



Patrick Corr is Director, Demography Statistics at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, a position he has held for 7 years. He has recently overseen the use of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing results in calculating the size, structure and distribution of the resident population of Australia, and the implementation of improved measures for estimating the impact of international migration on the size and distribution of the Australian population.

Patrick studied demography and statistics at Macquarie University in Sydney, and has worked in areas of population, social, labour force and finance lending statistics as well as client and corporate services with the ABS for 27 years. Patrick has also presented papers on aspects of Australia's demographic statistics program at Australian and International conferences.

Patrick is a member of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc, the Australian Population Association, the International Association for Official Statistics, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Experimental Life Tables

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Population, 2006

Patrick Corr
Director, Demography
patrick.corr@abs.gov.au

AMDIG Mortality Data Workshop,
Brisbane, November 2008

Life tables

- Used to compile life expectancy estimates
- Statistical model
 - Mortality experience of newborn babies throughout their life time
 - Males and females
- Life expectancy
 - Average number of years expect to live if age specific death rates apply throughout lifetime

Indigenous life tables

- All life table compilations requires high quality inputs by age and sex
- Indigenous Australians:
 - Uncertainty on the level of completeness of Indigenous identification in deaths
 - Uncertainty of the precise size and age structure of the population
- Direct versus indirect methods
- ABS analysis findings for 2001-2006 period
- Your comments and feedback

ABS Discussion Paper

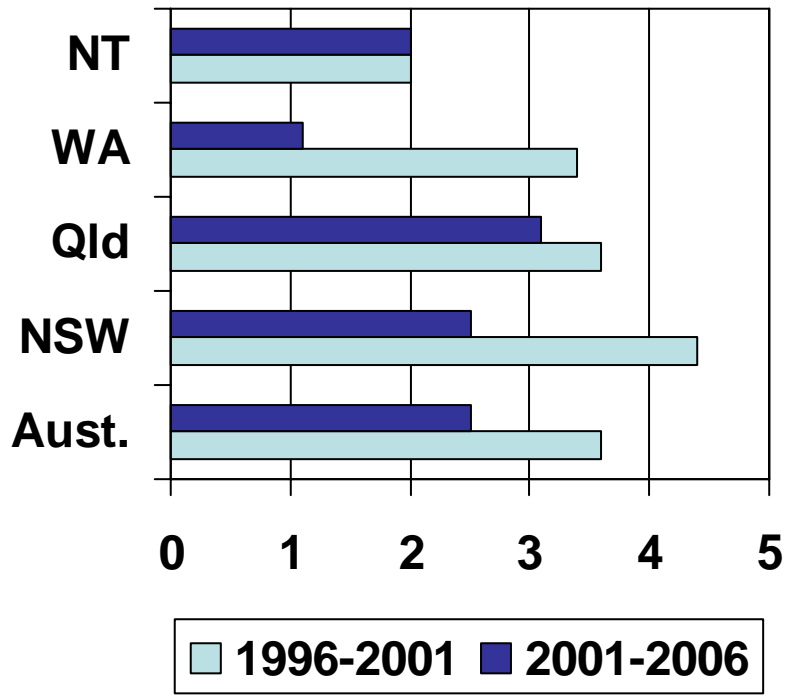
- IT IS A Discussion Paper
 - released 17 November (cat. no 3302.0.55.001)
 - available on ABS website
 - assessment of various methods
- Complex issues
- ABS is seeking feedback by 15 Dec 2008.
 - finalise approach
 - publish in early 2009.
- Will continue to be labelled 'experimental'.

Key findings

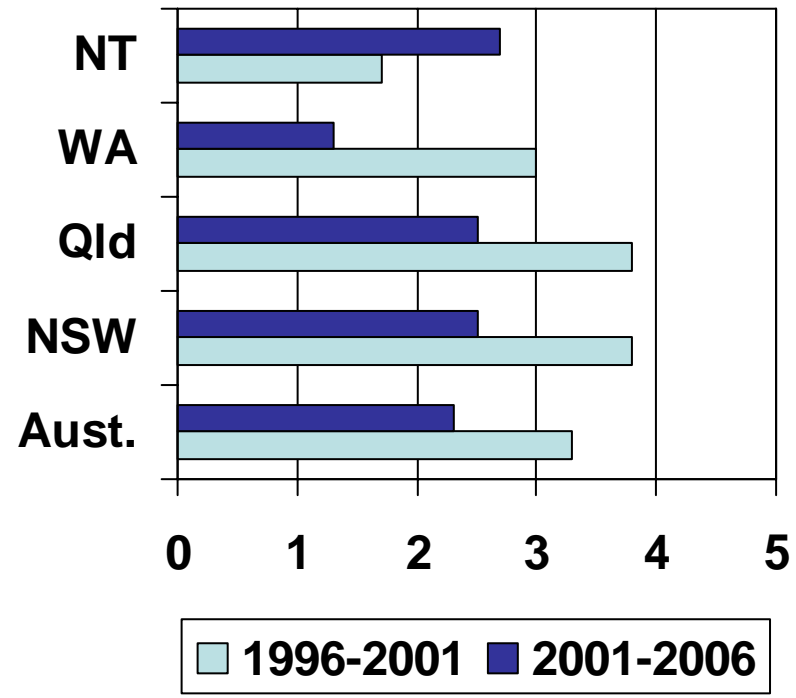
- Indirect methods previously used by ABS
 - no longer considered appropriate in the Australian context;
- ABS CDE Indigenous Mortality Quality Study presents the best option
 - use to adjusted deaths data
 - enables use of the direct method for life table compilation
- Life tables compiled for:
 - Australia, Qld, WA, NSW, and the NT
 - insufficient deaths by age group and sex for SA, Vic., Tas. and the ACT

Less unexplained growth: Annual growth rates %

Males



Females



Indirect methods

- Requires two population estimates at each end of an intercensal period
- Registered deaths in the intercensal period
- Bhat and Hill method results imply:
 - Declining coverage from 1996-2001 to 2001-2006
 - Implausible coverage decline in the NT

Direct methods

- Changed reference period to 2005-2007
 - Deaths for 2005 to 2007 calendar years
 - Population for 30 June 2006
 - Align reported Indigenous status to that used for population estimates (i.e. PES based)
- Assessed:
 - Assume 100% coverage
 - CDE Quality Study adjusted

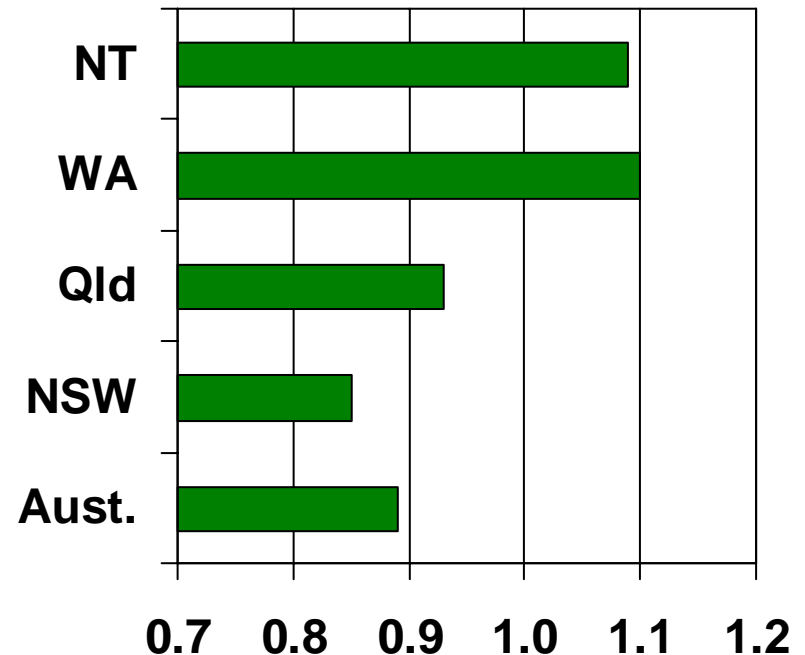
CDE Quality Study outcomes

- Coverage of Indigenous deaths higher than previously estimated, BUT:
 - high level of off-setting reporting
 - identified as Indigenous in either the Census or death registration but non-Indigenous in the other collection
 - plenty to do on improvement and quality assurance of Indigenous death registrations
- Not possible to compile comparable data for 2001
 - previous estimates may have understated life expectancy,
 - not possible to compare the estimates over time.

CDE Quality Study findings

- Limitations
 - 11 months of deaths
 - High level of unlinked deaths (WA 35%, NT 40%)
 - High census net undercount (i.e. no Census record to link)
 - Differential Indigenous status reporting
- NB: alignment of Indigenous status to “PES” base for both numerator and denominator

Coverage rates

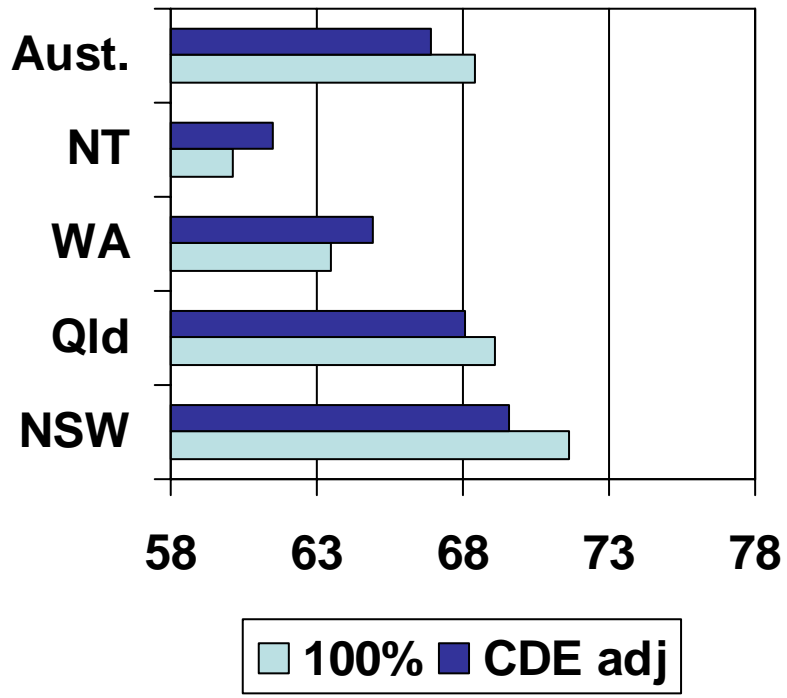


Life Expectancy estimates

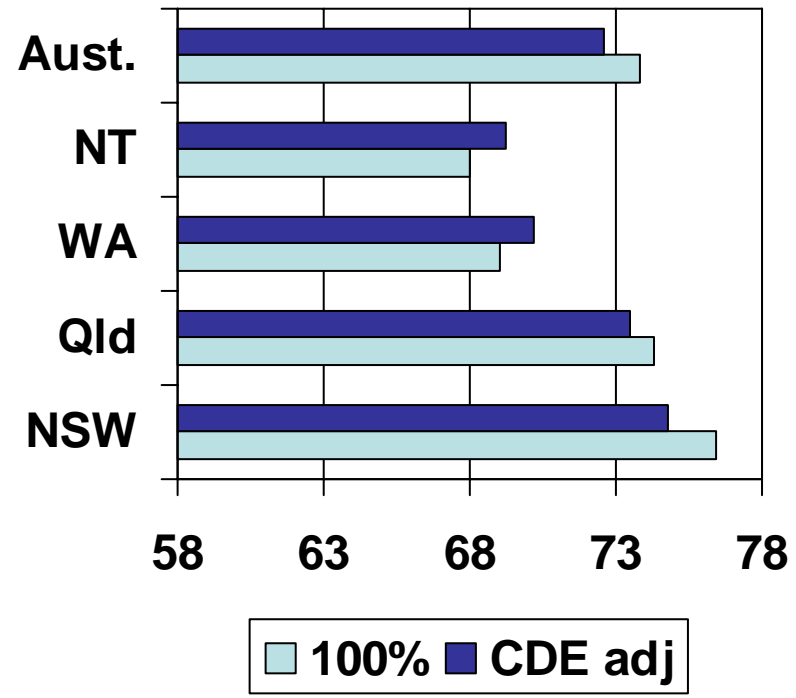
- Preliminary estimates of Indigenous life expectancies at birth, 2005-2007, Australia:
 - 66.9 years for males and
 - 72.6 years for females;
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous difference
 - Australia: 11.8 years for males, 10.0 years for females
 - NT: 17.2 years for males, 13.4 years for females
 - Qld: 10.6 years for males, 9.1 for females

Life expectancy at birth, 2005-2007, direct methods

Males



Females



Which reference point?

- First time ABS has compiled non-Indigenous life tables
 - prorate not-stated Indigenous status
 - possible because of Census year population estimates
- Previous “gap” reporting used total Australian life tables for mid-intercensal period
- Qn: Which non-Indigenous reference point for state/territory comparisons:
 - Australian total, or within each state and NT?

Warnings

- Don't directly compare with previously published estimates
 - Different methods and data quality
 - Do not represent change over time
- Previous published “implied coverage rates”
 - Based on indirect methods and assumptions
 - However, CDE found NSW and Qld data of better quality than previously thought
 - Will be included in analysis for ABS Deaths, 2007 release tomorrow (cat. no. 3302.0)

Comments sought on:

- Whether the proposed direct method is supported given the available options
- Suggestions to help improve the suggested method
- Any other evidence available as to the extent of undercoverage of Indigenous deaths in death registration data, and
- Any other aspects of the analysis presented.

Comments to:

- Patrick Corr
 - patrick.corr@abs.gov.au or
 - demography@abs.gov.au
 - (02) 6252 6411
- Address on page 6 of Discussion Paper
 - www.abs.gov.au
 - ABS cat. no. 3302.0.55.002