

First Nations Profile

April 2024



First Nations Profile

First Nations will be used as a term throughout this document to acknowledge Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

This profile is based on First Nations residents and households in Banyule. The profile compares demographic and socio-economic data for Banyule's First Nations Peoples with Banyule's non-First Nations population. Council is committed and continues to work in partnership to support First Nations Peoples to improve health and wellbeing, education and employment outcomes and community and social participation.

Aboriginal heritage

Banyule Council is made up of various Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people who represent many tribes. The Traditional Custodians are the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin nation who have lived on the lands of Banyule for more than 35,000 years. There are other Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people who are not Traditional Custodians but who reside in Banyule.

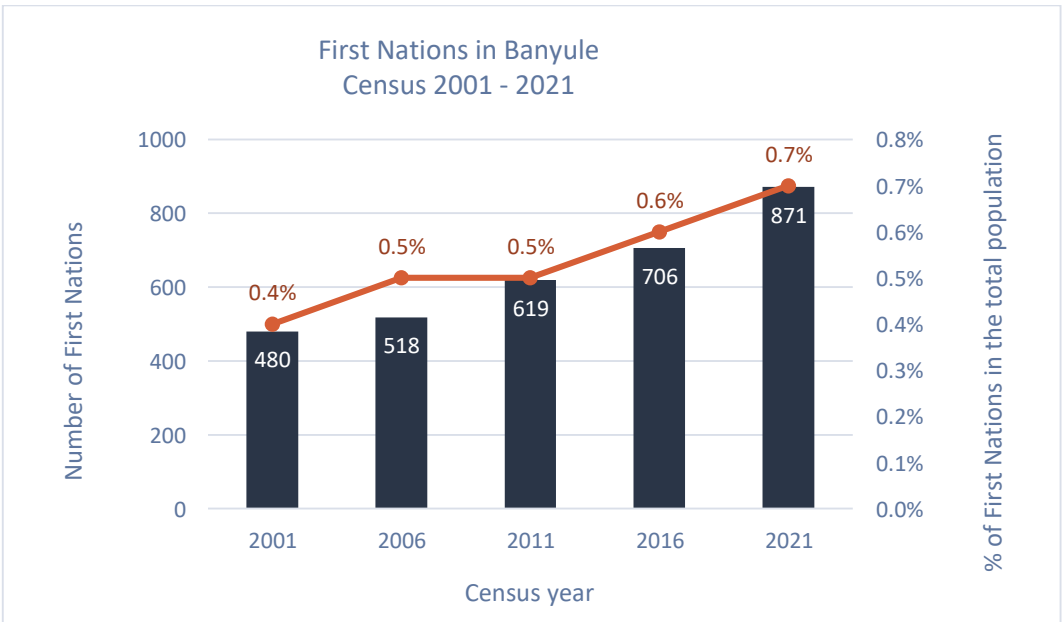
Banyule population

In the 2021 Census, Banyule's total usual resident population was 126,236.
The total population by First Nations status was:

- First Nations 871
- Non-First Nations 121,790
- Not stated 3,575

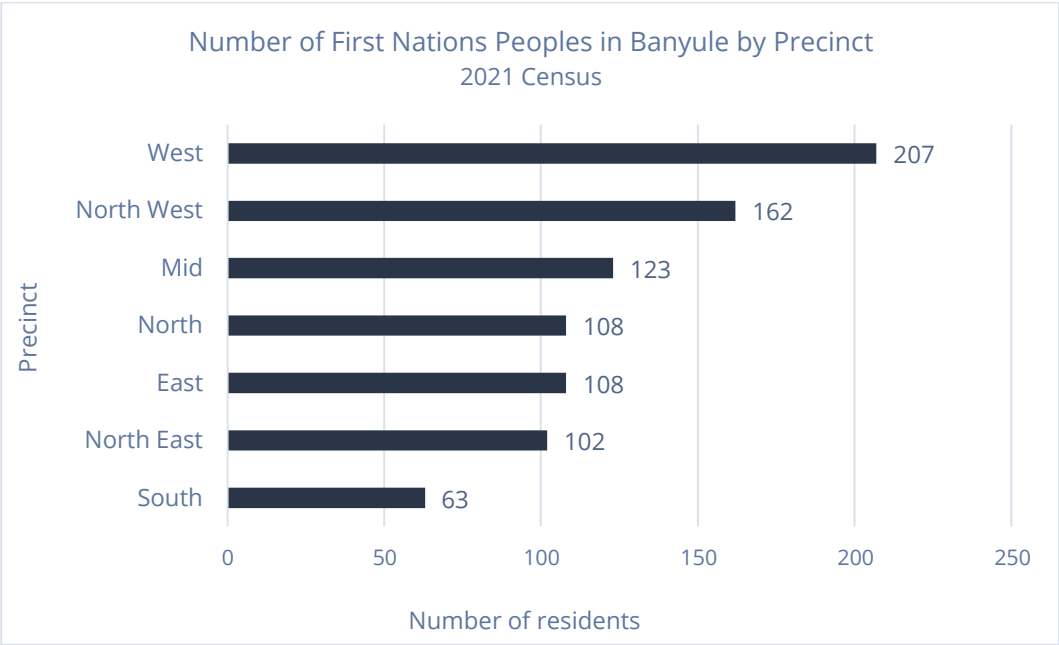
First Nations Peoples

In the 2021 Census, 871 Banyule residents identified as First Nations. This is 165 more than the 2016 Census which reported 706 First Nations. The actual population is likely higher because First Nations are historically under-represented in Census data.
The proportion of First Nations in Banyule is similar to Greater Melbourne (0.7%).



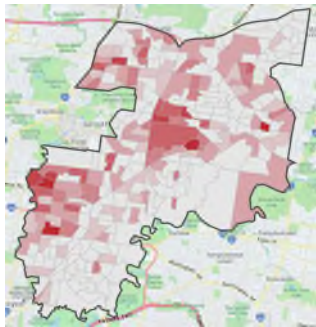
Residential location

In Banyule, the greatest number of First Nations live in the West Precinct, in the suburbs of Heidelberg West / Bellfield and Heidelberg Heights (207 persons). These suburbs are well known for their rich cultural diversity and community connection.



The proportion of First Nations ranges from a low of 0% in the suburb of Ivanhoe East, to a high of 1.9% (136 people) in Heidelberg West / Bellfield.

Map of Banyule and First Nations



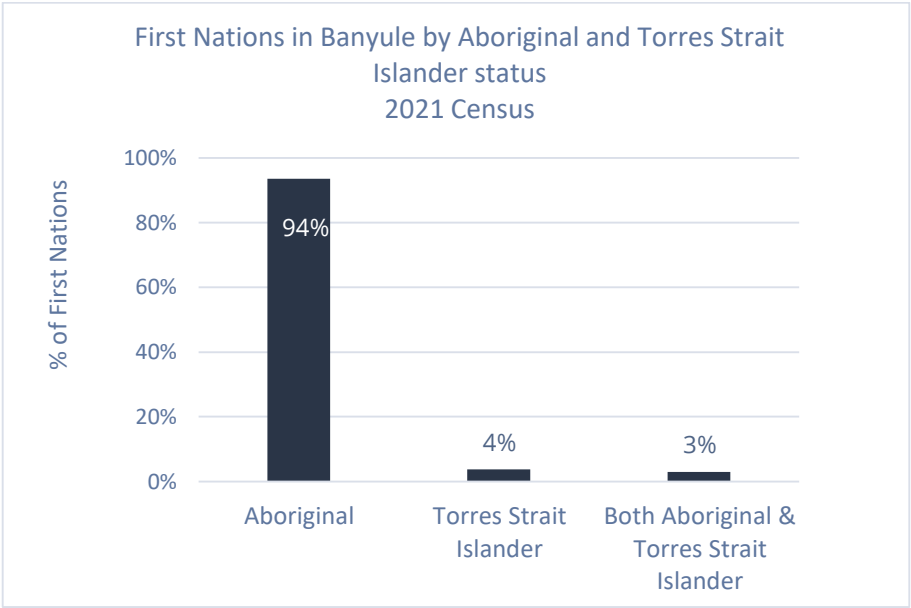
The red areas represent areas with a higher number of First Nations Peoples.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

The number of First Nations by Aboriginal and Torres Strait status is:

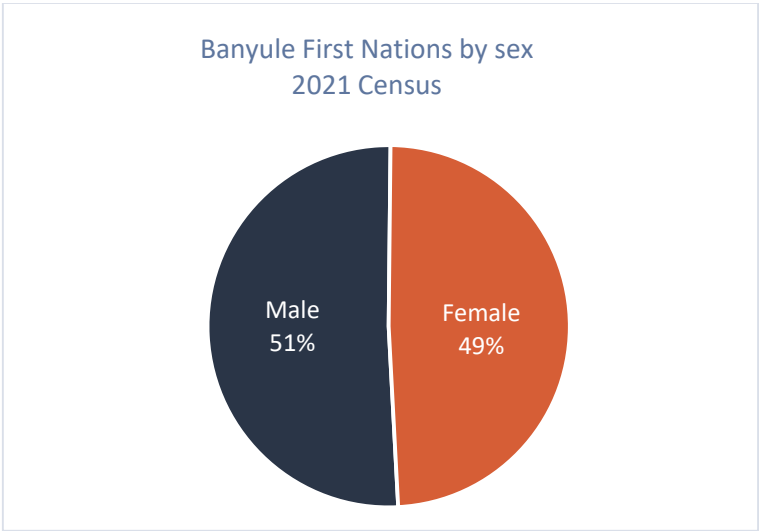
- Aboriginal 814
- Torres Strait Islander 32
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 25

In Banyule, approximately 9 out of every 10 First Nations identify as Aboriginal (94%). This is similar for Greater Melbourne (94%) and Australia (91%).



Sex ¹

The First Nations population in Banyule has a slightly higher proportion of males (51%, or 473 persons) compared to females (49%, or 425 persons). In comparison, the non-First Nations population has a higher proportion of females (51%) than males (49%).



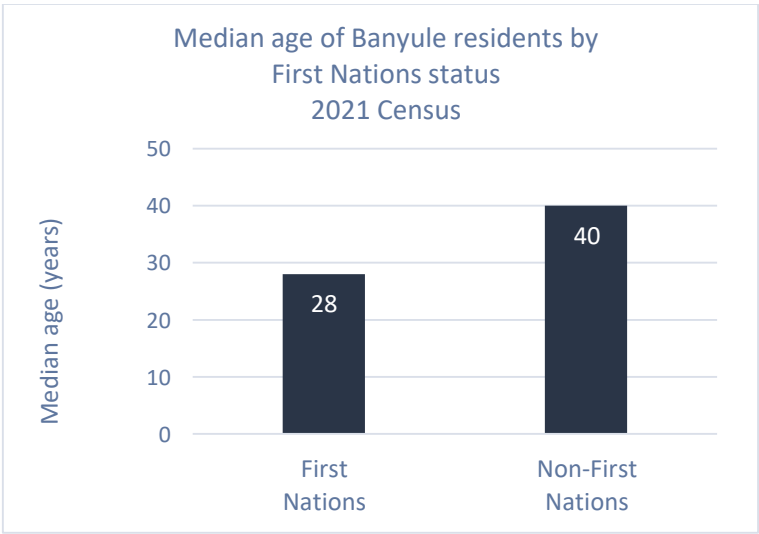
Age

First Nations have a younger age profile than non-First Nations. Almost half of First Nations in Banyule are aged 0-24 years (48%).

Age group of Banyule residents by First Nations status
2021 Census

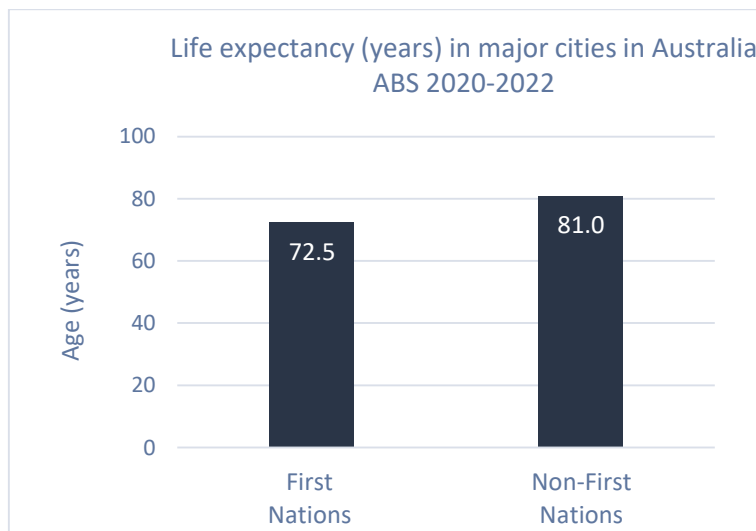
| Age group (years) | First Nations | Non-First Nations |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 0-4 | 8% | 6% |
| 5-24 | 36% | 23% |
| 25-64 | 48% | 53% |
| 65+ | 8% | 19% |

In Banyule, the median age of First Nations has increased from 25 years in 2016 to 28 years in 2021. It remains lower than the median age for non-First Nations (40 years).



Life expectancy

Life expectancy is lower for First Nations compared to non-First Nations. In major cities of Australia, the life expectancy at birth for First Nations is 72.5 years for males and 76.5 years for females. In comparison, the life expectancy at birth for non-First Nations is 81 years for males and 84 years for females.



Early childhood education ²

In 2018, the early childhood education enrolment rate in Victoria was 100% for First Nations children. In comparison, the enrolment rate for non-First Nations children was lower (94%).

Unpaid childcare

A lower proportion of First Nations (aged 15 years and over), provided unpaid childcare compared to non-First Nations (17% compared to 23%).

Banyule residents aged 15+ years by unpaid childcare status – 2021 Census

| Unpaid childcare status | First Nations | Non-First Nations |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Did not provide child care | 75.7% | 69.5% |
| Cared for own child/children | 17.2% | 22.7% |
| Cared for other child/children | 4.8% | 6.2% |
| Cared for own child/children and other child/children | 0.6% | 0.5% |
| Not stated | 2.3% | 1.2% |
| Total | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Language

The majority of First Nations in Banyule use English at home (92%). The proportion that use an Australian Indigenous language is 2.1%.

Religion

In Banyule, more than half of First Nations (64%) indicated their religious affiliation as secular / other spiritual or no religion.

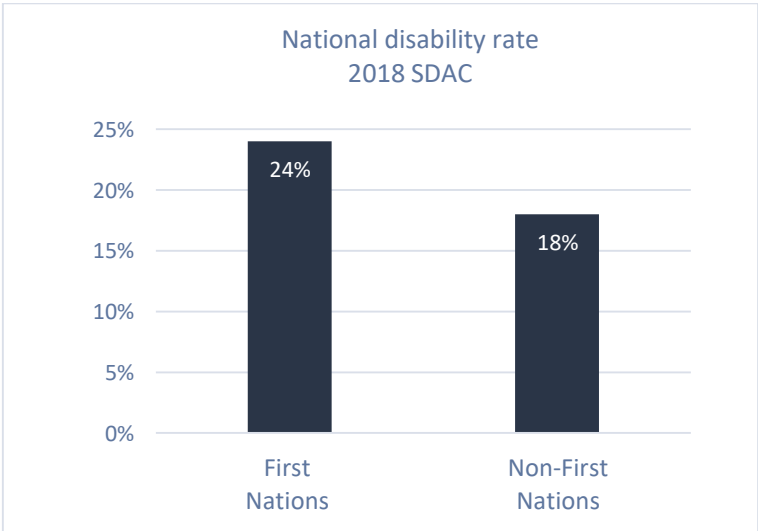
Banyule residents and religious affiliation – 2021 Census

| Religious affiliation | First Nations | Non-First Nations |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Secular / other spiritual / no religion | 64% | 45% |
| Christianity | 30% | 46% |
| Other religions | 2% | 7% |

Less than one percent of First Nations nominated Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions (0.3%).

Disability

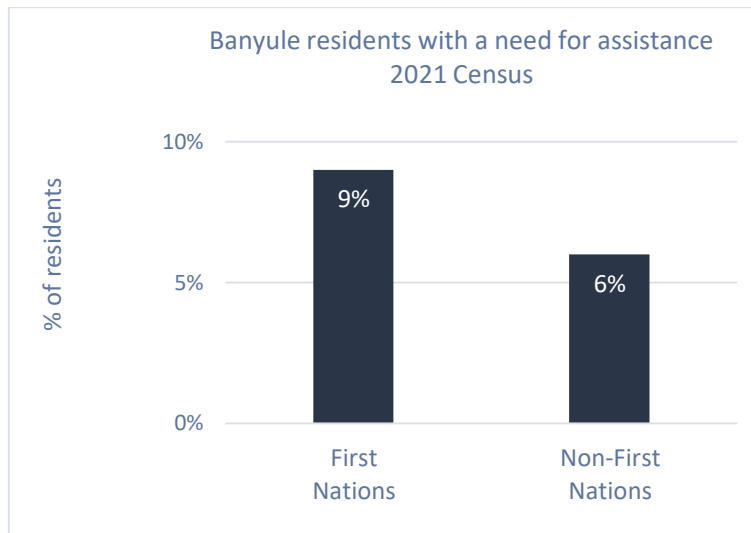
Banyule specific data is not available for residents with a disability. In the absence of this, we can refer to National data which shows higher rates of disability for First Nations compared to non-First Nations. In the 2018 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC), 24% of First Nations in Australia reported a disability compared with 17% for non-First Nations. The proportion of First Nations with a disability was similar for men and women.



Need for assistance (due to disability)

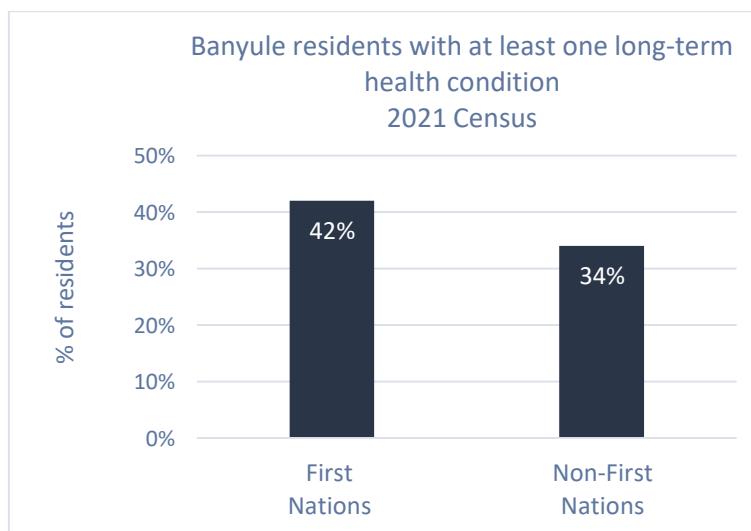
Need for assistance refers to assistance with daily core activities (communication, mobility, personal care) due to severe disability.

In Banyule, 9% of First Nations reported needing assistance in their day-to-day lives due to disability, compared to 6% of non-First Nations.



Long-term health conditions

In Banyule, 42% of the First Nations population have one or more long-term health conditions compared to 34% of the non-First Nations population.



The major differences in the long-term health conditions of First Nations compared to non-First Nations are:

- A higher proportion of First Nations with asthma (16% compared to 9%).
- A higher proportion of First Nations with a mental health condition, including depression or anxiety (19% compared to 9%).

Long-term health condition of residents by First Nations status – 2021 Census

| Type of long-term health condition | Banyule | | Greater Melbourne | |
|--|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | First Nations | Non-First Nations | First Nations | Non-First Nations |
| Arthritis | 8.4% | 8.9% | 6.6% | 7.2% |
| Asthma | 15.6% | 8.6% | 15.9% | 8.1% |
| Cancer (including remission) | 2.3% | 3.2% | 1.9% | 2.6% |
| Dementia (including Alzheimer's) | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.4% | 0.7% |
| Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes) | 5.2% | 4.3% | 4.5% | 4.6% |
| Heart disease (including heart attack or angina) | 4.5% | 4.0% | 3.3% | 3.4% |
| Kidney disease | 1.6% | 0.9% | 1.1% | 0.8% |
| Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema) | 2.5% | 1.5% | 2.2% | 1.2% |
| Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) | 18.7% | 9.4% | 18.6% | 8.3% |
| Stroke | 0.9% | 1.0% | 1.1% | 0.8% |
| Any other long-term health condition(s) | 11.1% | 9.2% | 10.7% | 8.0% |
| No long-term health condition(s) | 52.9% | 62.5% | 53.1% | 66.0% |
| Not stated | 4.6% | 3.3% | 6.8% | 3.4% |
| Total | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Self-reported health

In the 2017 Victorian Population Health Survey, almost two-thirds (65.5%) of First Nations adults rated their health as excellent, very good or good. Just over one-third (34.5%) of First Nations adults rated their health as fair or poor. This was significantly higher than for non-First Nations adults (20.1%).

Physical activity

In the 2019 Victorian Population Health Survey, the proportion of First Nations adults who complied with physical activity guidelines was 43.7% compared to 51.1% for non-First Nations adults. The proportion for First Nations women was considerably lower than the proportion for First Nations men (33.7% compared to 48.7%).

Tobacco ³

In Australia, the proportion of First Nations (aged 18 and over), who were current smokers, declined from 55% in 1994 to 43% in 2019. Over a similar period, the proportion of non-First Nations smokers aged 18 and over declined from 24% in 1995 to 15% in 2017-18.

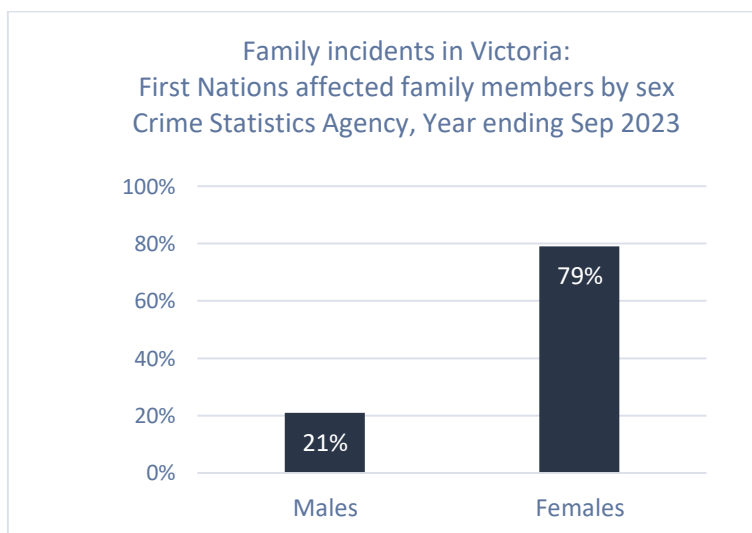
While tobacco smoking is declining in Australia, it remains disproportionately high among First Nations.

In 2018-19, First Nations males aged 18 and over were more likely than First Nations females to be current smokers (46% compared with 41%).

Family violence

First Nations are overrepresented in family violence data from the Crime Statistics Agency (Year ending Sep 2023).

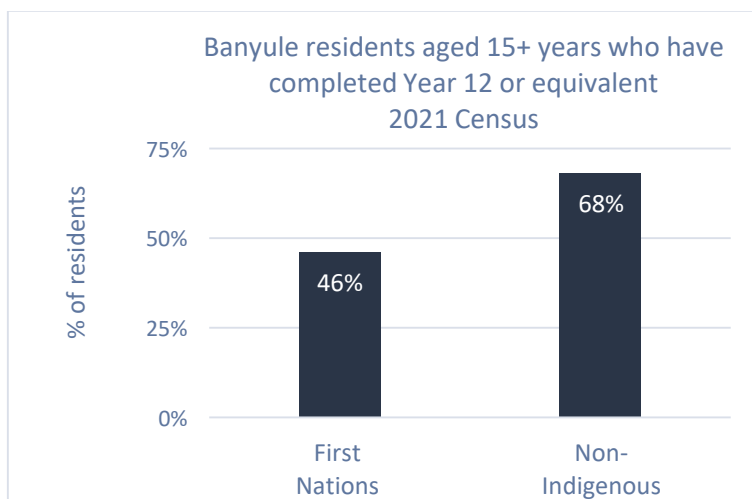
- In Banyule, 10% of alleged offender incidents were First Nations compared to 90% non-First Nations. (In Banyule, First Nations make up less than 1% of the population).
- In relation to family incidents in Victoria, affected family members are more likely to be First Nations females than First Nations males.
- Victorian Crime Statistics data indicate that First Nations women are 6.6 times more likely to experience family violence than non-First Nations people.



Education

The proportion of First Nations completing Year 12 or equivalent is increasing. However, the proportion remains lower compared to non-First Nations.

In Banyule, 46% of First Nations (aged 15+ years), completed Year 12 or equivalent, compared to 68% of non-First Nations. First Nations females were more likely than First Nations males to complete Year 12 or equivalent (52% compared to 42%).

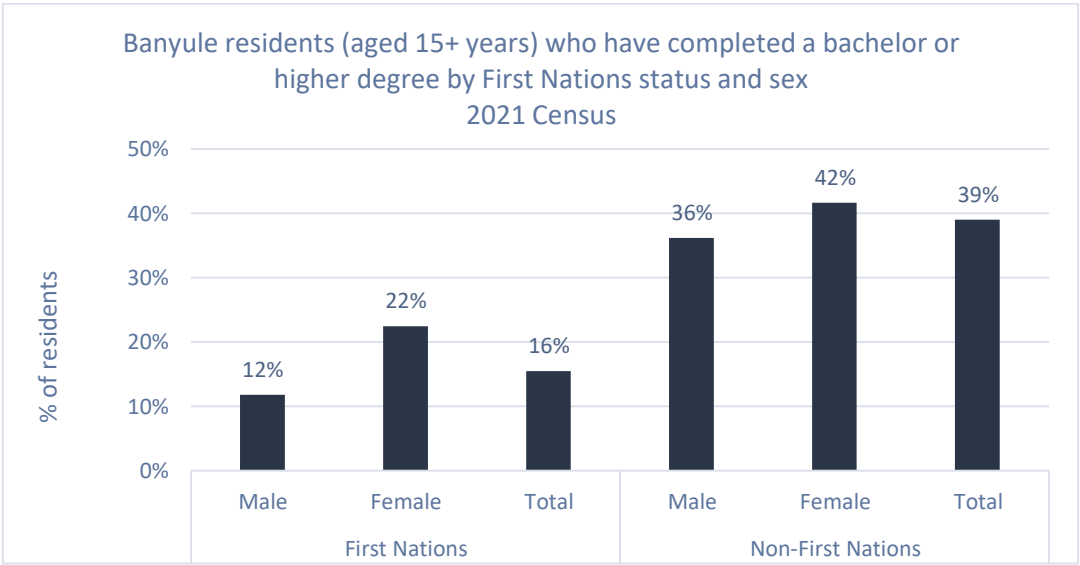


Greater Melbourne had a similar proportion completing Year 12 or equivalent (46% First Nations and 67% non-First Nations).

Highest qualification

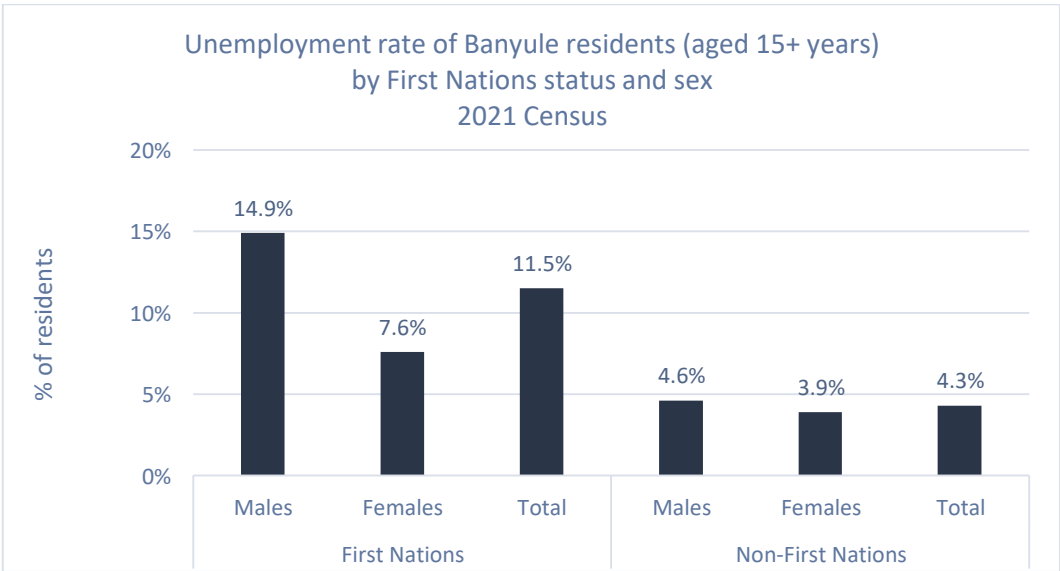
The proportion of First Nations (aged 15+ years) who hold a bachelor or higher degree, has increased from 12% in 2016 to 16% in 2021. However, First Nations were less likely to hold a bachelor or higher degree than non-First Nations (16% compared to 39%).

In both the First Nations and the non-First Nations population, women were more likely than men to complete a bachelor or higher degree. However, First Nations women were nearly twice as likely than First Nations men to complete a bachelor or higher degree (22% compared to 12%).



Employment

In the 2021 Census, the unemployment rate was higher for First Nations (11%) compared to non-First Nations (4%). First Nations males were more likely than First Nations females to be unemployed.



Occupation

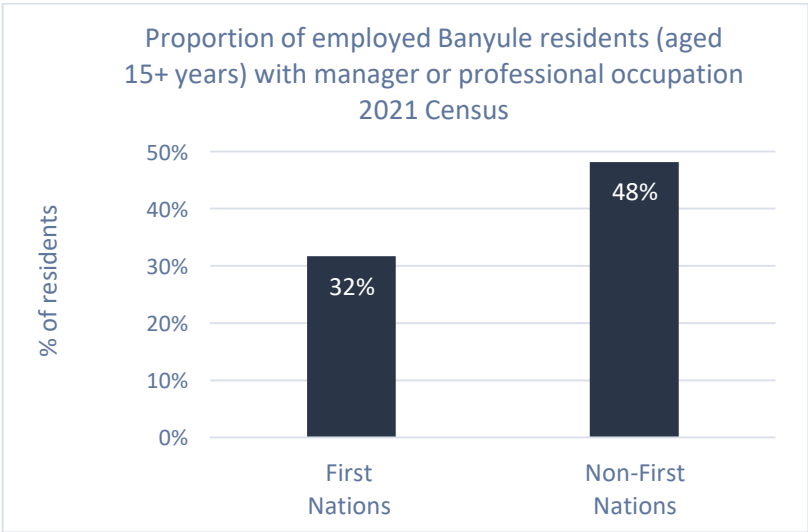
Compared to non-First Nations in employment, First Nations were more likely to be employed as;

- community and personal service workers
- technicians and trades workers
- labourers
- machinery operators and drivers.

Occupation of employed Banyule residents aged 15 years and over – 2021 Census

| Occupation | First Nations | Non-First Nations |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Managers | 11% | 15% |
| Professionals | 20% | 33% |
| Technicians and Trades Workers | 13% | 11% |
| Community and Personal Service Workers | 17% | 10% |
| Clerical and Administrative Workers | 13% | 13% |
| Sales Workers | 6% | 7% |
| Machinery Operators and Drivers | 6% | 3% |
| Labourers | 9% | 5% |
| Inadequately described | 3% | 1% |
| Not stated | 3% | 0% |
| Total | 100% | 100% |

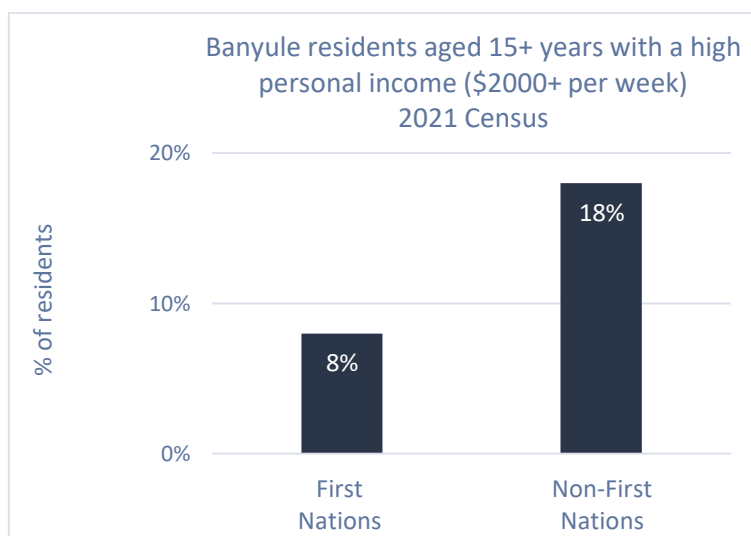
First Nations were less likely to be in manager and professional occupations compared to non-First Nations.



Income

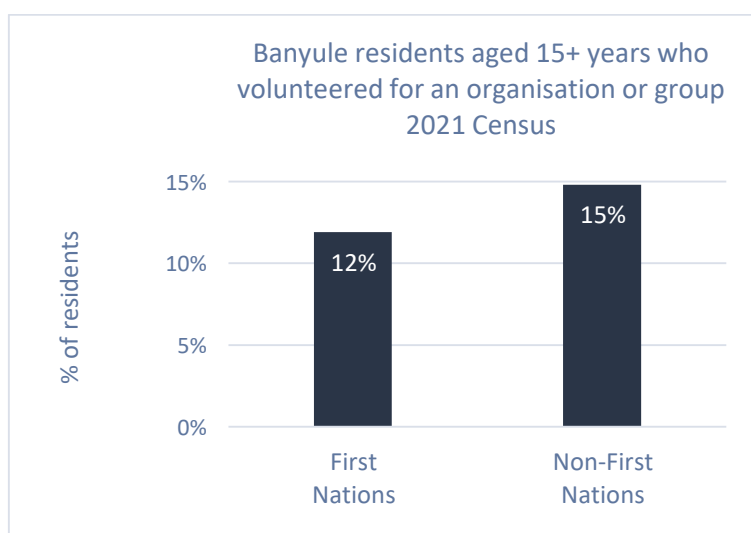
Income levels for First Nations are lower than income levels for non-First Nations.

- A lower proportion of First Nations earn a high income (\$2000 or more per week) than non-First Nations (8% compared to 18%).
- The median total personal income is \$696 per week for First Nations compared to \$917 for non-First Nations.
- The median total household income is \$1647 per week for First Nations households compared to \$2031 for other households.



Volunteering ⁴

First Nations were less likely to volunteer for an organisation or group than non-First Nations.



Households ⁵

In Banyule, there are 501 households with at least one person identifying as First Nations. Of these, 120 or nearly one in four (24%) are one parent households.

Household types in Banyule – 2021 Census

| Household type | Banyule | | Greater Melbourne | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | First Nations households | Other households | First Nations households | Other households |
| One family household | | | | |
| Couple family with no children | 22% | 26% | 20% | 24% |
| Couple family with children | 25% | 34% | 28% | 34% |
| One parent family | 24% | 10% | 22% | 10% |
| Other family | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| Multiple family household | 2% | 1% | 4% | 2% |
| Lone person household | 17% | 25% | 16% | 25% |
| Group household | 7% | 3% | 9% | 4% |

First Nations women were more likely than First Nations men to be in a one parent household (79% compared to 18%). Similarly, non-First Nations women were more likely than non-First Nations men to be in a one parent household (78% compared to 20%).

Housing tenure

First Nations households were more likely to be renting, whilst other households were more likely to own their home outright or have a mortgage. More than half of First Nations households are renting compared to one in four other households. The proportion of First Nations households in social housing is considerably higher compared to other households.

Housing tenure – 2021 Census

| Housing tenure | Banyule | | Greater Melbourne | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | First Nations households | Other households | First Nations households | Other households |
| Owned outright | 18% | 37% | 14% | 30% |
| Owned with a mortgage | 24% | 35% | 29% | 37% |
| Rented | | | | |
| Private | 34% | 21% | 43% | 27% |
| Social housing | 18% | 4% | 10% | 2% |
| Other rented | 3% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Other tenure / not stated | 4% | 2% | 3% | 3% |

More information

This profile is part of a suite of resources produced by Banyule City Council.
More resources can be found at:

www.banyule.vic.gov.au/stats

<https://profile.id.com.au/banyule/indigenous-profile>

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-census/2021>

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples>

Data source and notes

Unless otherwise stated, data is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021.

¹ Sex rather than gender is used in this report because the ABS Census data does not include gender.

² Early childhood enrolment data sourced from Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision 2019, National Agreement Performance Information 2018–19, Productivity Commission: Canberra; and National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Information Management Group, unpublished.

³ Tobacco data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia/contents/priority-populations/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people#tobaccosmoking>

⁴ In the 2021 Census, volunteering decreased due to COVID restrictions and lockdowns.

⁵ First Nations households are households where at least one person who usually resides in the household identified as First Nations.