

2019 Indigenous Australian participants report

FluTracking is an online surveillance system used to track community-level flu activity across Australia. FluTracking has collected Indigenous status data since 2012. The data you and your community provide to FluTracking is important for us to understand the impacts that flu has on all Indigenous Australians. The following is a summary of information based on the data Indigenous Australians have provided since 2012.

Indigenous Australian participation has continued to grow from 122 participants in 2012 to over 800 participants in 2019 (Figure 1). However, this only represents 1.7% of the FluTracking population, compared to 3.3% of Indigenous people in the Australian population. We need more Indigenous Australian participants so that FluTracking participation rates are more representative of the Australian Indigenous population.

Increase in Indigenous Australian participation from 2012-2019, but need more participants for 2020

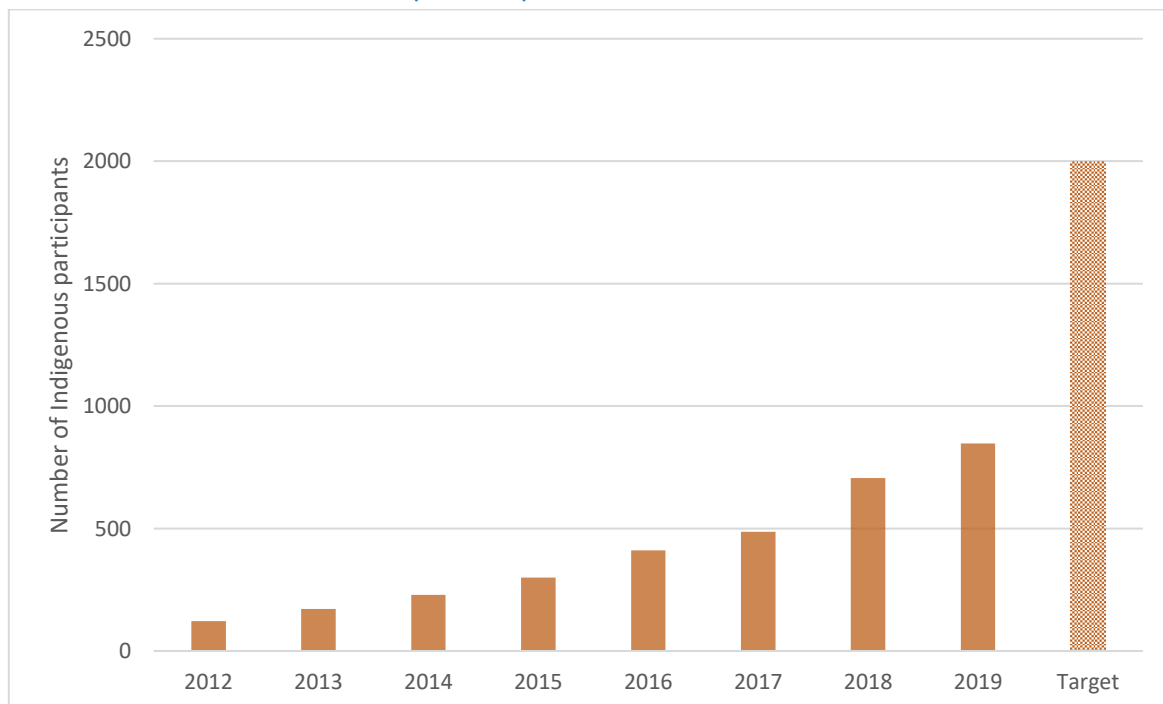


Figure 1: Growth of Indigenous FluTracking participation, 2012 to 2019, Australia

FluTracking has a good representation of Indigenous Australians over 25 years of age (Figure 2). FluTracking would like more participants under the age of 25 so that FluTracking is more representative of the Indigenous Australian population.

The highest proportion of participants are aged 25-54 years, more 0-24 years participants are needed

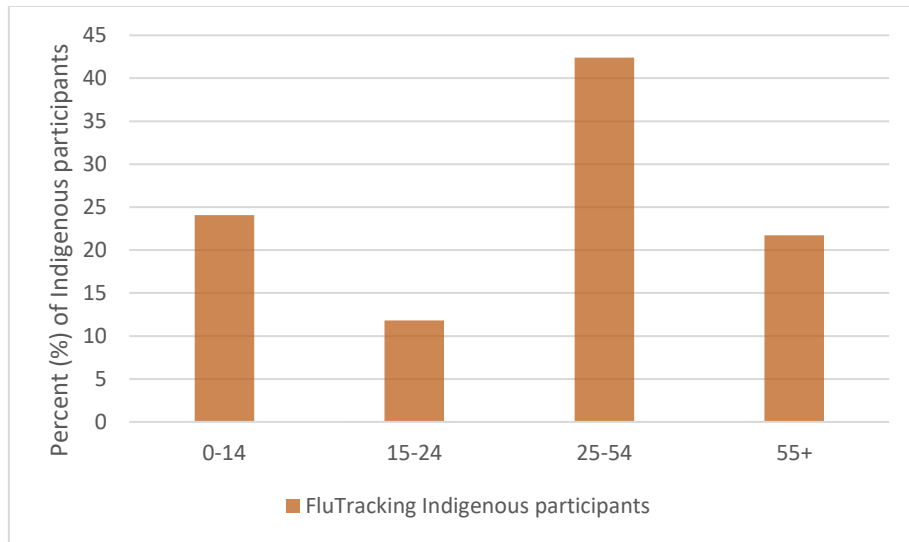


Figure 2: Percent of Indigenous participants by age group, 2019

The data shows that the weekly fever and cough rates are consistently higher for Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians (Figure 3). 2018 was seen as a mild flu year overall in Australia, however, for Indigenous Australian FluTracking participants this was not the case – this highlights the importance of carefully monitoring flu in the Indigenous Australian community each year.

Each year Indigenous Australian participants experience higher flu-like illness levels than non-Indigenous participants

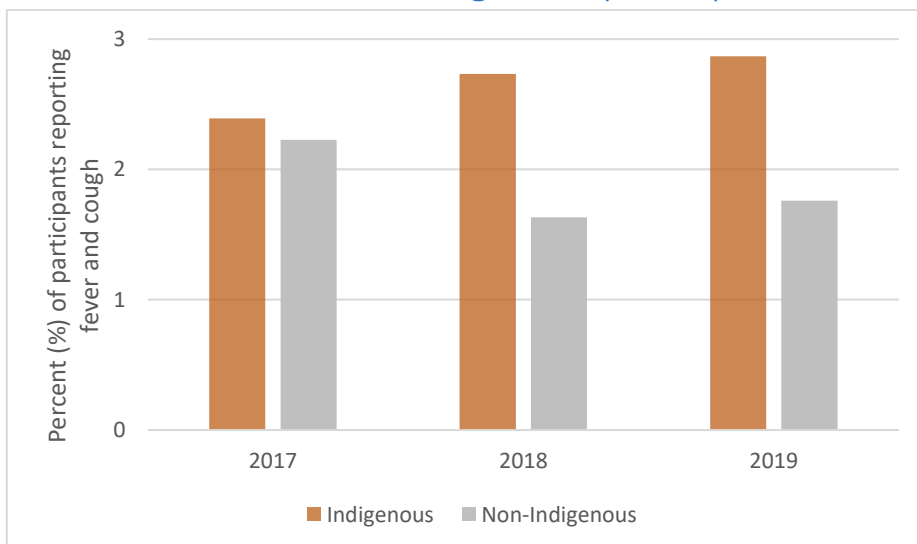


Figure 3: Weekly fever and cough % by Indigenous status, 2017-19

The percentage of Indigenous Australian FluTracking participants reporting being vaccinated against influenza increased each year from 2016 (Figure 4). Indigenous Australian participants reported vaccination rates consistently lower than non-Indigenous Australian participants every year.

Indigenous Australian participants reported vaccination rates consistently lower than non-Indigenous Australian participants

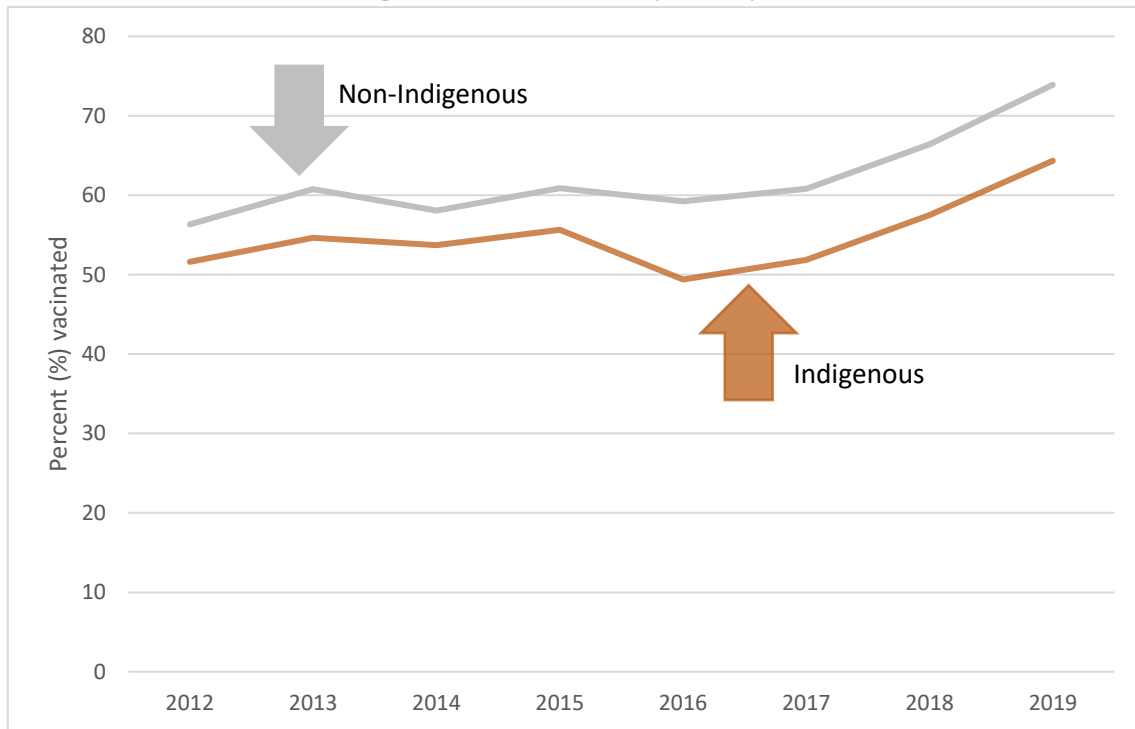


Figure 4: Percent of participants vaccinated for influenza, by Indigenous status, Australia, 2012-2019

By self-reporting, you help the FluTracking team to identify impacts, trends, and monitoring the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Thank you for participating in FluTracking, your participation is really valuable. We would appreciate if you could share this information and invite a friend or relative to join FluTracking.

www.flutracking.net/join/inv56