

ABS Indigenous Mortality Quality Study

Sybille McKeown

ABS National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Statistics

Context

- Undercoverage of Indigenous deaths in death registrations data
- Importance of Indigenous mortality data for a range of key statistics e.g. mortality rates, life expectancy

Aims of the IMQS

Linking Census records with death registrations to:

- assess under-coverage
- identify contributing factors
- feasibility of developing adjustment factors for improving estimates of Indigenous mortality

Background

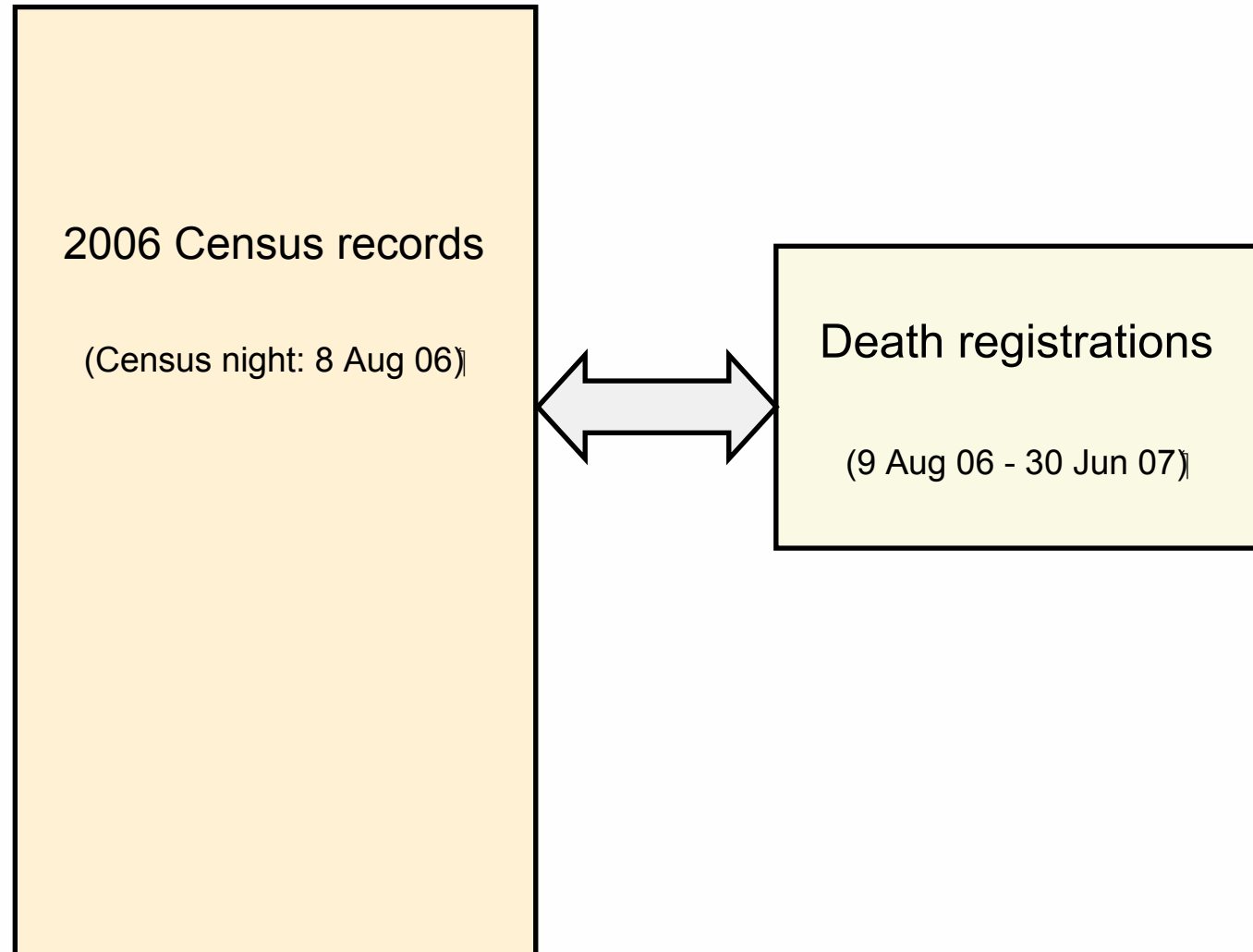
- Census Data Enhancement project

Main implications of IMQS

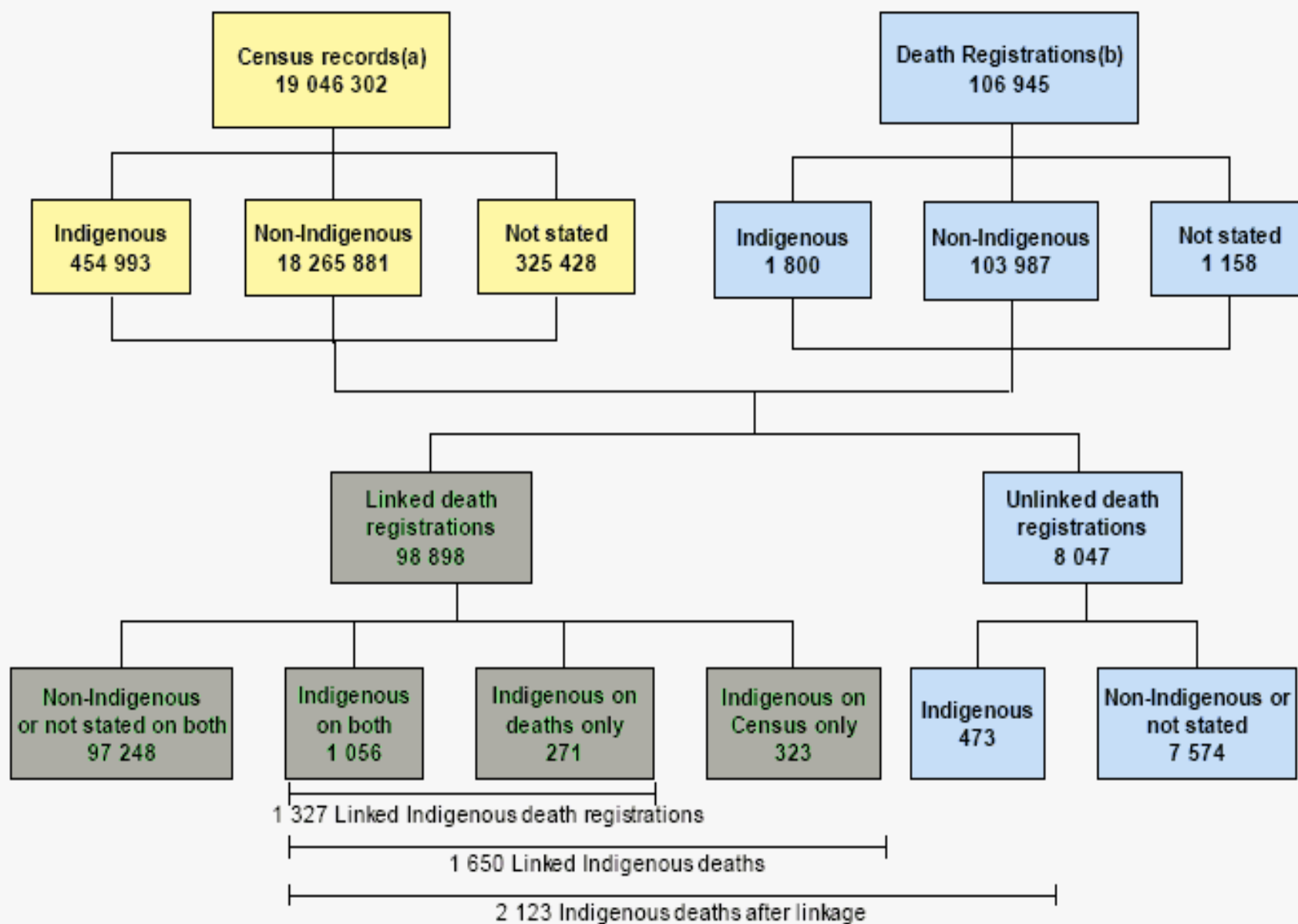
Linkage results suggest that:

- Coverage of Indigenous deaths may be higher than previously estimated (using indirect methods)
- Adjustment factors possible to improve mortality statistics

Process



CDE INDIGENOUS MORTALITY QUALITY STUDY, Linkage results—2006-07



(a) Excludes overseas visitors and imputed records.

(b) Deaths registered between 9 August 2006 and 30 June 2007, except in Victoria where death registration records were only available through till mid-March 2007.

Unlinked records

- Overall, 8% of registered death records were unable to be linked.
- For registered Indigenous death records, 26% were unable to be linked to Census records.

Unlinked records

Reasons not linked:

- Census records not existing
- Census records missing information for key linking variables
- disagreement across the two records for key linking variables

Unlinked records

Low linkage rates seen for:

- WA, NT
- Remote areas

Assessment of undercoverage

1 650 “Indigenous” records on linked dataset, of which:

- 64% Indigenous on both sources
- 16.4% Indigenous on death registrations only
- 19.6% Indigenous on Census only

Assessment of undercoverage

	Indigenous deaths prior to linkage	Indigenous deaths after linkage	Deaths prior as % of deaths after linkage
NSW	453	594	76.3%
Vic	64	86	74.4%
Qld	429	493	87.0%
SA	102	118	86.4%
WA	387	422	91.7%
NT	341	345	98.8%
Australia	1 800	2 123	84.8%

Factors contributing to undercoverage

- Propensity to be identified

- Analysis - compared additional death records identified as Indigenous from Census (323) with registered Indigenous death records (1 800)

- Additional deaths appeared to:
 - have an older age profile
 - be from non-remote areas
 - be concentrated in NSW and Qld

Adjustment factors

- Estimates of coverage rates in deaths data possible
- Adjustment factors possible
- Issues - unlinked records

More details

*Information Paper: Census Data Enhancement –
Indigenous Mortality Quality Study*

- released 17 November 2008 (cat. no. 4723.0)

*Discussion Paper: Assessment of Methods for
Developing Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Australians*

- released 17 November 2008 (cat. no.
3302.0.55.022)