 year olds in Queensland were at university, with 49% full-time.
- ⌘ 2% of non-Indigenous 25–64 year olds in this health region were at university, with 18% full-time.



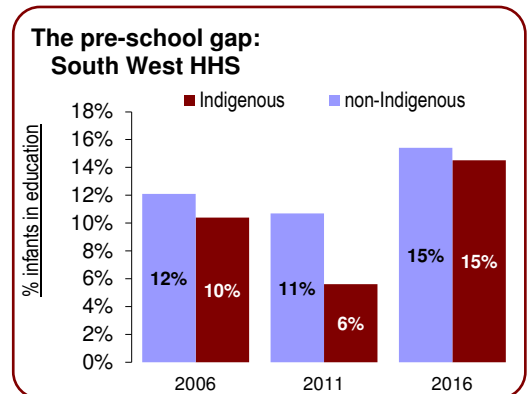
## Education Attendance Indicators

### The pre-school gap

% of infants under 5 in education

Early childhood education is an important contributor to success in school and later education, and makes paid work more feasible for parents.

- ⌘ In 2016, 15% of Indigenous infants in South West HHS were in education, compared with 15% of non-Indigenous infants. The pre-school gap was -1%.
- ⌘ The pre-school gap had closed by 4% since 2011, after having widened by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The pre-school rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous infants in Queensland were 15% and 18% in 2016, a gap of -3%. This gap had narrowed by 1% since 2011.

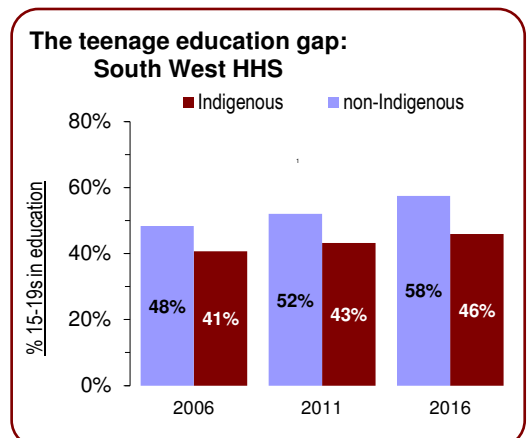


### The teenage education gap

% of 15–19 year-olds in education

Education of older teenagers is vital for their future employment, so low levels of participation in education indicates disadvantage.

- ⌘ In 2016, 46% of South West HHS Indigenous teenagers aged 15–19 were in education, compared with 58% of non-Indigenous teenagers. The teenage education gap was -12%.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap had widened by 3% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous in Queensland was -17% and had narrowed by 2% since 2011. It widened by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

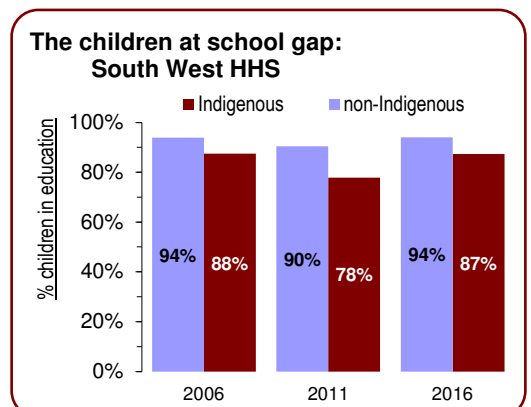


### The children at school gap

% of 5–14 year olds in education

School is compulsory for children up to the age of 16. Low schooling rates suggest truancy and/or underage school leavers.

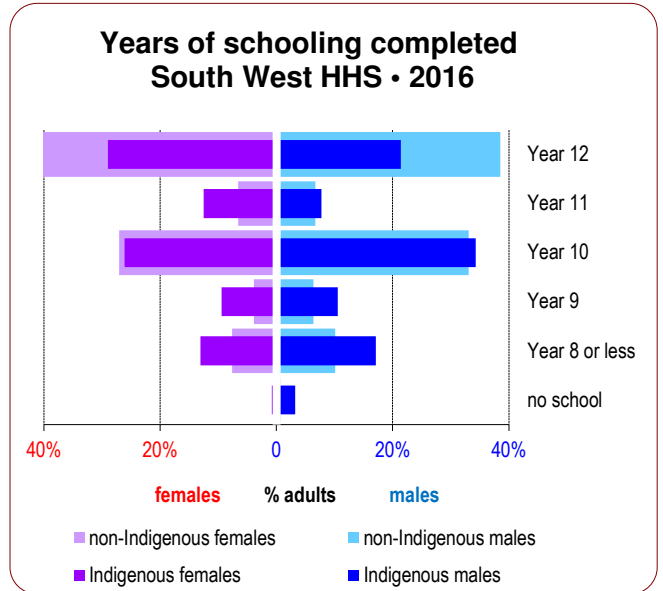
- ⌘ In 2016, 87% of South West HHS Indigenous children aged 5–14 were in education, and 94% of non-Indigenous of that age were. The schooling gap was -7%.
- ⌘ The schooling gap had closed by 6% since 2011, after having widened by 7% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The schooling gap in Queensland was -5% and had narrowed by 3% since 2011. It changed little over 2006 to 2011.



# Schooling levels

In 2016, the Indigenous adults (15+) in South West HHS had completed an average of Year 9.9 of school, compared with Year 10.6 for non-Indigenous adults. In Queensland, Indigenous adults averaged Year 10.5.

- ⌘ 433 Indigenous adults in the health region had completed Year 12 which was 10% more than in 2011, and 39% more than in 2006.
- 26% of Indigenous adults in the health region had completed Year 12, which was 19% lower than the rate for non-Indigenous adults.
- 38% of Indigenous adults across Queensland had completed Year 12.
- ⌘ 66% of Indigenous adults in the health region had completed at least Year 10, which was 10% lower than for Indigenous adults in Queensland.
- ⌘ Of the others, 10% had completed Year 9 and 16% had completed Year 8 or lower; 23 adults did not go to school (1%); 7% did not say.



The average Year of school is calculated by multiplying the number aged 15+ who had finished each Year's school by the Year, assuming those who replied '8 years or less' averaged 7 years schooling and those who responded 'no school' had 0 years. Those who did not respond and those still at school are npt included.

The average Year when Indigenous people in South West HHS left school had changed little since 2011, and was up by 5 months since 2006.

Over the decade to 2016, there was an increase of 39% in the number who had finished Year 12, and a decrease of 9% in the number who had finished school at Year 11.

For Indigenous adults in this health region, average schooling:

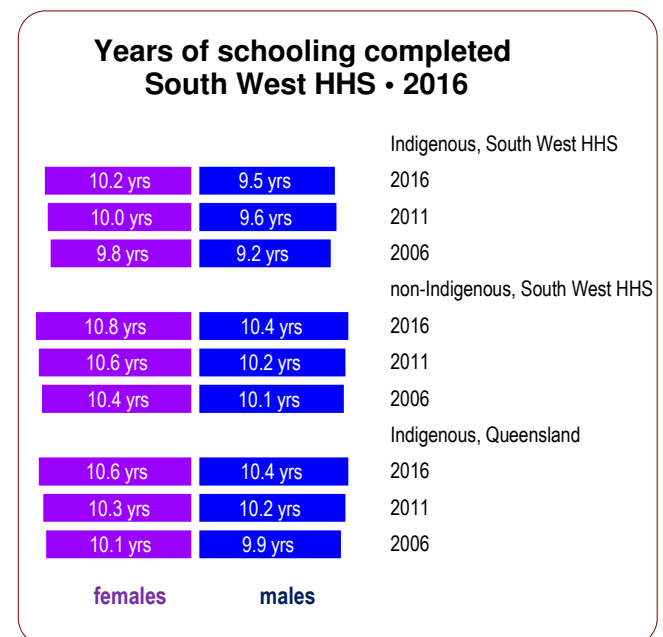
- ⌘ for men, had fallen by one month since 2011, and had risen by 4 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women, had risen by 2 months since 2011, and had risen by 5 months since 2006.

For non-Indigenous adults, average schooling:

- ⌘ for men had risen by 2 months since 2011, and had risen by 4 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women had risen by 2 months since 2011, and had risen by 5 months since 2006.

The average schooling of Indigenous adults in Queensland:

- ⌘ for men had risen by 2 months since 2011, and risen by 6 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women had risen by 4 months since 2011, and risen by 6 months since 2006.



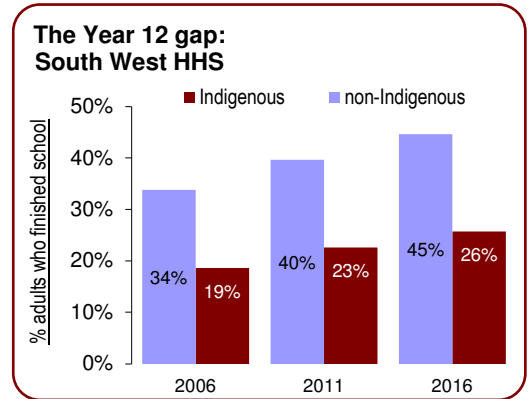
## Education Achievement Indicators

### The Year 12 gap

% of adults (15+) who have left school

The proportion of adults who have completed Year 12 is an important indicator of a community's educational resources. Nationally, over half of all adults (58%) have completed Year 12.

- ⌘ In 2016, 26% of the region's 1682 Indigenous adults had completed Year 12, compared with 45% of non-Indigenous adults. The Year 12 gap was -19%.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap had widened by 2% since 2011, after having widened by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap in Queensland was -19% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It widened by 1% between 2006 and 2011.

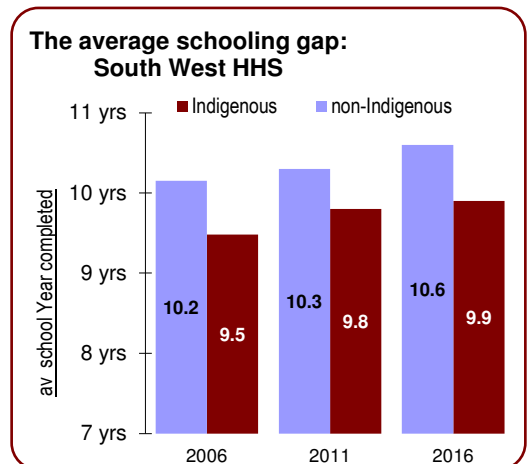


### The average schooling gap

average school Year completed

The average Year of schooling completed by adults is an indicator of a community's educational resources. Nationally, the average is Year 11.

- ⌘ In 2016, the 1682 Indigenous adults in South West HHS had completed an average of Year 9.9 at school, compared with Year 10.6 for non-Indigenous adults. The average schooling gap was -0.7 years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap had widened by 2 months since 2011, after having closed by 2 months over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap in Queensland was 6 months. It had changed little since 2011, after having changed little between 2006 and 2011.





## Tertiary qualifications

The type and extent of post-school qualifications has a major influence on the earning capacities of a community. In the 2016 Census, 594 Indigenous adults in South West HHS reported having tertiary educational qualifications, which was 33% of the number aged 15+.

By comparison, 44% of Indigenous adults in Queensland and 48% of non-Indigenous adults in South West HHS had a tertiary qualification.

40 Indigenous adults in the health region had a degree or higher qualification (2%), with a few having a postgraduate degree.

- ⌘ In Queensland, 5% of the Indigenous residents had a degree or higher qualification.
- ⌘ 13% of the non-Indigenous residents of South West HHS had a degree or more.

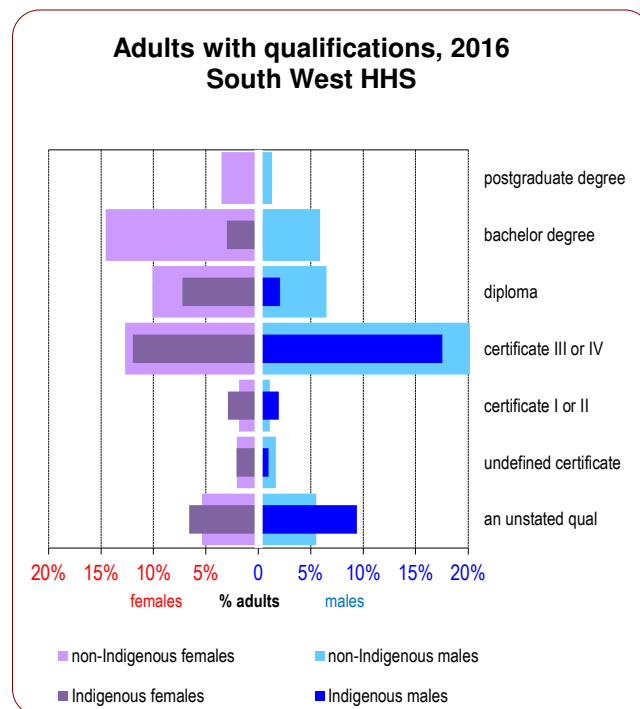
The most common highest qualification held by Indigenous adults here were:

- certificate III or IV, held by 272 people (15%);
- an unstated qual, by 130 people (7%);
- diploma, by 81 people (5%).

While the number of Indigenous adults in South West HHS fell by 4% from 2011 to 2016, the number with qualifications rose by 5%. There were:

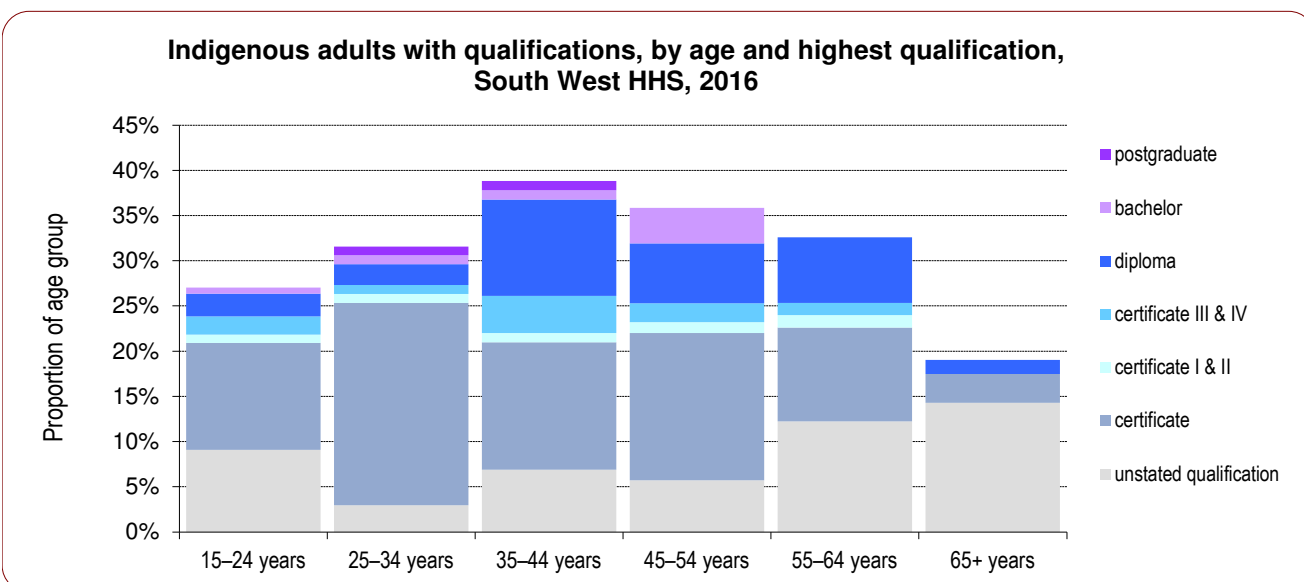
- 55 more with a certificate III or IV
- 26 more with a diploma
- 13 more with a undefined certificate

In the decade from 2006, the number of Indigenous adults in the health region with qualifications increased by 36%, while the adult population increased by 6%. There were 138 more with a certificate III or IV.



In this decade, the number of Indigenous adults in Queensland with qualifications increased by 93%. There were 198% more with a postgraduate degree and 179% more with a diploma.

The chart below shows how the level of qualifications varies with age. Here, Indigenous people aged 35–44 years had the most higher qualifications, then people aged 45–54 years and 55–64 years.



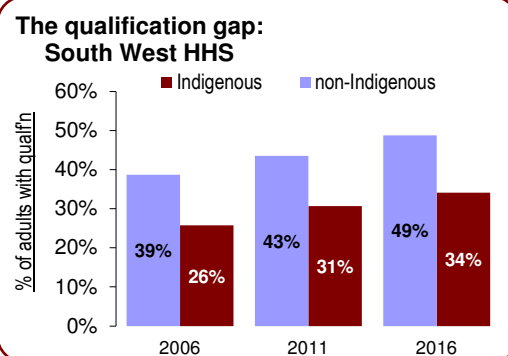
## Higher Education Indicators

### The qualification gap

% of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification

Tertiary and further education is becoming essential for many occupations, so the proportion of adults with post-school qualifications is a broad indicator of a community's earning capacity.

- ⌘ In 2016, 34% of South West HHS Indigenous adults aged 15+ had a post-school qualification, compared with 49% of non-Indigenous adults. The qualification gap was -15%.
- ⌘ The qualification gap had widened by 2% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The qualification gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults in Queensland was -13% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It widened by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

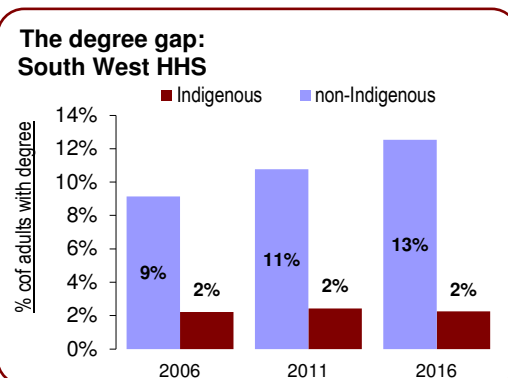


### The degree gap

% of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification

Most higher skilled and better paid jobs require a university degree or equivalent for entry, so the proportion of adults with a degree or higher indicates the community's capacity to gain these jobs.

- ⌘ In 2016, 2% of South West HHS Indigenous adults aged 15+ had a degree or higher qualification, compared with 13% of non-Indigenous adults. The degree education gap was -10%.
- ⌘ The degree gap had widened by 2% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The degree gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults in Queensland was -15% and had widened by 2% since 2011. It widened by 2% over 2006 to 2011.

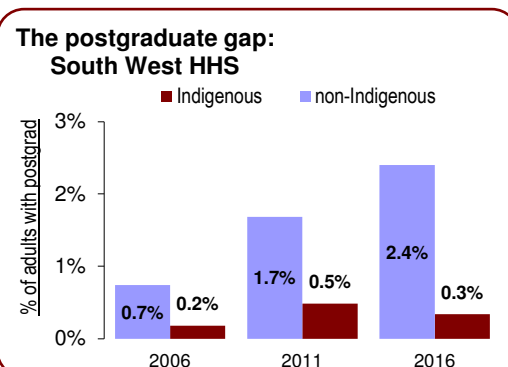


### The postgraduate gap

% of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification

Increasingly, getting promoted in many industries requires a post-graduate qualification, but the number of Indigenous people with post-graduate degrees has been low.

- ⌘ In 2016, 0.3% of South West HHS Indigenous adults aged 15+ had a post-graduate qualification, compared with 2.4% of non-Indigenous adults. The postgraduate gap was -2.1%.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap had widened by 0.9% since 2011, after having widened by 0.6% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults in Queensland was -4.3% and had widened by 0.8% since 2011. It widened by 1.8% over 2006 to 2011.



## Disability levels

In 2016 in South West HHS, 164 Indigenous residents had a long-term severe disability; 5.9% of the population. Among all the region's residents, 4.4% reported a disability.

People with a long-term severe disability are those needing help or assistance with self-care, mobility or communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition or old age. This data compares Aboriginal people with the total population.

- ⌘ Disability rates tend to rise with age. In South West HHS in 2016, they peaked among Indigenous 65+ year olds (27%) and 55–64 year olds (14%). Among younger Indigenous residents, the disability rate was highest among 35–44 year olds at 5% and 15–19 year olds at 4%.

Because Indigenous communities tend to have fewer people in the oldest age groups where disability rates are much higher, the overall disability rate can be lower than in non-Indigenous communities. This can mask much higher rates in some age groups.

- ⌘ Here, the Indigenous disability rate was 1.3 times that in the overall population: 5.9% compared with 4.4%.

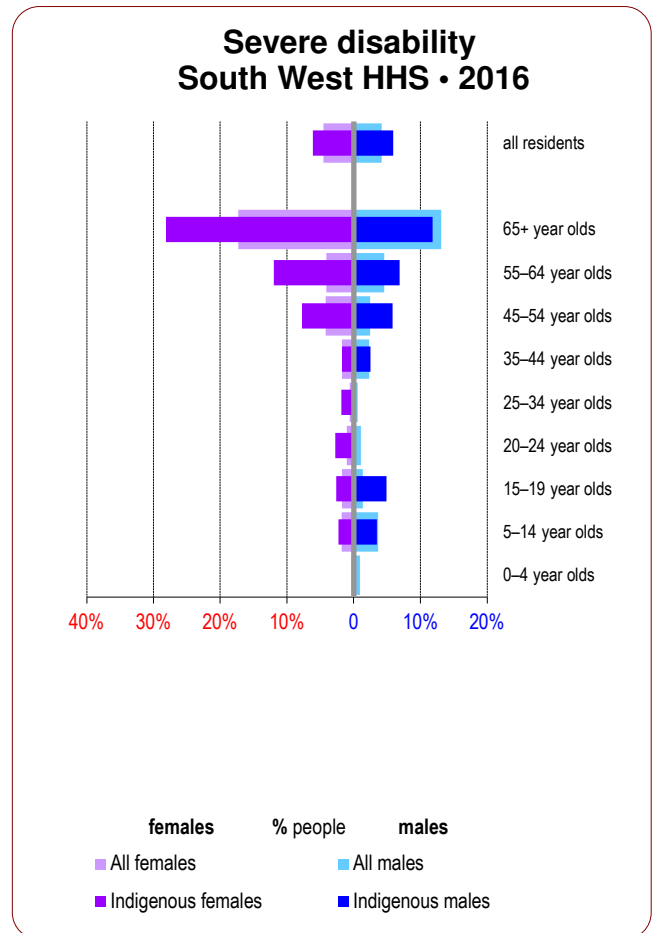
Among 55–64 year olds, the Indigenous disability rate (14%) was 3 times the overall rate (4.3%);

Among 45–54 year olds, the Indigenous disability rate (9%) was 3 times that of all residents (3.2%).

- ⌘ Indigenous disability rates were similar for men and women (5.9% : 6.1%). Among all residents, they were similar for men and women: 4.2% to 4.5%.

There were 2.5 females per male among 65+ year olds with a disability.

On the other hand, there were 2.0 males per female among 15–19 year olds with a disability. There were 1.7 males per female among 5–14 year olds.



From 2011 to 2016, the overall disability rate among Indigenous residents of the health region rose significantly from 3.6% to 5.9%.

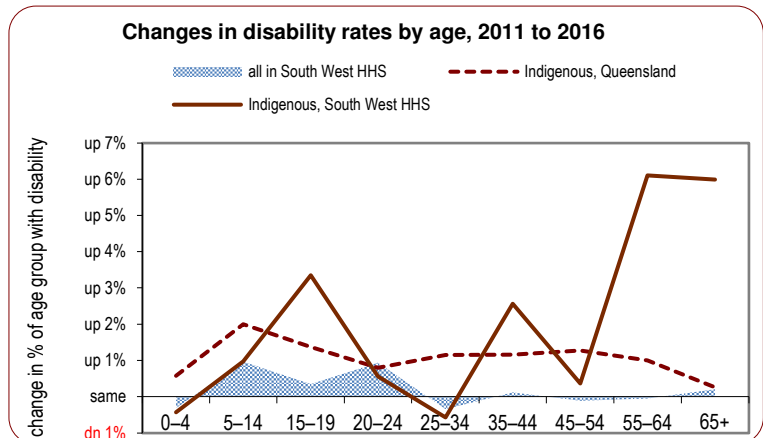
In the health region, the greatest change in the Indigenous disability rate was the increase among those aged 55–64, from 8.2% in 2011 to 14.3% in 2016.

Disability rates also rose among 65+ year olds and 15–19 year olds.

Disability rates fell most among those aged 25–34 years.

Among Indigenous people in Queensland, the disability rate rose from 4.8% to 6.4%.

Among all South West HHS residents, the disability rate rose 0.6%, from 3.8% in 2011.



## Disability care given

In the 2016 Census, 192 Indigenous adults in South West HHS, 11% of the adult population, reported that they gave assistance to a person with a severe or profound disability. There were at that time 164 Indigenous residents who reported a severe or profound disability.

⌘ Across the age groups, the proportion of Indigenous people caring for a person with a disability ranged from 16% of 45–54 year olds and 13% of 55–64 year olds to 5% of 15–19 year olds.

⌘ Carers are more often women than men. In this Indigenous community, there were 1.9 females per male among carers.

Female carers were most common among 35–44 year olds with 2.3 females per male caring, and among 45–54 year olds, with 2.1 females per male caring.

In no age groups were there more male than female carers.

⌘ The 11% carer rate among Indigenous residents was similar to the average for all adults in the health region (9%).

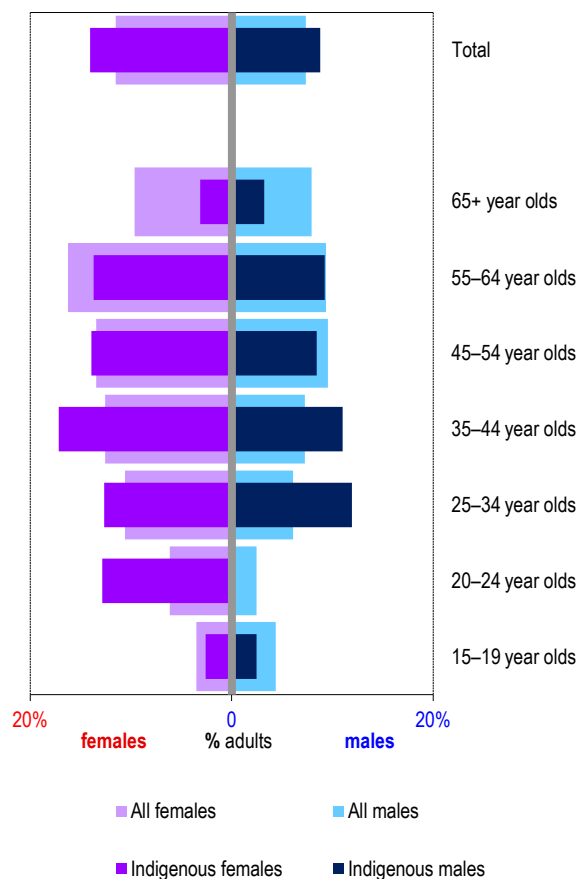
Among 25–34 year olds, the proportion of Indigenous carers was 1.6 times the average.

Among 45–54 year olds, the proportion of Indigenous carers was 1.4 times the average.

⌘ In Queensland, 13% of Indigenous adults were caring for a person with a disability.

Relative to the State's Indigenous community, there were 3% fewer carers among Indigenous people aged 55–64 here, and 3% fewer carers among those aged 35–44.

Carers • South West HHS • 2016



From 2011 to 2016, overall caring rates among Indigenous adults in South West HHS changed only slightly from 11%.

⌘ Among Indigenous adults in Queensland, caring rates rose by 1%.

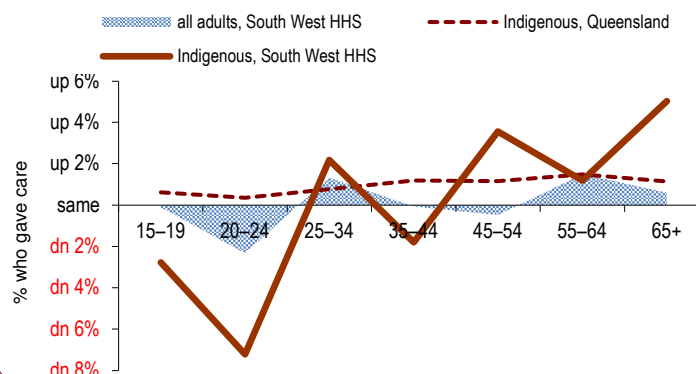
Among all the region's adults, caring rates changed little.

⌘ In the health region, Indigenous caring rates fell fastest among 20–24 year olds, down 7% (from 14% in 2011 to 7% in 2016).

Caring rates also fell 3% among 15–19 year olds and 2% for 35–44 year olds.

Caring rates rose most among 65+ year olds, up by 5%, and among those aged 45–54, up by 4%.

Changes in caring rates, by age, 2011–2016



## Disability Indicators

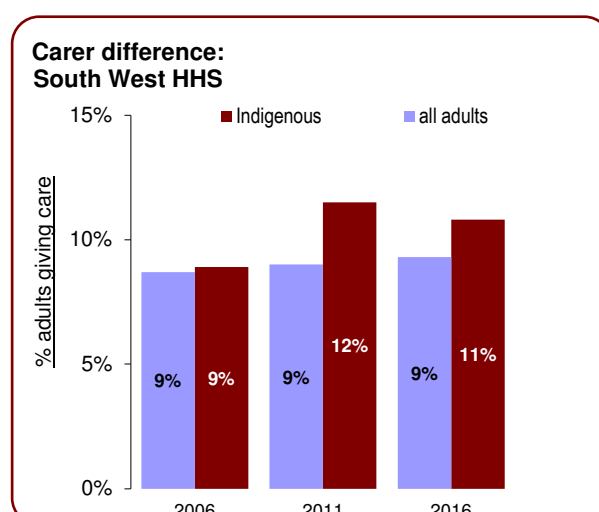
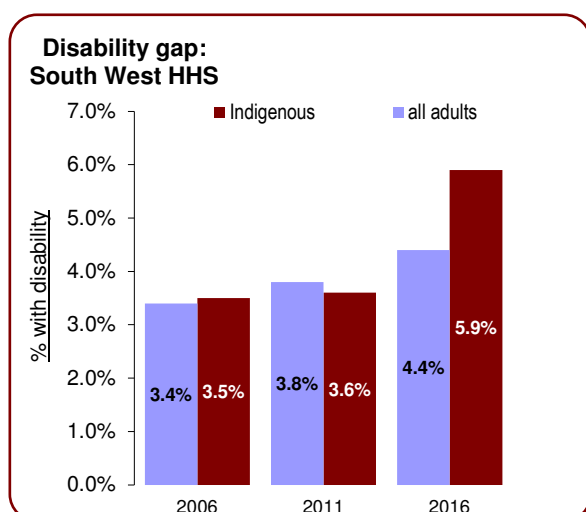
### The disability gap

% of people with a severe, long-term disability

Disability rates provide a useful indicator of a community's health and need for support services. Nationally, disability rates among Indigenous people are about 25% higher than overall rates, across most age groups.

- ⌘ In 2016, 5.9% of the region's Indigenous residents had a severe, long-term disability, compared with 4.4% for all residents. The disability gap was +1.5%. The Indigenous disability rate was 1.3 times the overall rate.
- ⌘ The disability gap in South West HHS had reversed since 2011, after having reversed over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The disability gap in Queensland was +1.2% and had widened by 0.8% since 2011.

In the Census, people with disabilities are those with a severe or profound disability lasting more than six months, who require help with daily activities, self-care or communicating.



### The carer difference

% of adults caring for a person with a disability

Indigenous people have higher disability rates and larger families, so often have proportionally more carers than the general population.

- ⌘ In 2016, 11% of the region's Indigenous adults (aged 15+) provided assistance to a person with a severe disability, compared with 9% of all adults. The carer difference was +2% (rounded).
- ⌘ The carer difference in South West HHS had closed by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The carer difference in Queensland was +2% in 2016. This had changed little since 2011.