

Measures of Indigenous wellbeing and their determinants across the lifecycle

Lecture 12

Measures of wellbeing for Indigenous children

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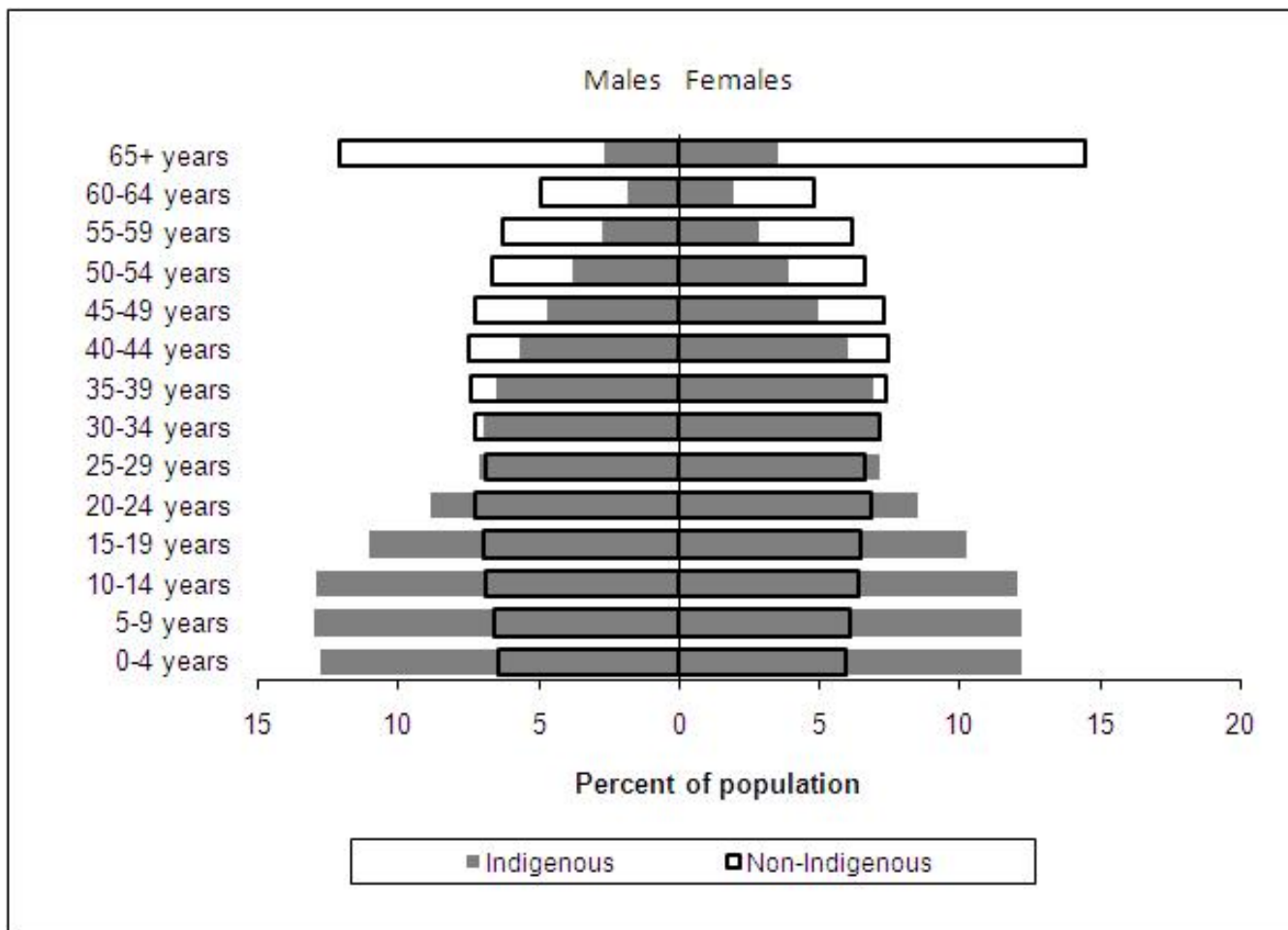
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

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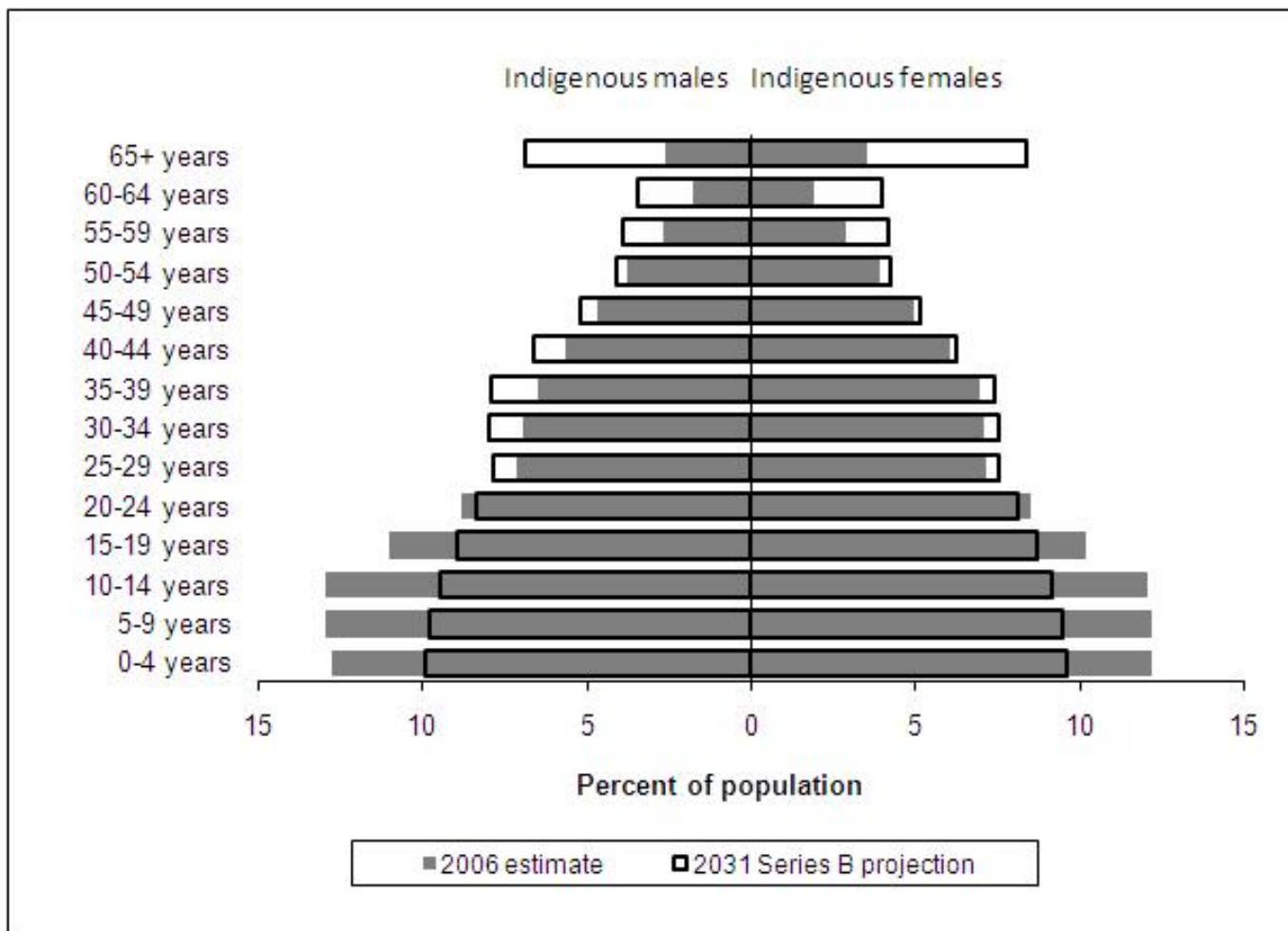
Overview

- Indigenous disadvantage and the lifecourse
 - Age distribution and the demographic dividend
- Life expectancy and the Indigenous lifecourse
- Child wellbeing measures
 - Child health outcomes and health behaviour
 - Education and learning outcomes
 - Language and cultural maintenance

Indigenous and non-Indigenous age distribution – 2006 ERP



Indigenous age distribution – 2006 ERP and 2031 projections





Life expectancy and the Indigenous lifecourse

- **Definition**

- The number of years that a person born today is expected to live based on current mortality rates

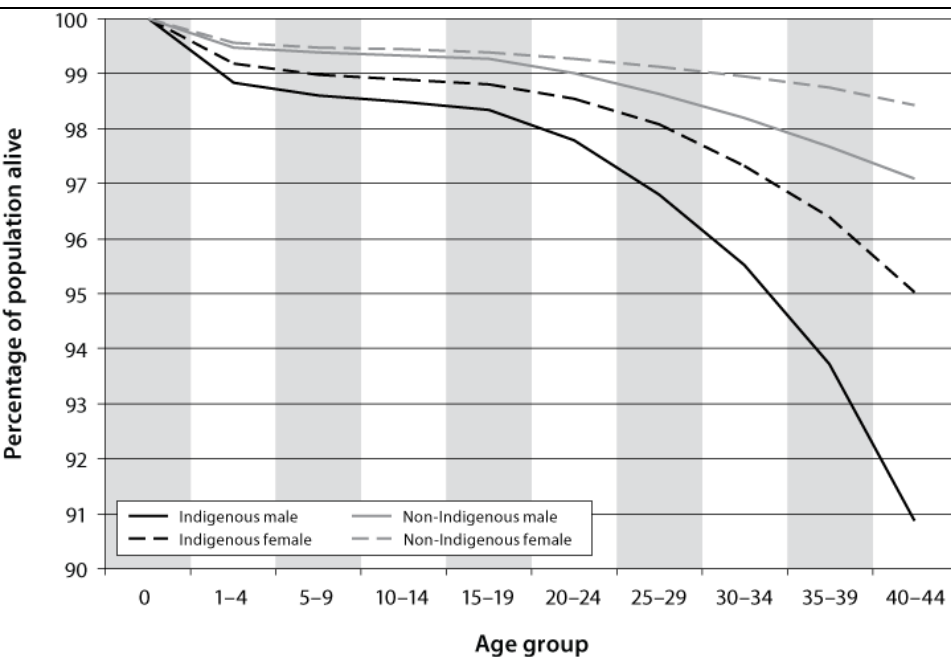
Life expectancy and the Indigenous lifecourse

- Definition

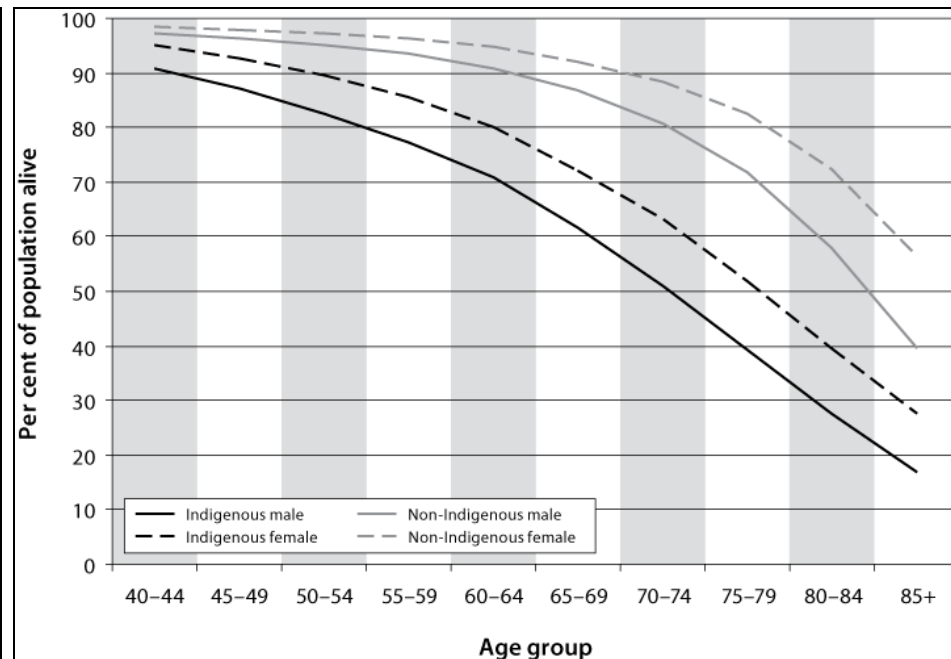
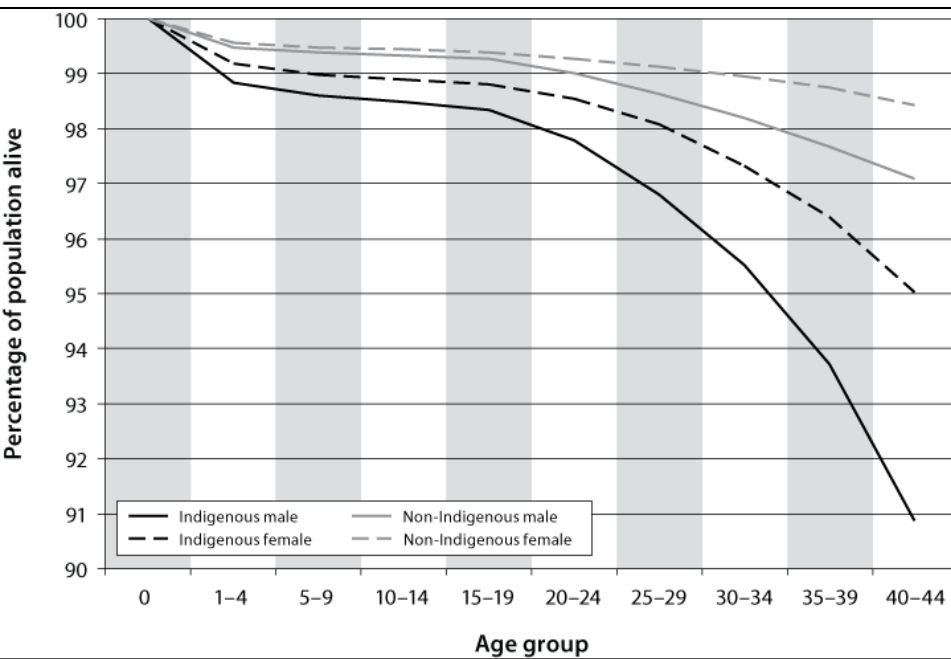
- The number of years that a person born today is expected to live based on current mortality rates

Gender	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Difference
Male	67.2	78.7	11.5
Female	72.9	82.6	9.7

Life expectancy and the Indigenous lifecourse



Life expectancy and the Indigenous lifecourse



Child health outcomes and health behaviour – Dependent variables



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- The carer not identifying an aspect of the child's health that led to concerns about learning (No health concern)

Child health outcomes and health behaviour – Dependent variables

- The carer not identifying an aspect of the child's health that led to concerns about learning (No health concern)
- The child not having eye or sight problems (excluding long or short-sightedness), ear or hearing problems or teeth or gum problems (No conditions);

Child health outcomes and health behaviour – Dependent variables

- The carer not identifying an aspect of the child's health that led to concerns about learning (No health concern)
- The child not having eye or sight problems (excluding long or short-sightedness), ear or hearing problems or teeth or gum problems (No conditions);
- The child eating fruit and vegetables 5 or more days in previous week (Diet); and

Child health outcomes and health behaviour – Dependent variables

- The carer not identifying an aspect of the child's health that led to concerns about learning (No health concern)
- The child not having eye or sight problems (excluding long or short-sightedness), ear or hearing problems or teeth or gum problems (No conditions);
- The child eating fruit and vegetables 5 or more days in previous week (Diet); and
- The child being physically active for at least 60 minutes 5 or more days in previous week (Exercise)

Child health outcomes and health behaviour – Multivariate results (I)

- Carers of Indigenous females significantly:
 - more likely to report that they do not have a health concern about their child
 - more likely to report that the child regularly ate fresh fruit and vegetables.
 - less likely to report that the child undertook regular exercise.
- Young children tended to have better health outcomes than older children.
- Those in remote areas tended to have better reported outcomes than those in non-remote areas
 - (apart from diet, where there was no significant difference).
- Children who experienced family crises in the previous 12 months were less likely to have good health outcomes or positive health behaviour.
- So too were those who changed usual residents in the previous 5 years.
- Living in a single parent family was associated with a lower probability of having undertaken regular physical exercise.

Child health outcomes and health behaviour – Multivariate results (II)

- Children whose main carer was their grandparent reported to be more likely to have a relatively healthy diet.
- Age of the carer did not appear to have a large association.
- Children whose main carer was male were more likely to be reported to not have any health concerns or specific conditions.
- Non-Indigenous carers were less likely to report that they had no health concerns about the child and less likely to not report any of the specific conditions.
- Only large association between parental education and child health outcomes was with the child's reported diet.
- Little association between child health outcomes and household income

Education and learning outcomes – Dependent variables

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- The child not missing any school in the previous week
(No miss school)

Education and learning outcomes – Dependent variables

- The child not missing any school in the previous week (No miss school)
- The child spending an hour or more per day in the previous week doing informal learning activities with the carer (Carer learning)

Education and learning outcomes – Dependent variables

- The child not missing any school in the previous week (No miss school)
- The child spending an hour or more per day in the previous week doing informal learning activities with the carer (Carer learning)
- The child not having been bullied or treated unfairly at school (No bullied)

Education and learning outcomes – Dependent variables

- The child not missing any school in the previous week (No miss school)
- The child spending an hour or more per day in the previous week doing informal learning activities with the carer (Carer learning)
- The child not having been bullied or treated unfairly at school (No bullied)
- There being a computer in the child's household connected to the internet (Internet).

Education and learning outcomes – Multivariate results (I)

- No statistical difference between Indigenous boys and girls for any of the four aspects of education and learning analysed.
- Those in remote areas were significantly and substantially more likely to have not missed school
- Those who changed usual residence in the previous 5 years were:
 - more likely to have spent time with their carer engaging in informal learning activities
 - less likely to have not been bullied and less likely to have access to the internet in their home.
- Relationship between the child and the carer did not have a significant association with any of the education and learning variables
- Children of carers who were aged 15 to 24 years were less likely to have not missed school in the previous week than those whose parent was aged 35 to 54 years.
- Slightly more likely to have spent time with their child engaging in informal learning activities.
- Biggest difference by age though is access to the internet within the home.

Education and learning outcomes – Multivariate results (II)

- Low level of carer education was associated with a lower probability of engaging in informal learning activities with the child.
- Also associated with a substantial difference in internet access within the home.
- Children of carers who had not completed Year 12 were more likely to have not been bullied or treated unfairly at school because they were Indigenous.
- Living in a dwelling rented from a State/Territory housing authority or a community organisation associated with lower probability of internet in house.
- Additional residents in the dwelling associated with a higher probability
- Those children who live in households with relatively low levels of (equivalised) household income are much less likely to have access to the internet.

Language and cultural maintenance – Dependent variables

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- Currently learning an Indigenous language (Learning language)

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- Participating in Indigenous cultural events, ceremonies or organisations in the previous 12 months (Culture participation)

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- Participating in Indigenous cultural events, ceremonies or organisations in the previous 12 months (Culture participation)
- Being taught Indigenous culture at school (Culture at school)

Language and cultural maintenance – Dependent variables

- Currently learning an Indigenous language (Learning language)
- Participating in Indigenous cultural events, ceremonies or organisations in the previous 12 months (Culture participation)
- Being taught Indigenous culture at school (Culture at school)
- Spending at least a day a week with an Indigenous elder or leader (Indigenous elder).

Language and cultural maintenance – Multivariate results (I)

- No statistically significant differences by sex for any of the four language and cultural maintenance variables.
- Large differences by age in terms of cultural participation and, even more so, learning about Indigenous culture at school.
- Those in remote areas have significantly higher probabilities for three out of the four dependent variables
- However, there are no differences in terms of learning about Indigenous culture at school
- Children who live in a single parent family are less likely to participate in Indigenous cultural events, ceremonies and organisations.
- Lower level of cultural participation for children whose carer is male.

Language and cultural maintenance – Multivariate results (II)

- Children of carers who are non-Indigenous more likely to participate in Indigenous cultural activities and also more likely to be taught Indigenous culture at school.
- Children of carers with relatively high levels of education have higher level of participation and higher level of language maintenance
- Children who live in households with a greater number of adults are more likely to have participated in Indigenous cultural activities
- And more likely to spend a day or more per week with an Indigenous elder.
- Significant income gradient for some of the cultural maintenance variables



<http://caepr.anu.edu.au/population/lectures2011.php>

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