

# **Demographic and Socioeconomic Outcomes Across the Indigenous Australian Lifecourse**

Evidence from the 2006 Census



# **Demographic and Socioeconomic Outcomes Across the Indigenous Australian Lifecourse**

Evidence from the 2006 Census

Nicholas Biddle and Mandy Yap



E P R E S S

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research  
College of Arts and Social Sciences  
The Australian National University, Canberra

Research Monograph No. 31  
2010



E P R E S S

Published by ANU E Press  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200, Australia  
Email: [anuepress@anu.edu.au](mailto:anuepress@anu.edu.au)  
This title is also available online at: [http://epress.anu.edu.au/c31\\_citation.html](http://epress.anu.edu.au/c31_citation.html)

---

National Library of Australia  
Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Author: Biddle, Nicholas.

Title: Demographic and socioeconomic outcomes across the indigenous  
Australian lifecourse : evidence from the 2006 census /  
Nicholas Biddle and Mandy Yap.

ISBN: 9781921862021 (pbk.) 9781921862038 (ebook)

Notes: Includes bibliographical references.

Subjects: Aboriginal Australians--Social conditions.  
Aboriginal Australians--Economic conditions.  
Economic forecasting--Australia.  
Social prediction--Australia.

Other Authors/Contributors:  
Yap, Mandy.  
Dewey Number: 362.849915

---

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Cover design by ANU E Press.

Printed by Griffin Press

This edition © 2010 ANU E Press

# Contents

---

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>xi</b>
-----------------	-----------

---

<b>Abbreviations and acronyms</b>	<b>xiii</b>
-----------------------------------	-------------

---

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>xv</b>
-------------------------	-----------

---

<b>1. The Indigenous lifecourse: Introduction and overview</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction . . . . .	1
Analysis of the lifecourse . . . . .	2
An Indigenous lifecourse? . . . . .	4
Overview . . . . .	11

---

<b>2. Data and methods</b>	<b>15</b>
Data. . . . .	15
Model specification . . . . .	18

---

<b>3. Fertility and family formation</b>	<b>23</b>
Residential marital status . . . . .	24
Fertility and the number of children ever born . . . . .	31
Unpaid child care . . . . .	35
Fertility and family formation across the Indigenous lifecourse	39

---

<b>4. Migration and mobility</b>	<b>41</b>
Permanent migration and residential mobility . . . . .	42
Temporary mobility . . . . .	50
Migration and mobility across the Indigenous lifecourse . . . .	56

---

<b>5. Education participation</b>	<b>59</b>
Post-compulsory education participation . . . . .	63
University participation . . . . .	70
Non-government school attendance . . . . .	74
Education participation across the Indigenous lifecourse . . . .	79

---

<b>6. Employment</b>	<b>83</b>
Employment . . . . .	86
Part-time employment . . . . .	90
Managerial and professional employment . . . . .	95
Voluntary and unpaid domestic work . . . . .	100
Employment across the Indigenous lifecourse . . . . .	111

---

<b>7. Housing</b>	<b>115</b>
Housing tenure . . . . .	116
Overcrowding . . . . .	127
Housing across the Indigenous lifecourse . . . . .	133

---

<b>8. Health</b>	<b>135</b>
‘Core activity’ need for assistance . . . . .	136
Survival rates . . . . .	139
Health across the Indigenous lifecourse . . . . .	141

---

<b>9. Childhood outcomes</b>	<b>143</b>
Single parenthood . . . . .	143
Family and household characteristics of Indigenous children	147
Childhood outcomes across the Indigenous lifecourse. . . . .	150

---

<b>10. An Indigenous lifecourse? Implications and limitations</b>	<b>153</b>
An Indigenous lifecourse? . . . . .	153
Implications for policy and planning . . . . .	162
Data gaps and future analysis . . . . .	163

---

<b>Appendix 1: Additional model estimates</b>	<b>167</b>
---	------------

---

<b>References</b>	<b>169</b>
-------------------	------------

---

# List of Tables

Table 2.1 Topics and dependent variables analysed . . . . .	19
Table 2.2 Summary of estimated models . . . . .	21
Table 3.1 Factors associated with the probability of being in a registered or de facto marriage, 2006 . . . . .	26
Table 3.2 Factors associated with the probability of being in a registered as opposed to de facto marriage, population aged 15 years and over. . . . .	29
Table 3.3 Factors associated with the number of children ever born, females, 2006 . . . . .	33
Table 3.4 Factors associated with unpaid child care provision, females, 2006 . . . . .	38
Table 4.1 Factors associated with the probability of changing place of usual residence, population aged 15 years and over, 2001–06 . . . . .	45
Table 4.2 Factors associated with the probability of changing place of usual residence, population aged 5–14 years, 2001–06 . . . . .	49
Table 4.3 Factors associated with the probability of being away from place of usual residence on census night, 2006 . . . . .	53
Table 5.1 Factors associated with the probability of participating in education, population aged 15–24 years who were not attending high school, 2006 . . . . .	65
Table 5.2 Factors associated with the probability of participating in education, population aged 25 years and over, 2006. . . . .	68
Table 5.3 Factors associated with the probability of attending a university, tertiary education students, 2006 . . . . .	73
Table 5.4 Factors associated with the probability of attending a non-government school, for infants, primary and secondary school students, 2001–06 . . . . .	78
Table 6.1 Factors associated with the probability of being employed, population aged 15 years and over, 2006 . . . . .	88
Table 6.2 Factors associated with the probability of being employed part-time, employed population aged 15 years and over, 2006. . . . .	93
Table 6.3 Factors associated with the probability of being employed as a Manager or Professional, employed population, 2006 . . . . .	98
Table 6.4 Factors associated with the probability of having undertaken voluntary work for an organisation or group in the previous 12 months, population aged 15 years and over, 2006 . . . . .	103

Table 6.5 Factors associated with the probability of undertaking unpaid domestic work, 2006 . . . . .	109
Table 7.1 Factors associated with the probability of living in a dwelling that is owned or being purchased, 2006. . . . .	119
Table 7.2 Factors associated with the probability of living in a dwelling that is rented from a government or community organisation, population aged 15 years and over, in a rented dwelling, 2006. . . . .	125
Table 7.3 Factors associated with the probability of living in a dwelling that has more than one person per bedroom, population aged 15 years and over, 2006 . . . . .	130
Table 8.1 Factors associated with reporting a 'core activity' need for assistance, population 45 years and over . . . . .	138
Table 9.1 Factors associated with the probability of being a single parent, 2006 . . . . .	146
Table 9.2 Factors associated with the probability of being in a single-parent household, a jobless household and a low educational attainment household, population aged 0–14 years, 2006 . . . . .	148
Table 10.1 Summary of Indigenous marginal effects by dependent variable, 2006 . . . . .	155
Table 10.2 Proposal for rolling panel to collect longitudinal Indigenous information . . . . .	165
Table A1: Factors associated with the probability of having at least one child, females aged 15 years and over . . . . .	167



# List of Figures

Fig. 1.1 Age distribution of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, 2006. . . . .	5
Fig. 1.2 Indigenous population, 2006 and 2031 (projection) . . . . .	6
Fig. 1.3 Share of total population who identify as being Indigenous, 2006 and 2031 (projection). . . . .	7
Fig. 1.4 Percentage of Indigenous Region population who identify as being Indigenous (shading) and percentage of total Indigenous population who live in that region (numbers), 2006 . . . . .	9
Fig. 2.1 Age distribution of the Indigenous ERP and the Indigenous component of the 5% CSF . . . . .	17
Fig. 2.2 Age distribution of the non-Indigenous ERP and the non-Indigenous component of the 5% CSF . . . . .	18
Fig. 3.1 Probability of being in a registered or de facto marriage, 2006 . . . . .	25
Fig. 3.2 Probability of being in a registered as opposed to de facto marriage, 2006 . . . . .	26
Fig. 3.3 Number of children ever born (up until current age), Indigenous and non-Indigenous females, 2006 . . . . .	32
Fig. 3.4 Probability of providing unpaid child care, 2006 . . . . .	36
Fig. 4.1 Probability of changing place of usual residence, 2001–06 . . . . .	43
Fig. 4.2 Probability of being away from place of usual residence, 2006 . . . . .	51
Fig. 5.1 Probability of participating in education, age 15 years and over, 2006 . . . . .	63
Fig. 5.2 Probability of participating in education, age 25–55 years plus, 2006 . . . . .	64
Fig. 5.3 Probability of a tertiary student participating in university education, 2006. . . . .	71
Fig. 6.1 Probability of being employed, Indigenous and non-Indigenous males and females aged 15 years and over, 2006 . . . . .	86
Fig. 6.2 Probability of being employed part-time, employed population aged 15 years and over, 2006 . . . . .	92
Fig. 6.3 Probability of being employed as a Manager or Professional, employed population, 2006 . . . . .	97
Fig. 6.4 Probability of undertaking volunteer work, 2006 . . . . .	101
Fig. 6.5 Probability of undertaking unpaid domestic work, 2006. . . . .	107
Fig. 6.6 Probability of undertaking five hours or more of unpaid domestic work, 2006 . . . . .	107

Fig. 7.1 Probability of living in a dwelling that is owned or being purchased, 2006 . . . . .	117
Fig. 7.2 Probability of living in a dwelling rented from a government or community organisation, 2006 . . . . .	123
Fig. 7.3 Probability of living in a rented dwelling with more than one person per bedroom, 2006 . . . . .	129
Fig. 8.1 Probability of reporting a 'core activity' need for assistance, 2006 . . . . .	137
Fig. 8.2 Hypothetical percentage of population aged 0–44 years still alive at start of five-year age cohort, 2006 . . . . .	140
Fig. 8.3 Hypothetical percentage of population aged 40–85 years still alive at start of five-year age cohort . . . . .	141
Fig. 9.1 Probability of being a single parent, 2006 . . . . .	144
Fig. 9.2 Percentage of Indigenous child population aged 0–14 years by three characteristics of their family or household, 2006 . . . . .	149
Fig. 9.3 Percentage of non-Indigenous child population aged 0–14 years by three characteristics of their family or household, 2006 . . . . .	150
Fig. 10.1 Variation in education participation and work across the lifecourse, 2006. . . . .	157
Fig. 10.2 Variation in marital status and unpaid child care across the lifecourse, 2006. . . . .	160