

Census 2011: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Population in Queensland 2nd edition — with amendments as shown in footnotes.

Key points:

- At the time of the 2011 Census, 155,824 people or 3.6% of Queensland's population identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, an increase of 22.1% compared with the 2006 Census.
- More than one-third (34.2%) of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population lived in the Brisbane Indigenous Region.
- The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households renting their home (63.3%) was almost twice that of other households (32.0%).
- At the time of the 2011 Census, 12.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households had an equivalised¹ weekly income of \$1,250 or more, compared with 23.1% of other households.

1. Population

Census usual resident counts

At the time of the 2011 Census, 155,824 people or 3.6% of Queensland's usual residents identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin (Table 1). This figure represented 28.4% of the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 548,370. Queensland had the second largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population after New South Wales (172,621).

Table 1: Census count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander usual residents

	2001	2006	2011
– persons –			
Queensland	112,575 ²	127,578	155,824
Australia	410,003	455,031	548,370
– % of total population count –			
Queensland	3.2 ²	3.3	3.6
Australia	2.2	2.3	2.5
– % increase ^(a) –			
Queensland	18.0 ²	13.3 ²	22.1
Australia	16.2	11.0	20.5

(a) Increase over previous Census year.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 1996 (4713.0), 2001 (4713.0), 2006 (I02) and 2011 (I02)

Nearly two-thirds (64.0%) of Australia's Torres Strait Islander population and about a quarter (24.8%) of Australia's Aboriginal population lived in Queensland at the time of the 2011 Census.

In the five years to 2011, Queensland's count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander usual residents increased by 28,246 or 22.1%. This growth reflects natural population increase, improved data collection methods and the likelihood of people newly identifying their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin in the Census.

¹ See notes on page 4 for further information on the meaning of 'equivalised'.

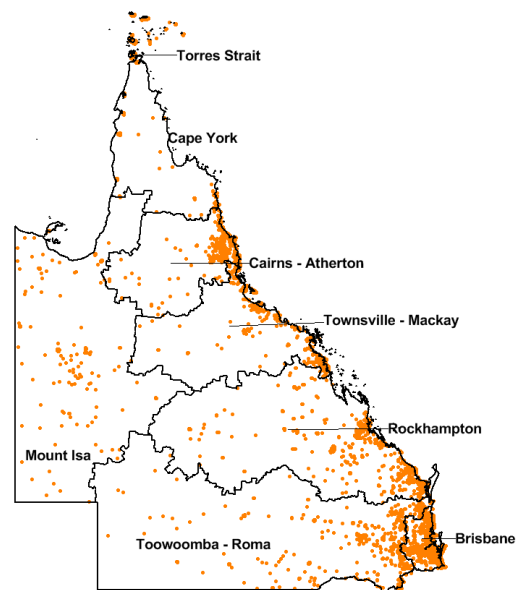
² 2001 count and percentage change is based on place of usual residence. Previous release was based on place of enumeration (amendment).

Regional distribution

At the time of the 2011 Census, 34.2% of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population lived in the Brisbane Indigenous Region (Figure 1). A further 41.5% lived in the three Indigenous Regions of Cairns - Atherton, Townsville - Mackay and Rockhampton.

Although fewer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples resided in far north and far west Queensland than in other areas, the proportion of the overall population they represented in these regions was higher. In the Torres Strait Indigenous Region, 79.1% of all residents identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, as did 55.5% and 22.8% in the Cape York and Mount Isa Indigenous Regions respectively.

Figure 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by Indigenous Region^(a), Queensland, 2011



1 dot = 5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons

(a) Australian Statistical Geography Standard, 2011 edition

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B01)



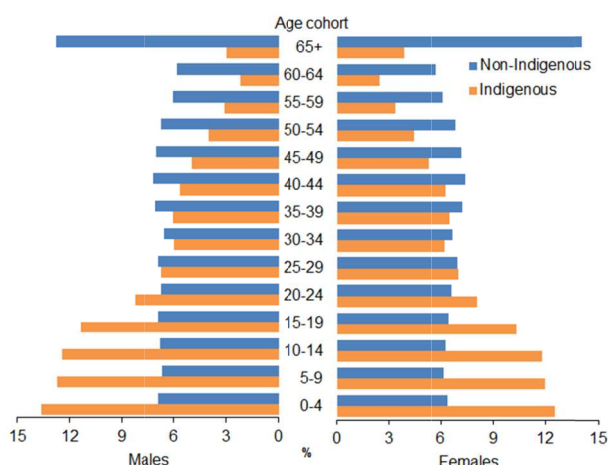
Age and gender

Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population had a younger age profile than that of non-Indigenous Queenslanders in 2011. The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 20 years, considerably lower than the median age of 37 years for Queensland's non-Indigenous population.

According to the 2011 Census, 37.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were aged less than 15 years, compared with 19.6% of the non-Indigenous population. Only 3.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were aged 65 years and over, compared with 13.4% of the non-Indigenous population (Figure 2).

Of the 155,824 usual residents in Queensland who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin in the 2011 Census, 79,083 (50.8%) were females.

Figure 2: Age and gender profile, Queensland, 2011



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (I03)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin

At the time of the 2011 Census, 78.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders identified as being of only Aboriginal origin (122,896), a slight increase compared with the 2006 Census (Table 2). A further 12.9% (20,094) identified as being of only Torres Strait Islander origin and 8.2% (12,834³) identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

³ Corrected figure shown here.

Table 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by origin, Queensland

Origin	2001 ⁴	2006	2011
– persons –			
Aboriginal	87,135	98,716	122,896
Torres Strait Islander	16,417	18,374	20,094
Both ^(a)	9,023	10,488	12,834
Total	112,575	127,578	155,824
– % –			
Aboriginal	77.4	77.4	78.9
Torres Strait Islander	14.6	14.4	12.9
Both ^(a)	8.0	8.2	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001 (4713.0), 2006 and 2011 (I02)

2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages

Within Queensland, 11,739 (or 7.5%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander usual residents reported speaking an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language at home. In 2011, the most widely spoken Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups were Torres Strait Creole (41.9%) and Wik Mungkan (11.5%). Most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (85.6% or 133,393) reported speaking only English at home, similar to the level reported by non-Indigenous people (88.7%).

Indigenous language use was more likely to be reported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in more remote Indigenous regions (Table 3). More than half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in the Torres Strait (63.4%) and Cape York (51.2%) regions reported speaking an Indigenous language at home.

Table 3: Distribution of Indigenous language speakers by Indigenous Region^(a), Queensland, 2011

Indigenous Region	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons	% ^(b)
Brisbane	623	1.2
Cairns - Atherton	1,899	8.1
Cape York	4,389	51.2
Mount Isa	230	3.1
Rockhampton	166	0.9
Toowoomba - Roma	92	0.6
Torres Strait	3,757	63.4
Townsville - Mackay	566	2.5
Queensland^(c)	11,739	7.5

(a) Australian Statistical Geography Standard, 2011 edition.

(b) As a proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the region.

(c) Includes 'No usual address'.

⁴ 2001 figures are counts based on place of usual residence. Previous release was based on place of enumeration (amendment).



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, unpublished data

3. Household and family composition

According to the 2011 Census, 82.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were family households and 12.1% were lone person households (Table 4). In comparison, among Other households (those with non-Indigenous people and people who did not state their Indigenous status), 72.0% were family households and 23.3% were lone person households.

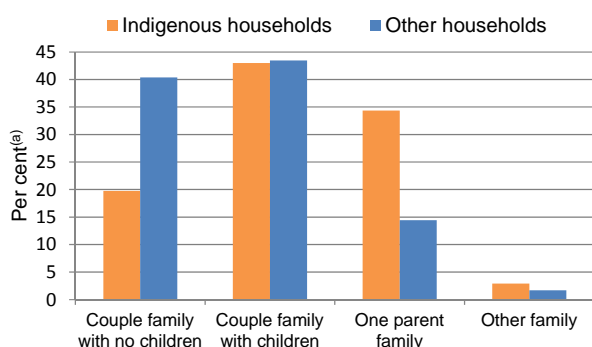
Table 4: Household composition, Queensland, 2011

Household	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households	Other households
– % of occupied private dwellings –		
One family	76.7	70.5
Multiple family	5.7	1.5
Lone person	12.1	23.3
Group	5.5	4.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (I12)

Among one family households, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one parent families was more than double that of Other households (34.3% compared with 14.4%) (Figure 3). Comparatively, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one family households housing a couple family with no children was half that of Other one family households (19.8% compared with 40.4%).

Figure 3: One family households by composition, Queensland, 2011



(a) As a proportion of one family households by Indigenous status.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (I12)

4. Education

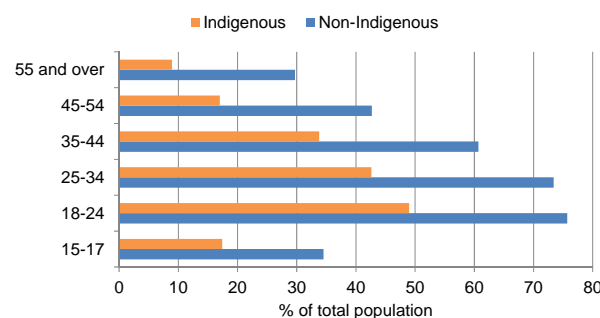
Highest year of school completed

On Census night 2011, 31.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15 years and over who were no longer attending school reported Year 12

or equivalent as their highest year of school completed, compared with 51.0% of non-Indigenous persons.

In each age group (Figure 4), the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who reported Year 12 or equivalent as their highest year of school completed was lower than the proportion of non-Indigenous people.

Figure 4: Completion of Year 12 or equivalent by age group, Queensland, 2011



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, unpublished data

Early childhood education

At the time of the 2011 Census, 31.7% of four year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland were reported to be attending preschool, compared with 45.4% of their non-Indigenous peers (Table 5).

Table 5: Attendance of four year olds at an education institution, Queensland, 2011

Education institution	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons	Non-Indigenous persons	Total ^(a)
– % of four year olds –			
Preschool	31.7	45.4	42.7
Primary/other	8.1	5.8	5.8
Total attending ^(b)	46.5	53.5	54.7
Not attending	53.5	46.5	45.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes Indigenous status not stated.

(b) Includes institution not stated.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, unpublished data

Preschool attendance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander four year olds varied across the Indigenous Regions, with the highest attendance recorded in the more remote regions of Cape York (55.2%) and Torres Strait (47.5%).



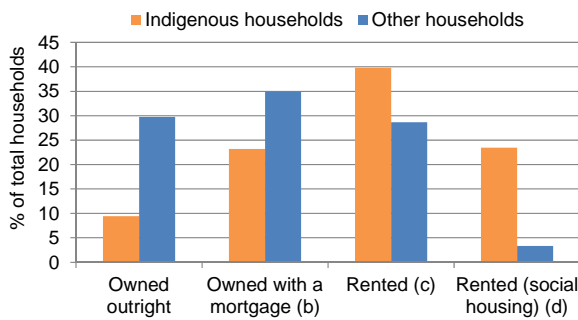
5. Housing

Tenure type

At the time of the 2011 Census, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households renting their home was almost twice that of Other households (63.3% compared with 32.0%) (Figure 5).

Almost a quarter (23.5%) of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households rented through a state housing authority, a housing co-operative, or a community or church group compared with only 3.3% of Other households. Conversely, a smaller proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households owned their home outright (9.4% compared with 29.8% for Other households) or were paying a mortgage (23.2% compared with 34.9% for Other households).

Figure 5: Tenure type^(a), Queensland, 2011



- (a) 'Other tenure type' and 'Tenure type not stated' not graphed.
- (b) Includes dwellings purchased under a 'rent/buy scheme'.
- (c) Includes landlord type not stated. Excludes social housing.
- (d) Rented through a state housing authority, a housing co-operative, or a community or church group.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (I10)

Housing utilisation

According to the Canadian National Occupancy Standard as applied by the ABS to the 2011 Census data, 12.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were living in occupied private dwellings that required at least one extra bedroom, compared with 2.5% of Other households.

6. Household income

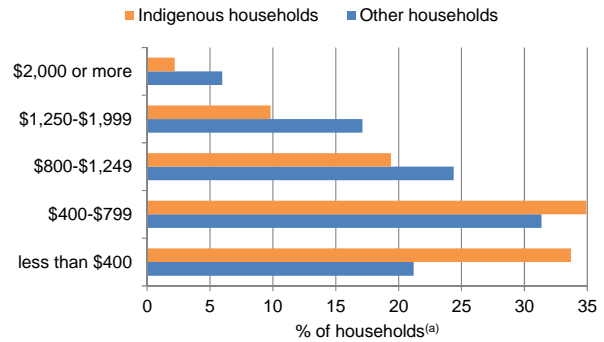
The median total weekly household income for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households was \$1,066 at the time of the 2011 Census. This was lower than the median total household income of \$1,243 recorded for Other households.

In 2011, the average equivalised gross household income (see Notes) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households was \$685 per week compared with \$881 for Other households.

A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households had incomes of less than \$400 per week (33.7%) compared with Other households

(21.2%). In contrast, only 12.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households had incomes of \$1,250 or more, compared with 23.1% of Other households (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Equivalised weekly household income^(a), Queensland, 2011



(a) Excludes households where income was not stated.
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, unpublished data

Notes

Population counts in this bulletin are based on Census counts of usual residents. While the Census counts are an important source of information about the characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, a more accurate estimate of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is provided by the estimated resident population, based on the Census but adjusting for net undercount and unknown Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status.

Unless otherwise stated, person level data in this bulletin excludes people who did not answer the question regarding their Indigenous status in the 2011 Census (5.5% of residents).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households in this bulletin are any household that had at least one resident at the time of the 2011 Census who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. Household level data in this report are based on counts of occupied private dwellings and exclude 'Visitors only' and 'Other non-classifiable' households.

Equivalised household income is used to compare households of a different size or composition. An equivalised income estimate for a household represents the amount of income that a single person household would require to maintain the same standard of living as that household. Alternatively, equivalised household income can also be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to each individual in a household.

For more information, please see Government Statistician's *Queensland Regional Profiles* and *Queensland Regional Database* at www.oesr.qld.gov.au.

All data in this report were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Censuses of Population and Housing (www.abs.gov.au).

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