



Australian Bureau of Statistics, Causes of Death, 2024

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
communities suicide data summary**

Released 14 November 2025

Acknowledgements

Everymind acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We recognise the continuing culture, strength and resilience of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, and their ongoing connection to the land, skies and waterways.

We also acknowledge the ongoing impact of colonisation, discrimination and inequities that contribute to significant health disparities, particularly the disproportionate rates of suicide.

- When exploring suicide data, it is important to remember that behind the numbers are individuals, families and communities impacted by suicide in Australia. By combining the knowledge in this data with other Australian data sets and the wisdom of those with lived and living experience, we will increase opportunities to reduce suicide and its impacts.
- It is important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and services speak to this data. We recommend that you contact the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention for advice and guidance on interpretation and communication about this data: cbpatsisp.com.au/contact-us/



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About this summary

- This summary was prepared by Everymind, in consultation with the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention, using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Causes of Death data, released 14 November 2025.
- Media and others communicating publicly about this data are reminded to be responsible and accurate. Resources to support reporting and other communication are available at mindframe.org.au/suicide. [Media guidelines on the reporting of First Nations issues in Australia](#) and a [First Nations guide for truth-telling about suicide](#) are also available.

Notes about using statistics

- Since 2015, the ABS has improved the process for identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths across several jurisdictions. This has resulted in more deaths among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being identified. Therefore, trends over time need to be interpreted with caution.
- Some data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can only be compiled from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Most data in this summary is presented for these states only.
- From 2013 onwards, data is presented by the year the death was registered, rather than the reference year.



Key terms

Throughout this summary, **rates** are used to describe patterns and trends in the data. Alongside the number of suicide deaths, they help us to better understand and compare suicidal behaviours in different groups and over time.

Crude rates

A crude rate is the number of deaths divided by the population times 100,000.

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of suicide deaths}}{\text{Number of people in the population}} \right) \times 100,000$$

Crude rates do not account for population differences, such as proportions of people of different ages ('age structures'), when comparing different groups.

Age-specific rates

Age-specific rates are used to measure how many deaths occurred in a specific age group.

This is calculated by dividing the number of suicide deaths in a particular age group by the total number of people in the specific age group.

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of suicide deaths in age group}}{\text{Number of people in the population age group}} \right) \times 100,000$$

Age-standardised rates

Age-standardised rates use a formula to calculate a rate that reflects a 'standard' age structure of the population. This is useful to be able to make fairer comparisons between groups or populations over time.

It is best to use age-standardised rates when comparing populations with different age groups, for example, male and female if possible.



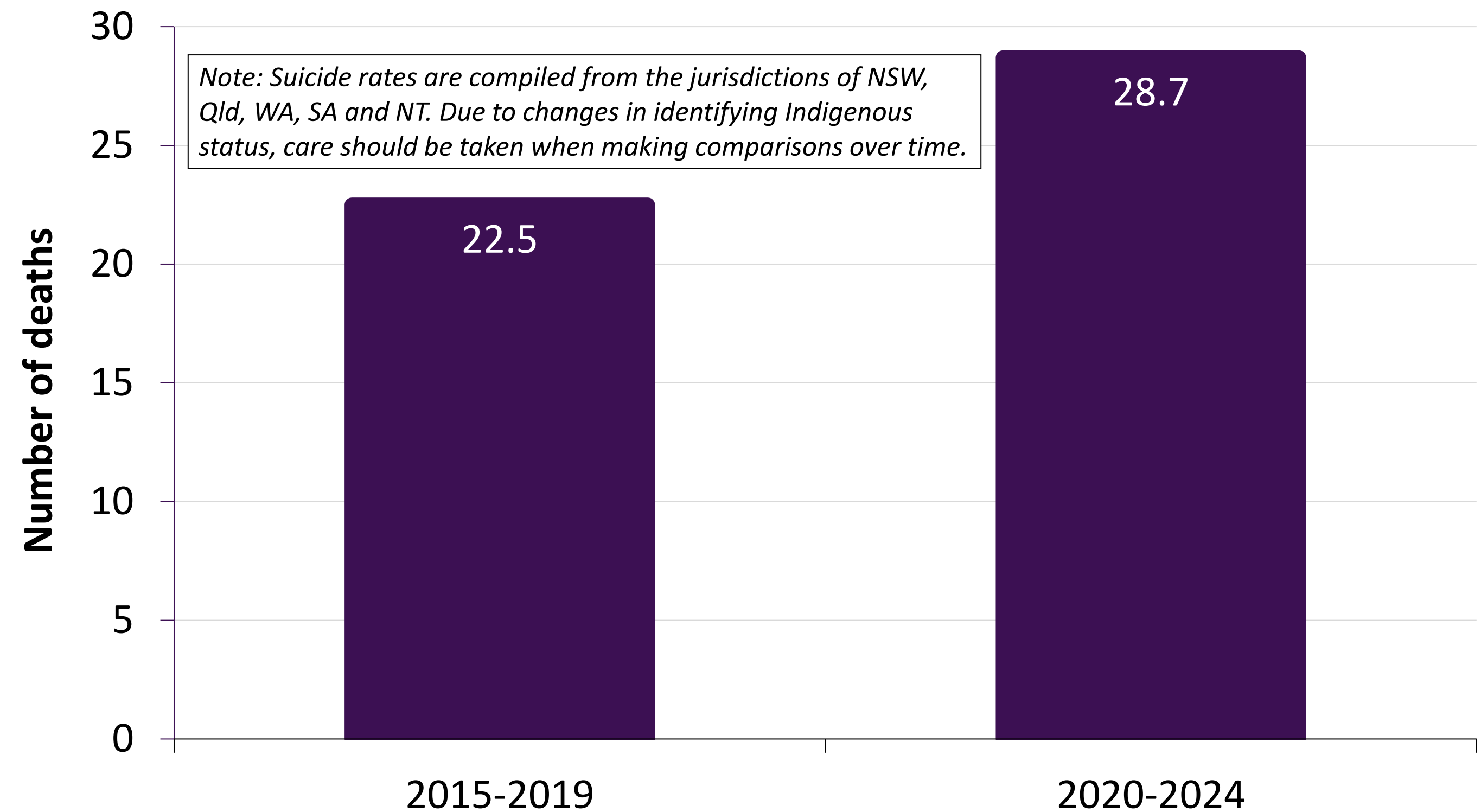
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Across all of Australia, in 2024:

- **306** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide.
- The median age of death was **34.8 years**.
- Over 30% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who died by suicide lived in New South Wales.

In the five jurisdictions of NSW, Qld, WA, SA and NT:

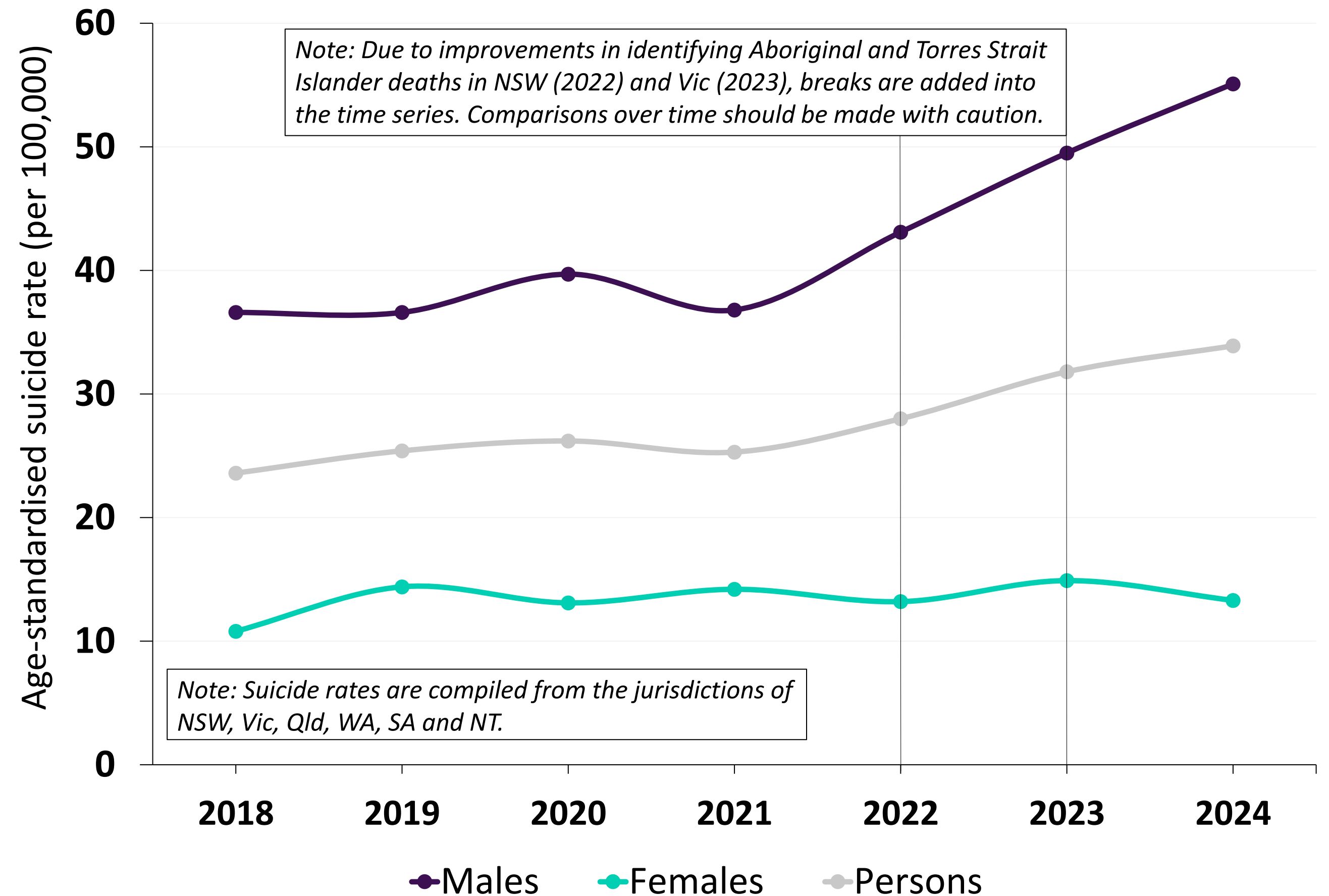
- The suicide rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was higher in 2020-2024, compared to 2015-2019.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Select states

The following data is from **six** jurisdictions: New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.

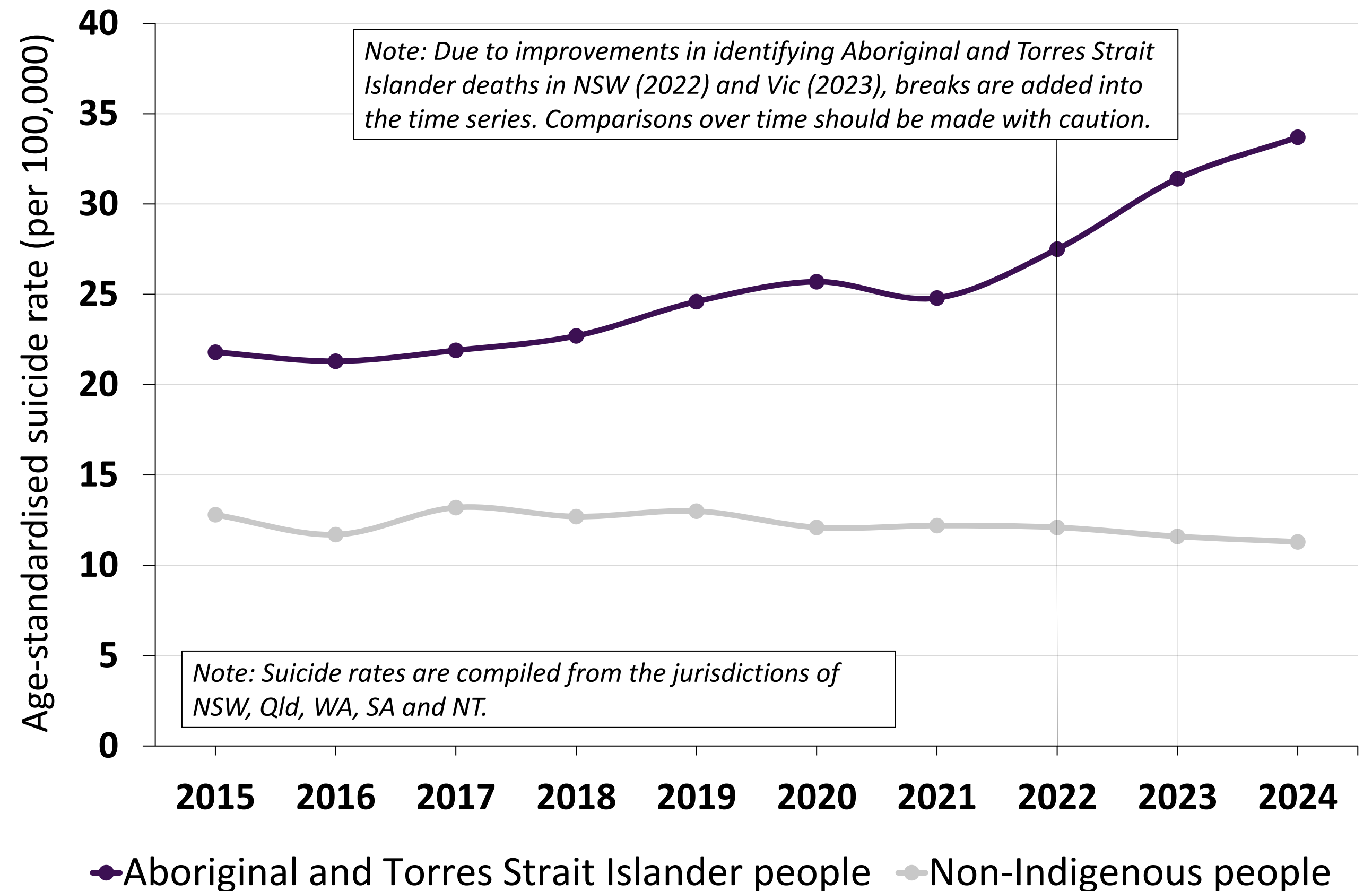
- Suicide was the **fifth leading cause of death** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- In 2024, the suicide rate is the highest in the time series at **33.9 per 100,000**.
- The 2024 suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was **6.5% higher** than the 2023 rate.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared to non-Indigenous people

The following data is from **five** jurisdictions: New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

- In 2024, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had a suicide rate almost **three times higher** than non-Indigenous people.
- In 2024, the age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was **33.7 per 100,000** compared to **11.3 per 100,000** for non-Indigenous people.

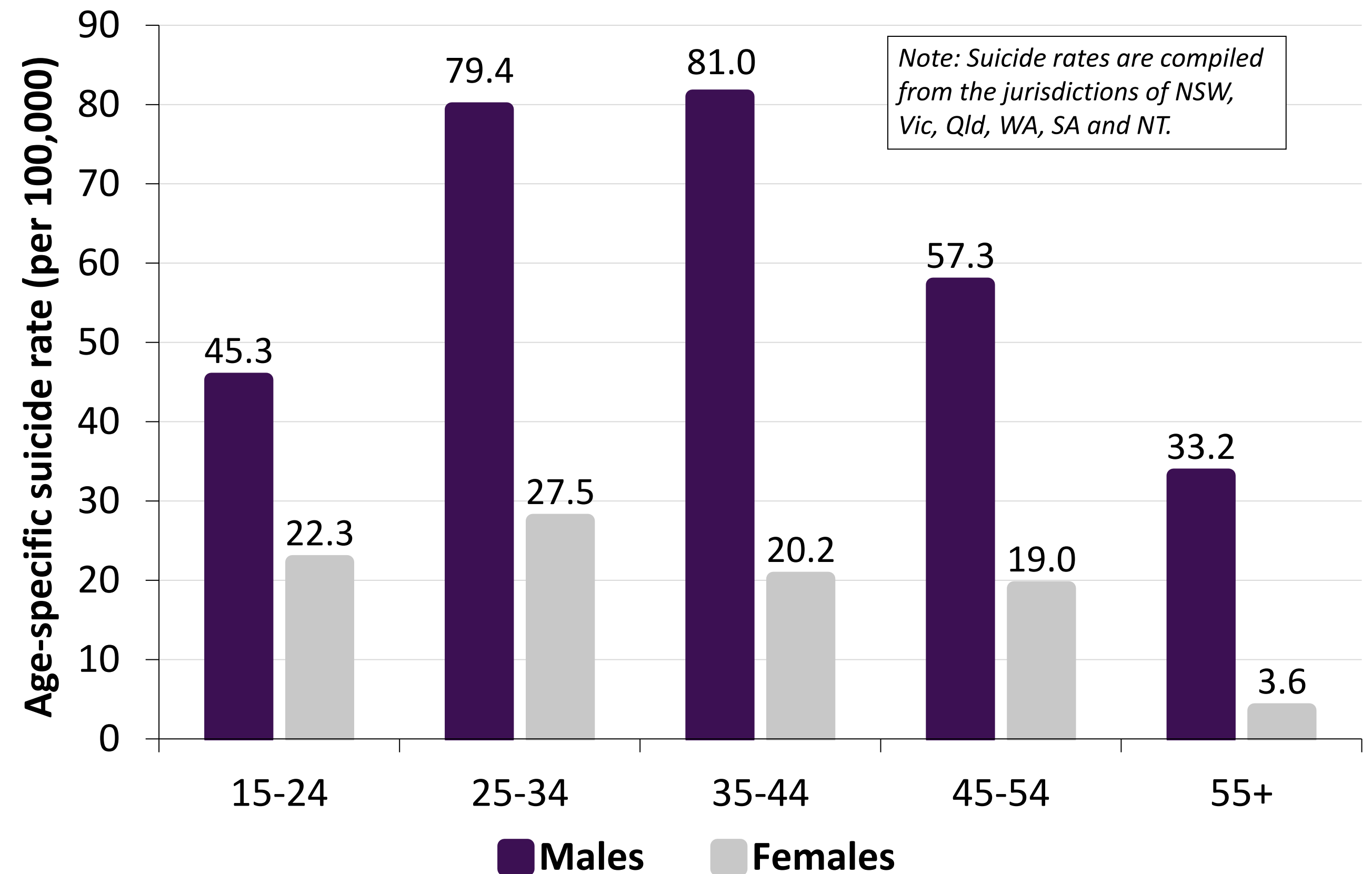


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Age-specific rates

The following data is from **six** jurisdictions: New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who died by suicide between 2020-2024:

- **Over three-quarters (75.9%)** were aged between 15 and 44 years.
- For males, the highest suicide rate was for those aged 35-44 years (**81.0 per 100,000**).
- For females, the highest rate was for those aged 24-34 years (**27.5 per 100,000**).

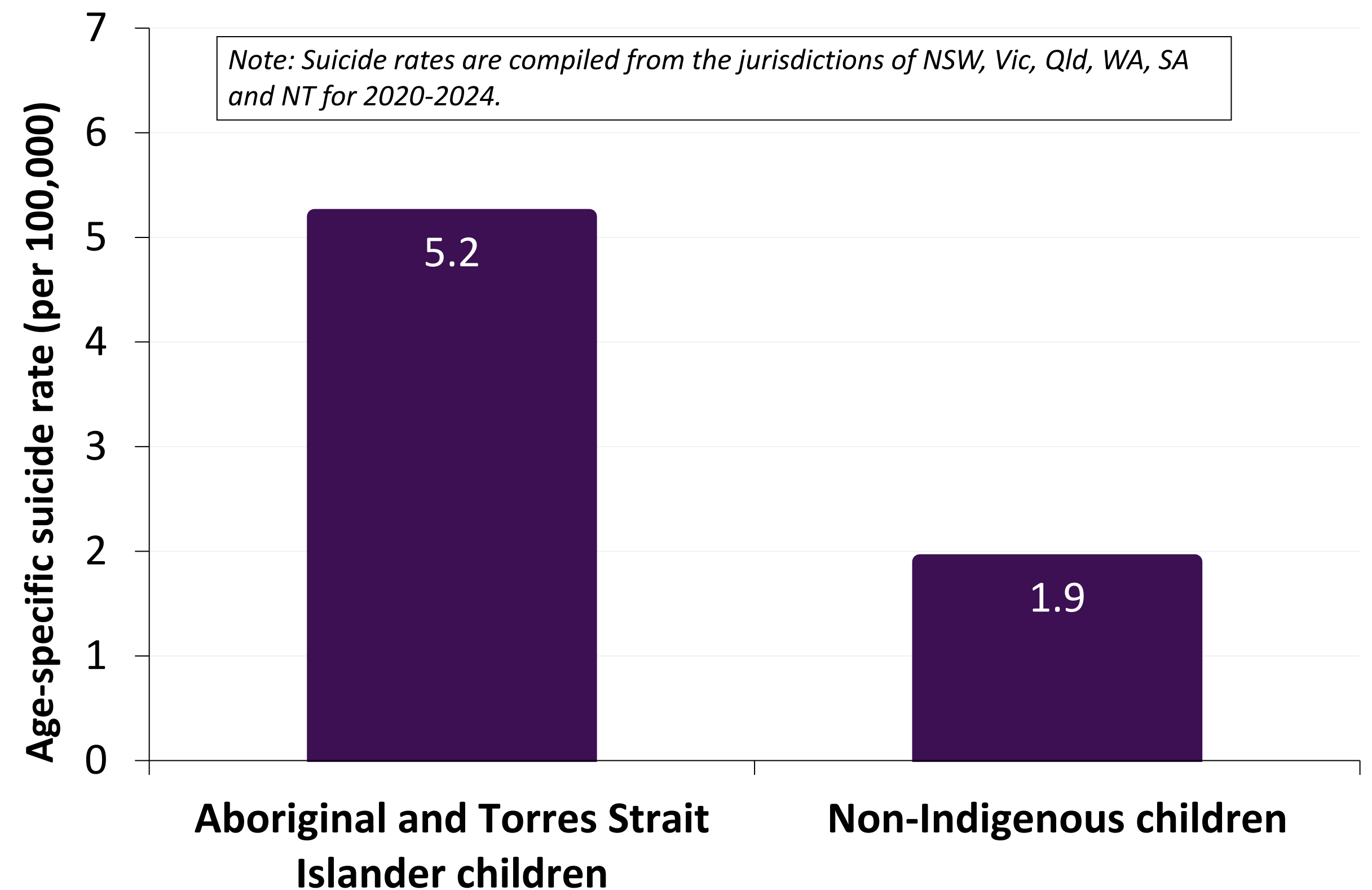


Suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (5-17 years)

Deaths of children by suicide are an extremely sensitive issue and care is required when viewing and reporting on this data.

During the period 2020-2024:

- **21.0%** of deaths in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were due to suicide.
- **70** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged between 5-17 years died by suicide.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children had a higher age-specific suicide rate (**5.2 per 100,000**) compared to non-Indigenous children (1.9 per 100,000).
- **Over three-quarters (75.7%)** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who died by suicide were aged 15-17 years.



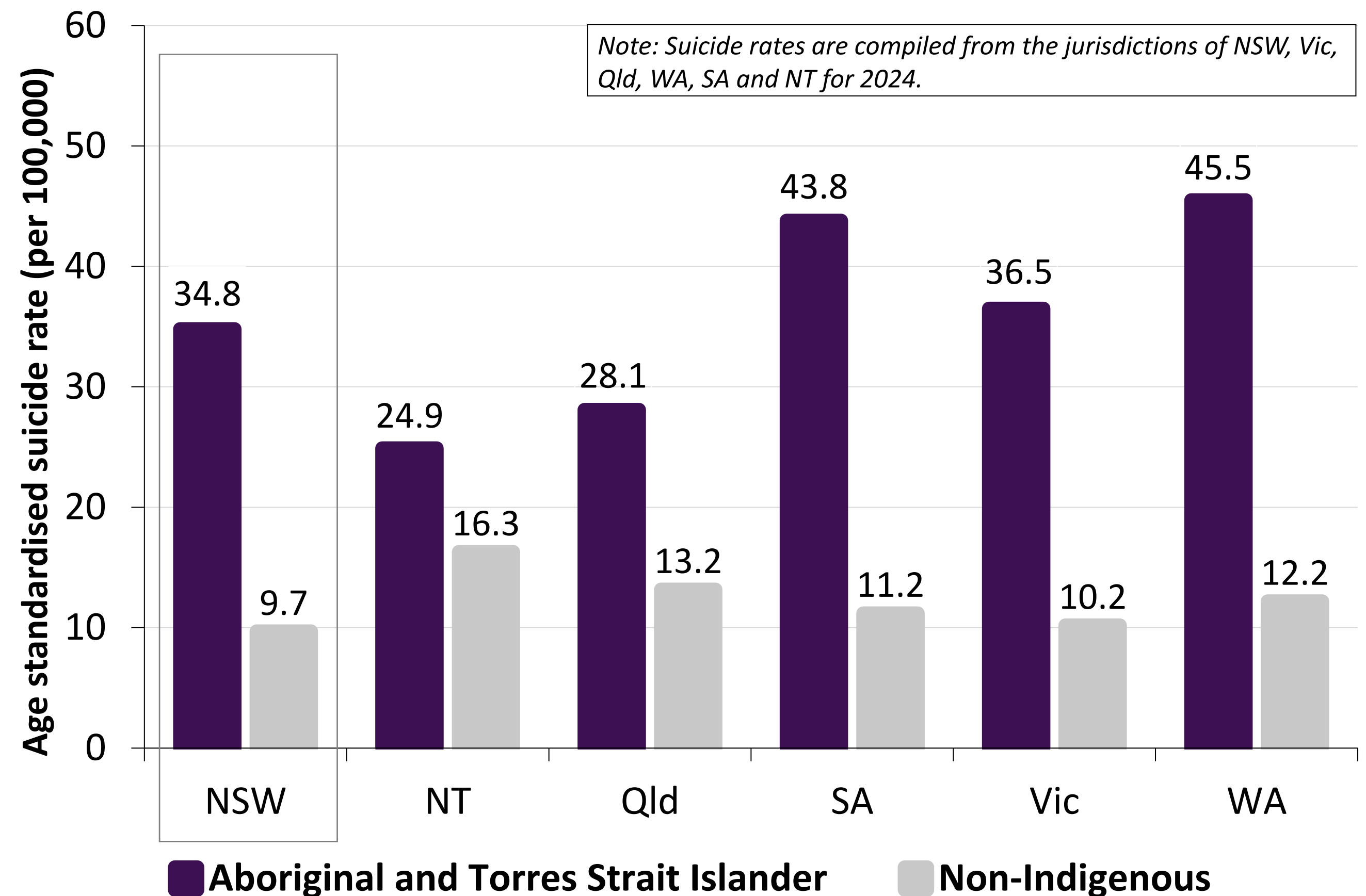
New South Wales, 2024



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: New South Wales

One-year period (2024)

- In New South Wales, **100** (79 male, 21 female) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide.
- Suicide was the **4th leading cause of death** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, compared to the 19th leading cause of death for non-Indigenous people.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**34.8 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (9.7 per 100,000).

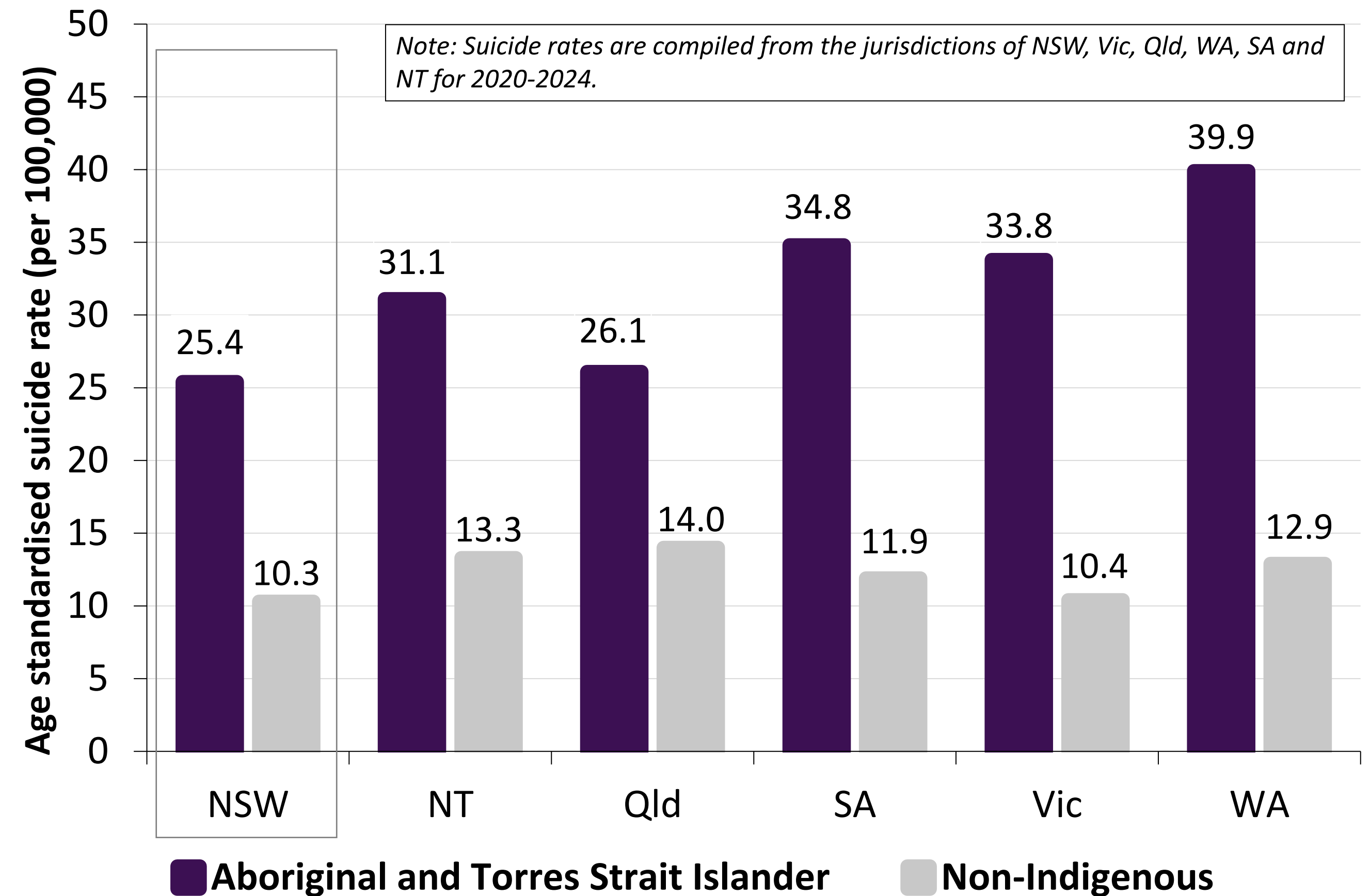


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: New South Wales

Five-year period (2020-2024)

Rates of suicide can change a lot each year, especially in smaller states or territories. Combining data across five years (2020-2024) helps to give a more reliable rate estimates.

- Across the five years, **368** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide in New South Wales.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**25.4 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (10.3 per 100,000).



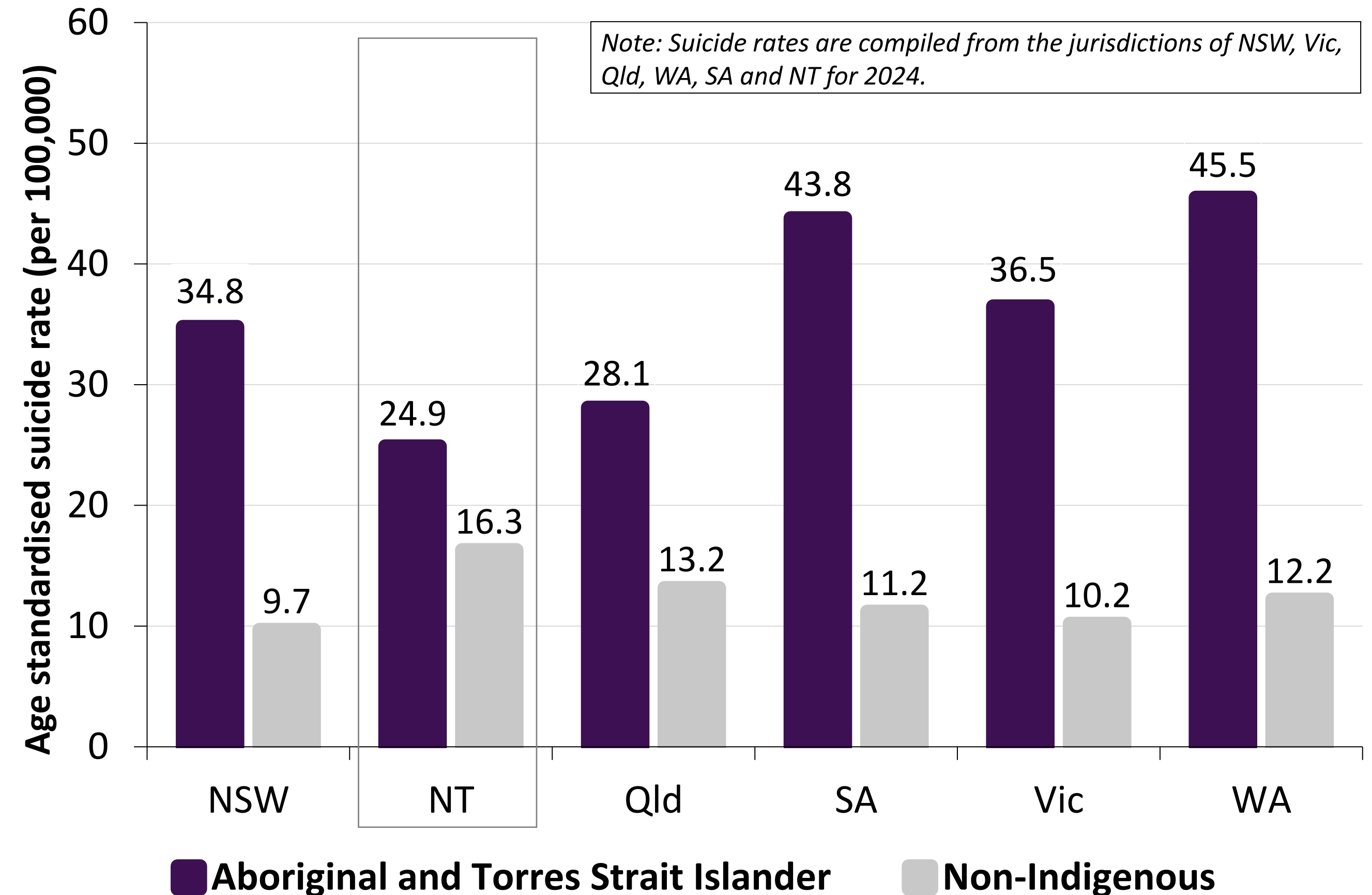
Northern Territory, 2024



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Northern Territory

One-year period (2024)

- In the Northern Territory, **22 (16 male, 6 female)** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide.
- Suicide was the **6th leading cause of death** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, compared to the 5th leading cause of death for non-Indigenous people.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**24.9 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (16.3 per 100,000).

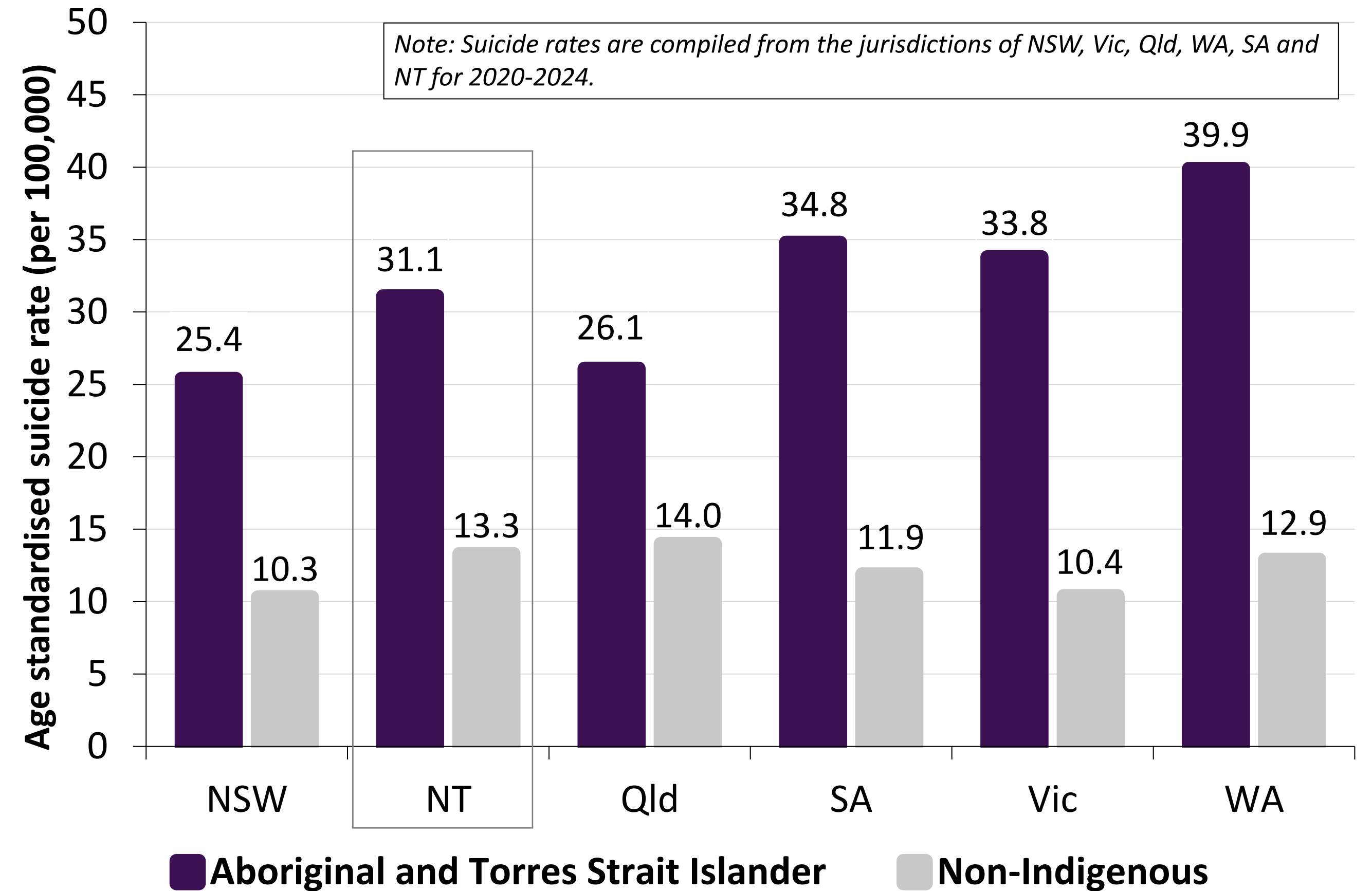


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Northern Territory

Five-year period (2020-2024)

Rates of suicide can change a lot each year, especially in smaller states or territories. Combining data across five years (2020-2024) helps to give a more reliable rate estimates.

- Across the five years, **127** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide in the Northern Territory.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**31.1 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (13.3 per 100,000).



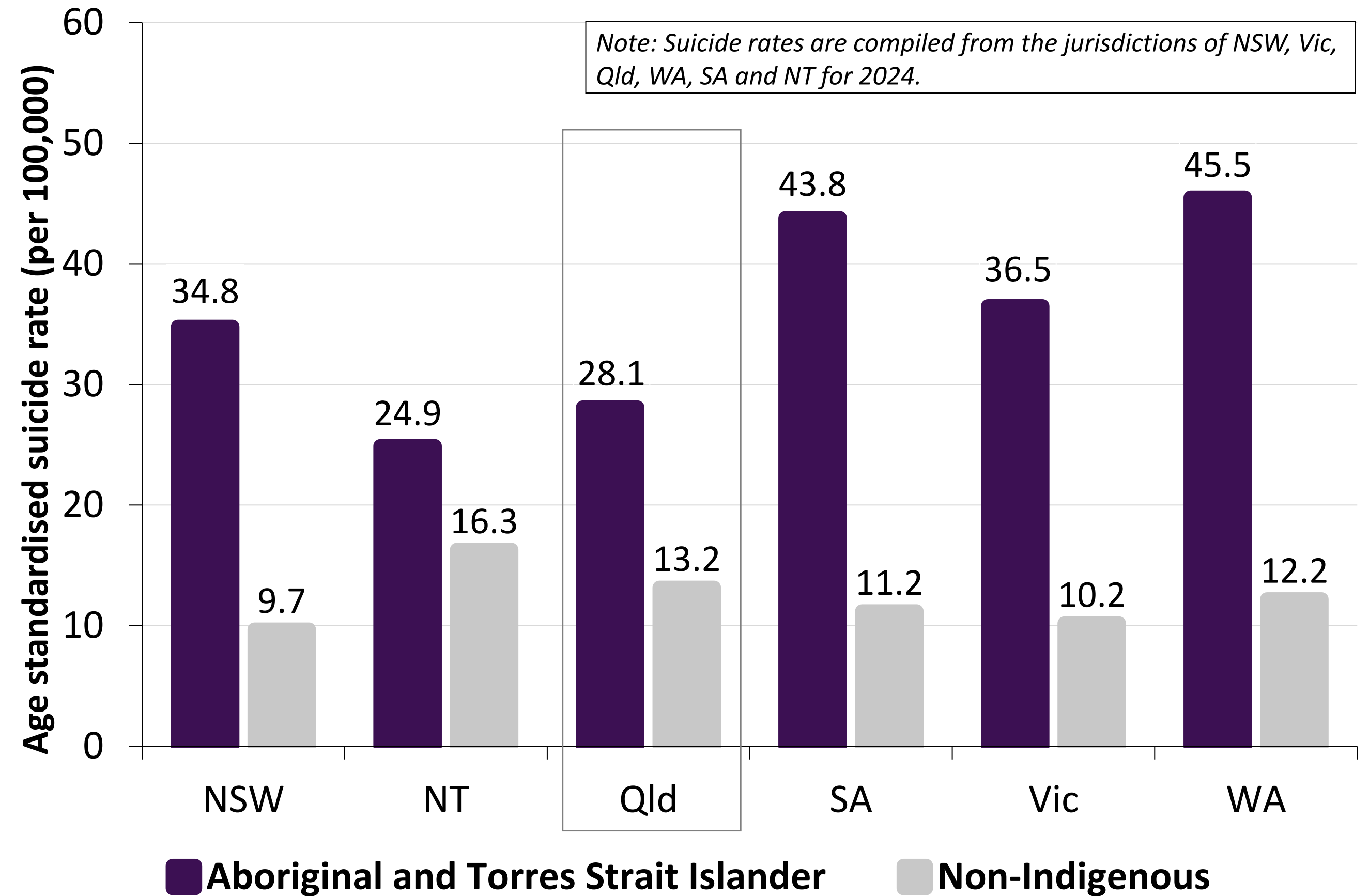
Queensland, 2024



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Queensland

One-year period (2024)

- In Queensland, **73 (61 male, 12 female)** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide.
- Suicide was the **5th leading cause of death** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, compared to the 13th leading cause of death for non-Indigenous people.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**28.1 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (13.2 per 100,000).

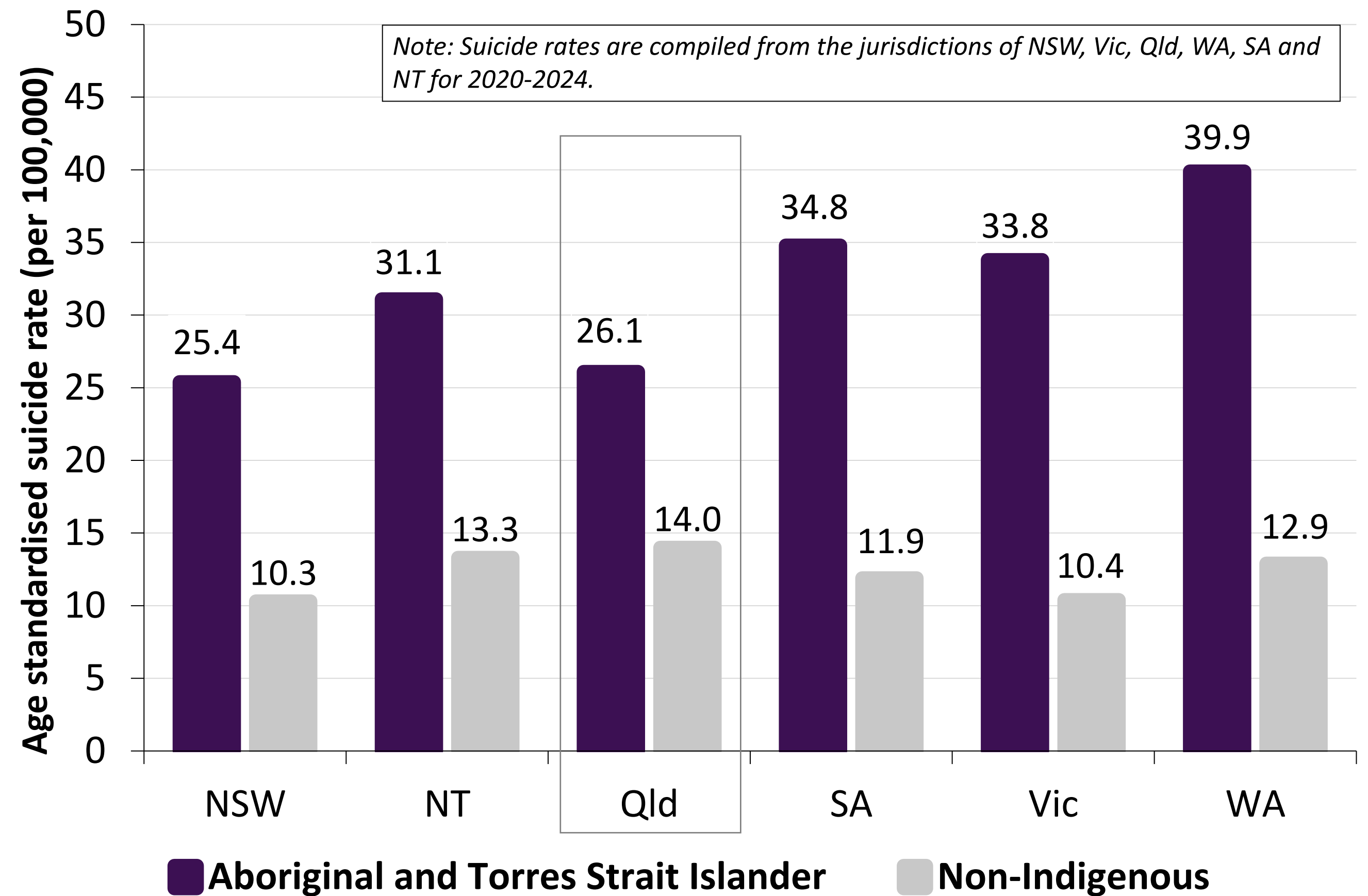


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Queensland

Five-year period (2020-2024)

Rates of suicide can change a lot each year, especially in smaller states or territories. Combining data across five years (2020-2024) helps to give a more reliable rate estimates.

- Across the five years, **332** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide in Queensland.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**26.1 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (14.0 per 100,000).



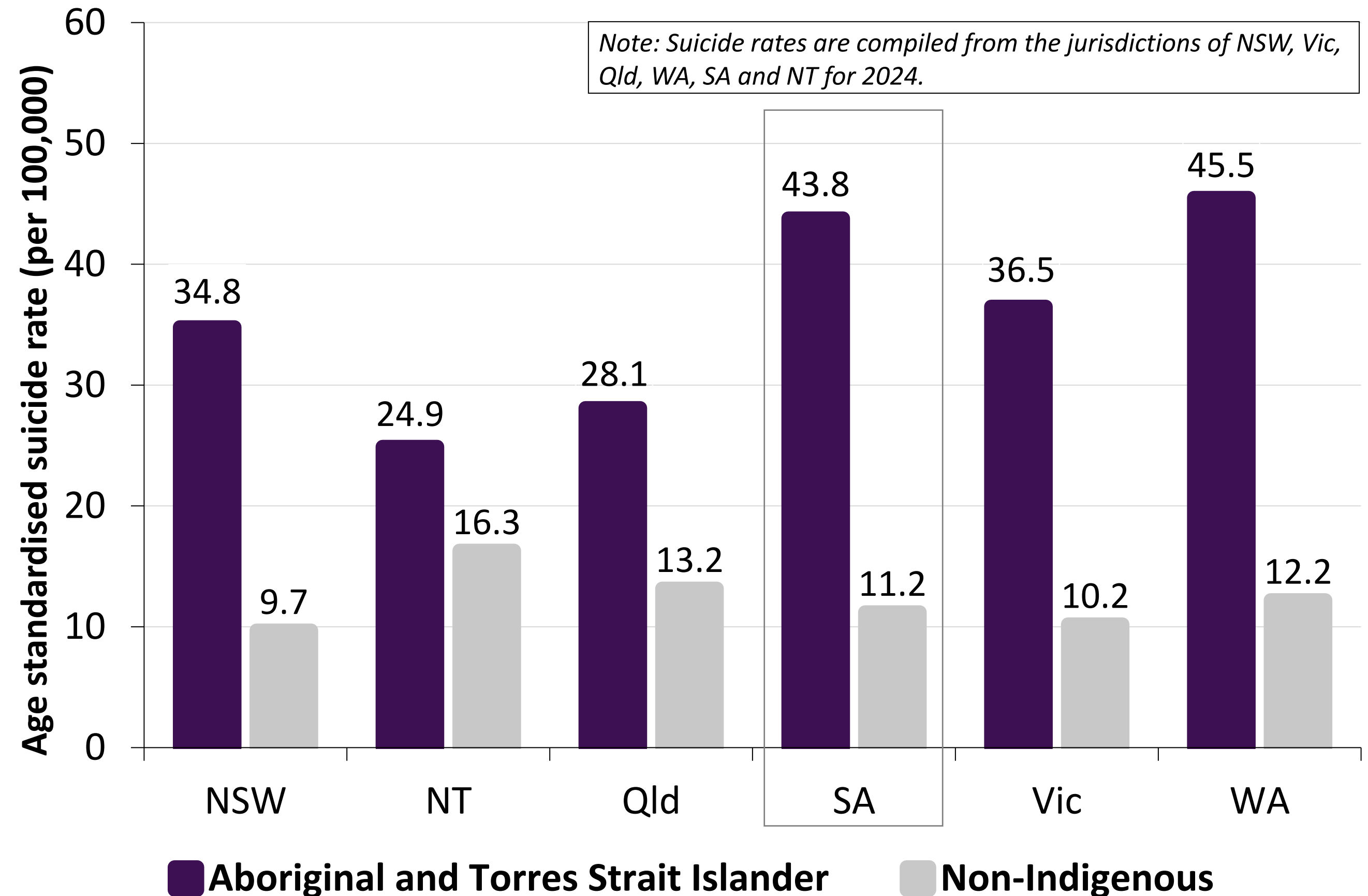
South Australia, 2024



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: South Australia

One-year period (2024)

- In South Australia, **21** (15 male, 6 female) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide.
- Suicide was the **3rd leading cause of death** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, compared to the 20th leading cause of death for non-Indigenous people.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**43.8 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (11.2 per 100,000).

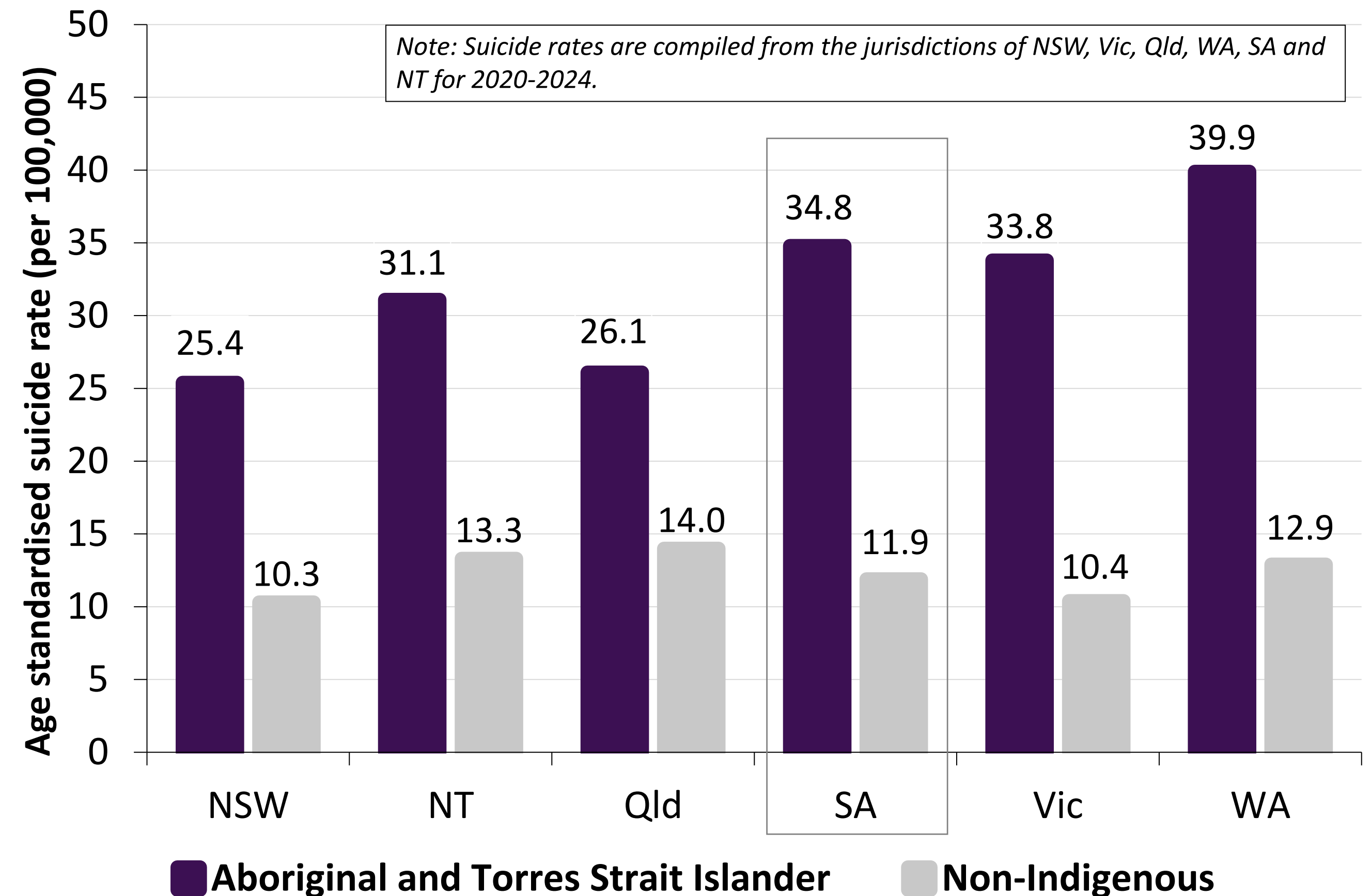


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: South Australia

Five-year period (2020-2024)

Rates of suicide can change a lot each year, especially in smaller states or territories. Combining data across five years (2020-2024) helps to give a more reliable rate estimates.

- Across the five years, **81** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide in South Australia.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**34.8 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (11.9 per 100,000).



Victoria, 2024



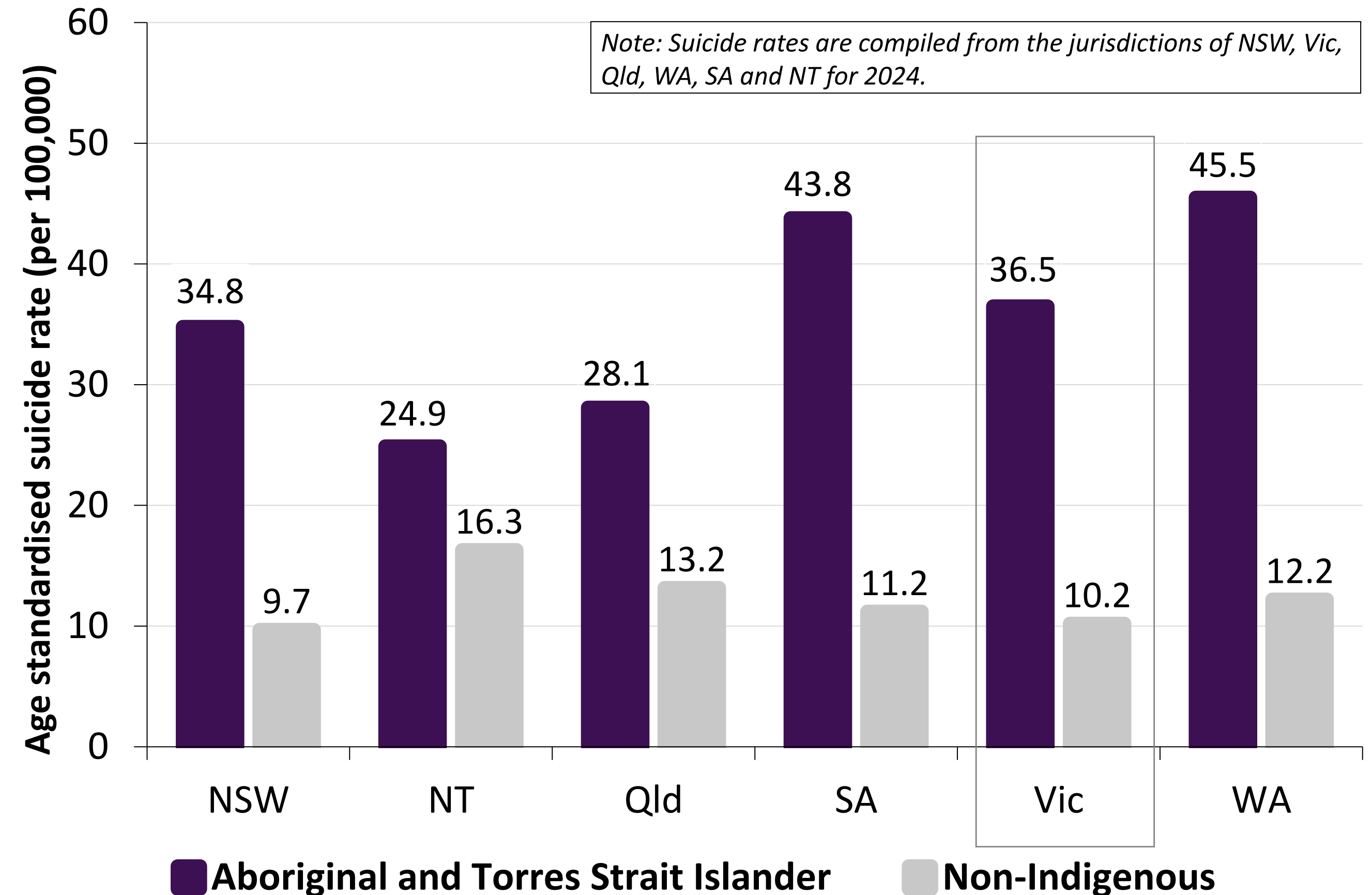
The Centre of Best Practice in
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Suicide Prevention



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Victoria

One-year period (2024)

- In Victoria, **27 (20 male, 7 female)** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide.
- Suicide was the **4th leading cause of death** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, compared to the 17th leading cause of death for non-Indigenous people.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**36.5 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (10.2 per 100,000).

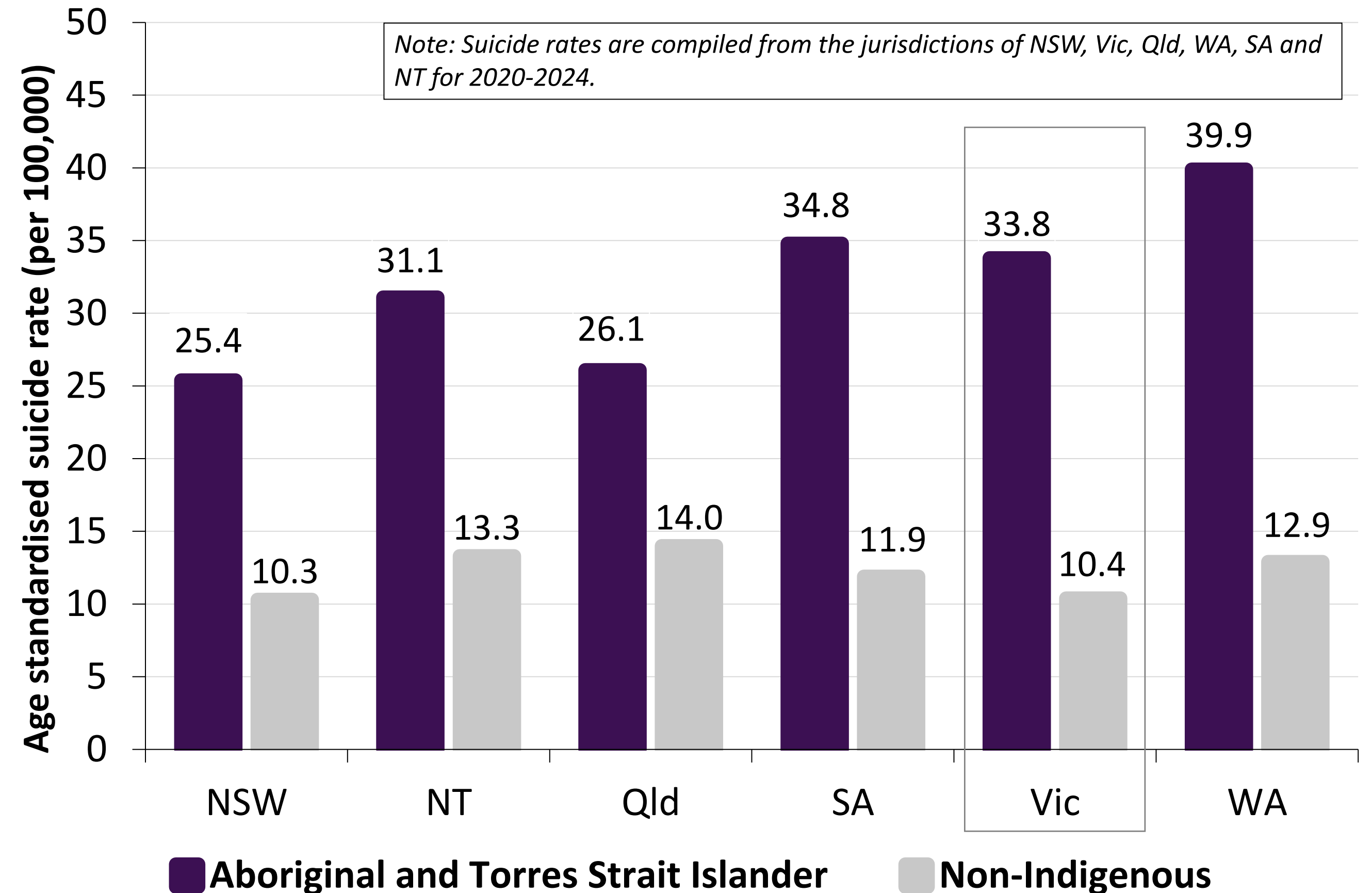


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Victoria

Five-year period (2020-2024)

Rates of suicide can change a lot each year, especially in smaller states or territories. Combining data across five years (2020-2024) helps to give a more reliable rate estimates.

- Across the five years, **121** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide in Victoria.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**33.8 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (10.4 per 100,000).



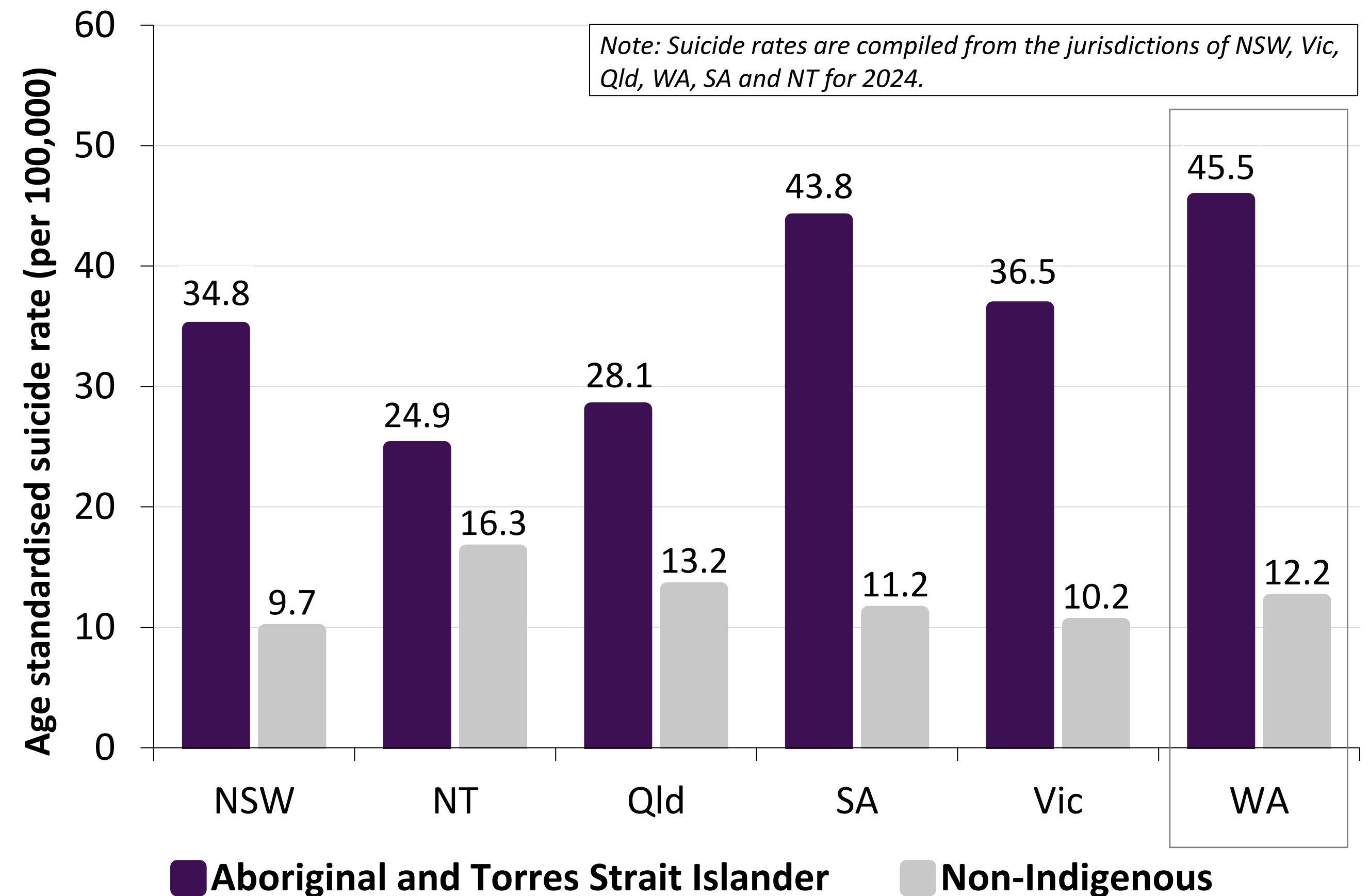
Western Australia, 2024



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Western Australia

One-year period (2024)

- In Western Australia, **55 (46 male, 9 female)** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide.
- Suicide was the **3rd leading cause of death** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, compared to the 13th leading cause of death for non-Indigenous people.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**45.5 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (12.2 per 100,000).

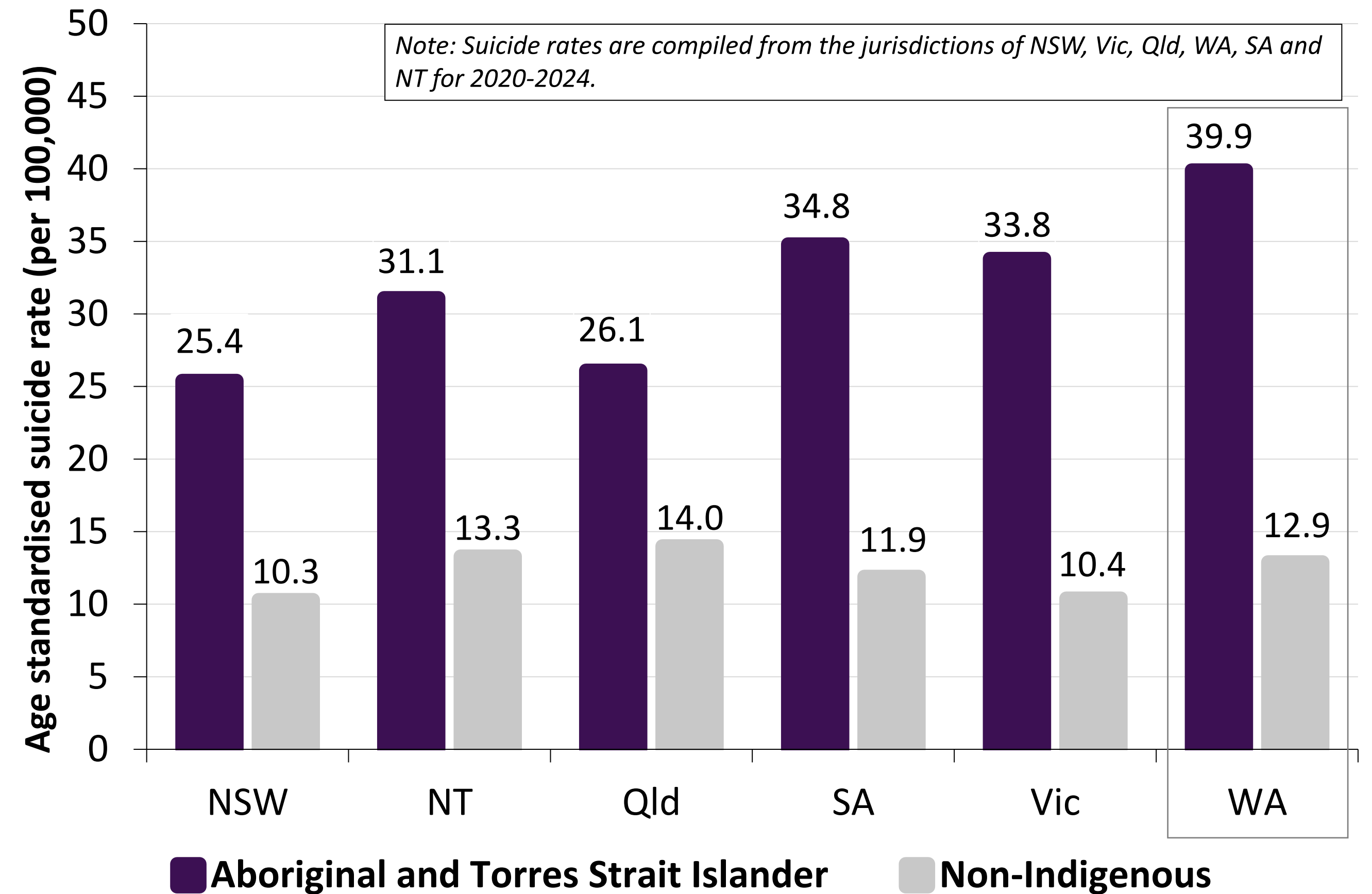


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Western Australia

Five-year period (2020-2024)

Rates of suicide can change a lot each year, especially in smaller states or territories. Combining data across five years (2020-2024) helps to give a more reliable rate estimates.

- Across the five years, **224** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide in Western Australia.
- The age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (**39.9 per 100,000**) was higher than the non-Indigenous age-standardised suicide rate (12.9 per 100,000).



Support services

First Nations resources

13YARN 13 92 76 | 13yarn.org.au

Crisis support for First Nations people, available 24/7

Thirrili 1800 805 801

24/7 Indigenous suicide postvention service

Centre for Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSISP)

cbpatsisp.com.au

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health

Organisations naccho.org.au

Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au

WellMob wellmob.org.au

Other supports and resources

Lifeline 13 11 14 | Text 0477 13 11 14 (24/7)

lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service

1300 659 467 | suicidecallbackservice.org.au

StandBy Support After Suicide 1300 727 247

Mensline 1300 78 99 78 | mensline.org.au

QLife 1800 184 527 | qlife.org.au

LGBTIQ+ service available 3pm - midnight

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 | kidshelpline.com.au

Health to Health headtohealth.gov.au



Life in Mind is a knowledge exchange portal providing translated evidence, policy, data and resources in suicide prevention, and host of the *National communications charter (the Charter)*.

lifeinmind.org.au | X @lifeinmind |   X    @EverymindAU

The Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSISP) is located at the University of Western Australia (UWA) and is Australia's leading voice on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention. The CBPATSISP is engaged in a range of activities, which ultimately aim to prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide and strengthen social and emotional wellbeing.

cbpatsisp.com.au |  X @CBPATSISP  @Centre_of_Best_Practice

