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 In the March quarter 2009, the Territory had a decrease in the number of offences against the person and a decrease in the number of property offences, while the daily average number of adult and juvenile prisoners increased.

This brief contains key points extracted from publications that have reported social statistics about the Northern Territory. The summary is not exhaustive and does not interpret information nor in all cases contain qualifiers or contextual information. Readers should check cited publications to assess suitability for the intended use. Care should be taken to ensure that population-based statistics reported for the Northern Territory do not refer to urban areas only. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this document, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

Australian Social Trends, June quarter 2009

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 4102.0

This quarterly report of Australian social trends issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) was previously released as an annual publication. The report presents information on contemporary social issues and areas of public policy concern such as population, family and community, health, education and training, work, economic resources, housing, crime and justice, culture and leisure, and the environment. This quarterly report features updated information for population, education and training and other areas of social concern. Unpublished and published information from the ABS and other national and international sources are presented.

Key Point:

In 2008, the Territory had increases in apparent retention rates for students from Year 8 to Year 12 and the proportion of households with access to a computer, while 54.9 per cent of Territorians resided in a capital city.

Education and Training

In the Territory in 2008:

- The apparent retention rate for students from Year 8 to Year 12 was 60 per cent, higher than retention rates in 1998 (43 per cent). Nationally, apparent retention rates increased from 72 to 75 per cent over the same period.
- Apparent retention rates for Indigenous students from Year 8 to Year 12 was 50 per cent, an increase from 11 per cent in 1998.
- 26 per cent of school leavers aged 15-19 years were not fully engaged in education or employment, a decrease from 2007 (51 per cent), but higher than the 14 per cent reported in 1998.

Other Areas of Social Concern

In the Territory in 2008:

- 77 per cent of households had access to a computer an increase from 42 per cent reported in 1998.
- There were 356 passenger vehicles per 1000 population, the lowest rate of all jurisdictions and lower than the national rate of 555 per 1000 population.

Population

In the Territory in 2008:

- 54.9 per cent of the total population lived in a capital city, the second lowest proportion of all jurisdictions, ahead of Tasmania (42.1 per cent) and lower than the national average (63.9 per cent).
- 5.1 per cent of the population was aged over the age of 65 years, the lowest proportion of all jurisdictions and lower than the national proportion (13.2 per cent)
- Of the 9000 settler arrivals, 38.1 per cent were skilled settler arrivals, compared with 43.8 per cent nationally.

Australian vocational education and training statistics: students and courses 2008

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER)

This publication provides a summary of 2008 data relating to students, courses, qualifications, training providers and funding in Australia's publicly funded vocational education and training (VET) system. It excludes VET delivered in schools where the VET training has been undertaken by schools.

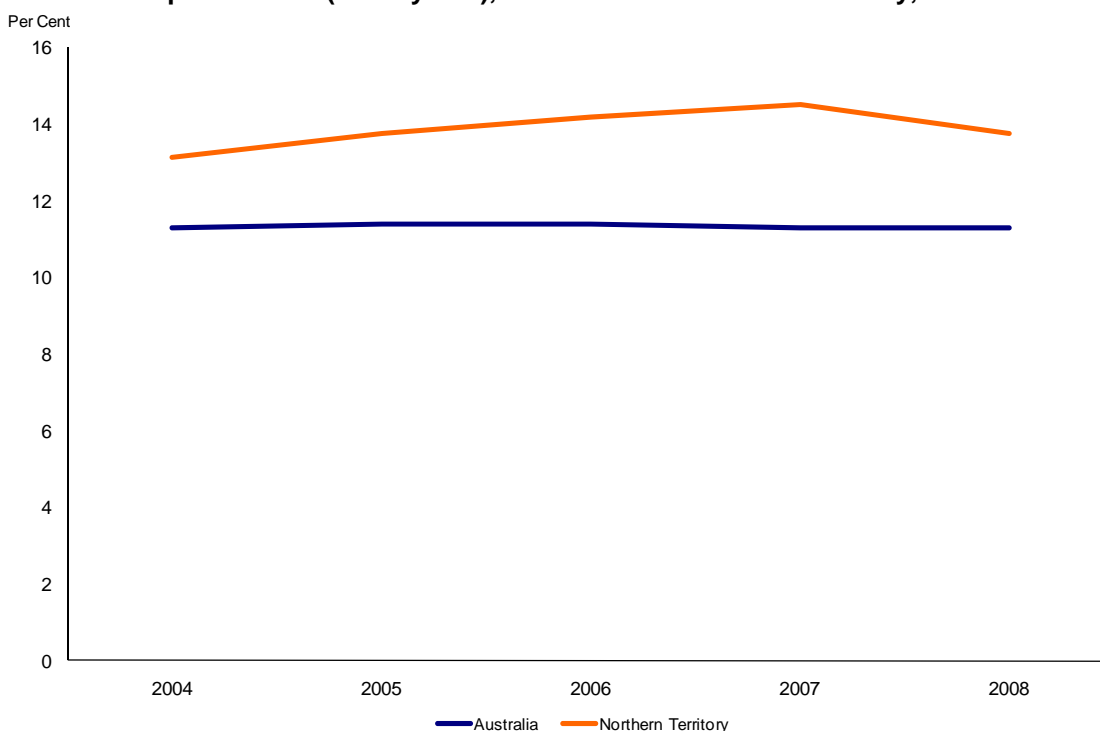
Key Point:

In the Territory, the number of students enrolled and the participation rate of 15-64 years olds in Vocational Education and Training (VET) decreased between 2007 and 2008.

For VET students in the Territory in 2008:

- The participation rate of 13.8 per cent for those aged 15-64 years was lower than the participation rate in 2007 (14.5 per cent). Nationally, participation rates remained steady at 11.3 per cent (Chart 1).
- Total qualification completions in 2007 (3400) were 26 per cent higher than the number of completions in 2006 (2700). Nationally, total qualification completions (335 000), were 14 per cent higher than the previous year (293 400).
- The participation rate was the highest of all jurisdictions for the 15-19 year age group (34.4 per cent) and higher than the national rate (30.2 per cent).
- The total number enrolled was estimated at 22 200, 2.7 per cent less than 2007, compared to an increase of 1.9 per cent nationally.
- 45 per cent of students enrolled were Indigenous, the highest of all jurisdictions and much higher than the national Indigenous enrolment rate (4.3 per cent).
- 87.8 per cent of students were enrolled in an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) course, of which 80 per cent of students were Indigenous.

Chart 1: Participation rates (15-64 years), Australia and Northern Territory, 2004-2008



Source: National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER)

Counting the homeless, 2006

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Cat. No. HOU 210

This report is one of eight state and territory reports from the national project, 'Counting the Homeless 2006'. The report includes definitions, methodology and summary of how enumeration was undertaken and information on the social characteristics of the homeless population and geographical distribution of homeless people in the Northern Territory.

Definition of homelessness

The ABS distinguishes between people in primary, secondary and tertiary homelessness:

- Primary homelessness describes the situation of people living on streets and sleeping in parks or improvised dwellings such as tents or temporary shelter.
- Secondary homelessness describes the situation of all people staying in emergency or transitional accommodation and people residing temporarily with other households or boarding houses for periods of 12 weeks or less.
- Tertiary homelessness describes the situation of people who live in boarding houses on a medium to long-term basis defined as 13 weeks or longer. Their accommodation is not self-contained and they do not have security of tenure provided by a lease.

Key Point:

In 2006, 33 per cent of all homeless people in the Territory were living in improvised dwellings including tents or sleeping out. The Indigenous homeless population were more likely to live in improvised dwellings, compared with the non-Indigenous homeless population.

On census night 2006 in the Territory,

- The largest group of homeless people (44 per cent), were staying temporarily with friends or relatives, compared with 45 per cent nationally.
- One-third (33 per cent) of homeless people were living in improvised dwellings or sleeping out, compared with 16 per cent nationally.
- More than half (52 per cent) of homeless people were under the age of 35, with 23 per cent in the age group 12 to 18 years.
- Indigenous people made up 63 per cent of people living in improvised dwellings while 92 per cent of non-Indigenous homeless people resided temporarily with friends or relatives.
- There were 248 homeless people per 10 000 population (Table 1), higher than the national average of 77 per 10 000 population.
- Darwin City had the largest number of homeless people (1829), while Katherine had the highest rate of homelessness (507 per 10 000 population), followed by remote regions (281 per 10 000 population) (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of homeless people in the Northern Territory and rate per 10 000 of the population

	Number	Rate per 10 000 population
Darwin City	1829	276
Palmerston	180	75
Litchfield	469	302
Alice Springs	446	187
Katherine	415	507
Tennant Creek	43	147
Remote	1403	281
Northern Territory	4785	248

Source: AIHW Cat. No. HOU 210

Indigenous housing indicators, 2007-08

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Cat. No. HOU 212

This is the third publication released in the series and reports on the most recent data on Indigenous housing across Australia. Data has been sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) housing administrative data, the 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS) and Census 2006. Indicators include Indigenous access to housing programs, tenure type and homelessness.

Key Point:

In 2007-08, the Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous community dwellings without access to water, sewage or electricity.

In the Territory in 2007-08:

- Of the 6953 Indigenous community dwellings 7.9 per cent were improvised dwellings, compared to 4.8 per cent nationally.
- The highest proportion of Indigenous community dwellings without water (4.6 per cent), sewage (6.2 per cent) and electricity (5.2 per cent) was reported, higher than the respective national rates of 1.6, 2.1 and 1.8 per cent.

In the Territory in 2006

- Of the 6448 permanent dwellings managed by Indigenous housing organisations, 21 per cent were in need of major repair, the second lowest of all jurisdictions and lower than the national average (23.4 per cent).
- 10.2 per cent of Indigenous housing dwellings were in need of replacement, the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national proportion (7.2 per cent).
- 18.3 per cent of Indigenous households were home owner/purchaser households, the lowest proportion of all jurisdictions and lower than the nation proportion (34.2 per cent).

Juveniles in detention in Australia, 1981-2007

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), *Monitoring Report 05*

This publication provides a comprehensive overview of juveniles in detention in Australia based on administrative data provided by state and territory authorities to 2007. Data for the Territory is sourced from the Northern Territory Correctional Services. While there are differences between jurisdictions on the age definition of juvenile offenders, generally young people aged between 10 and 17 years are dealt with by the juvenile justice system. Until June 2000, the Northern Territory classified 17 year olds as adults. All rates expressed are per 100 000 relevant 10-17 year old population.

Key Point:

In 2007, an Indigenous juvenile (10-17 year old) in the Territory was eight times more likely than a non-Indigenous juvenile to be detained in a juvenile justice centre. Despite this the Indigenous juvenile detention rate in the Territory was much lower than the national Indigenous juvenile detention rate (Table 2).

In 2007 in the Territory;

- The detention rate for males (232.2 per 100 000 relevant population) was the highest rate of the jurisdictions and more than four times the national rate of 57.8 per 100 000.
- The detention rate for females (15.6 per 100 000 relevant population) was the highest of the jurisdictions and more than twice the national rate of 6.3 per 100 000.
- The total detention rate of 127.9 per 100 000 relevant population was 68 per cent higher than the previous five year (2002-2006) average of 76 per 100 000 (Table 2).
- The Indigenous juvenile detention rate was 256.1 per 100 000 relevant population, lower than the national Indigenous juvenile detention rate (403 per 100 000 relevant population) (Table 2).
- The Indigenous detention rate (256.1 per 100 000 relevant population) was nearly eight times higher than the respective non-Indigenous rate (32.8 per 100 000) (Table 2). Nationally the Indigenous to non-Indigenous ratio was 28 times higher.

Table 2: Rates of young people aged 10-17 years in juvenile detention, Northern Territory and Australia

	Year ending June					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	(rate per 100 000 population aged 10 to 17 years)					
Northern Territory						
Indigenous	145.2	152.5	74.3	136.6	214.7	256.1
Non-Indigenous	40.8	48.4	13.9	13.8	6.9	32.8
Total	83.8	92.1	39.8	66.8	97.5	127.9
Australia						
Indigenous	281.4	320.9	312.9	312.3	315.1	403.0
Non-Indigenous	13.5	16.1	12.2	13.6	15.1	14.4
Total	25.0	29.1	25.5	27.2	29.1	32.8

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

Migration Australia, 2007-08

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 3412.0

This publication brings together statistics on net overseas migration (NOM), net interstate migration (NIM) (including interstate and intrastate) and information on overseas born residents of Australia. Interstate migration figures are final for years up to and including 2005-06, revised for 2006-07 and preliminary for 2007-08. Overseas migration figures are final up to 2006-07 and preliminary for 2007-08.

Key Point:

In 2007-08, the Territory experienced the greatest proportional impact on population growth of all jurisdictions from net interstate migration (NIM) and natural increase, while net overseas migration (NOM) had a relatively small impact on total growth.

In the Territory in 2007-08:

- The population growth rate (2.33 per cent), was made up of natural increase (1.33 per cent) (highest of the jurisdictions), NIM 0.56 per cent (highest of the jurisdictions), and NOM (0.45 per cent) (second lowest of the jurisdictions behind Tasmania).
- NIM was 1197 persons, made up of 17 197 interstate arrivals and 16 000 interstate departures.
- Interstate arrivals represented 7.8 per cent of the Territory's population (Chart 2). Queensland was the largest contributor with 4441 persons.
- Interstate departures represented 7.3 per cent of the Territory's population (Chart 2). Queensland was the most popular destination with 5281 persons.
- The median age of interstate arrivals (26.7 years) was the lowest of the jurisdictions, while the median age of interstate departures was 27.9 years. Nationally, the median age of all movers was 28.3 years.
- NOM was 962 persons, made up of 4698 arrivals less 3736 departures.
- Of the 4698 overseas arrivals, the median age was 29.8 years, the highest of the jurisdictions, while the median age of overseas departures was 30.7 years
- 15.6 per cent of residents were born overseas, the second lowest of the jurisdictions behind Tasmania with 11.5 per cent.

Chart 2: Interstate migration flows, proportion of population



Source: ABS Cat. No. 3412.0

NT Crime and Justice Statistics- March quarter 2009

Source: NT Department of Justice, Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics, Issue 27, March quarter 2009

This publication presents Territory crime and justice statistics for the two years to the March quarter 2009. Data is sourced from administrative systems maintained by the Territory Government.

Key Point:

In the March quarter 2009, the Territory had a decrease in the number of offences against the person and a decrease in the number of property offences, while the daily average number of adult and juvenile prisoners increased.

Recorded Crime

In the Territory in the March quarter 2009:

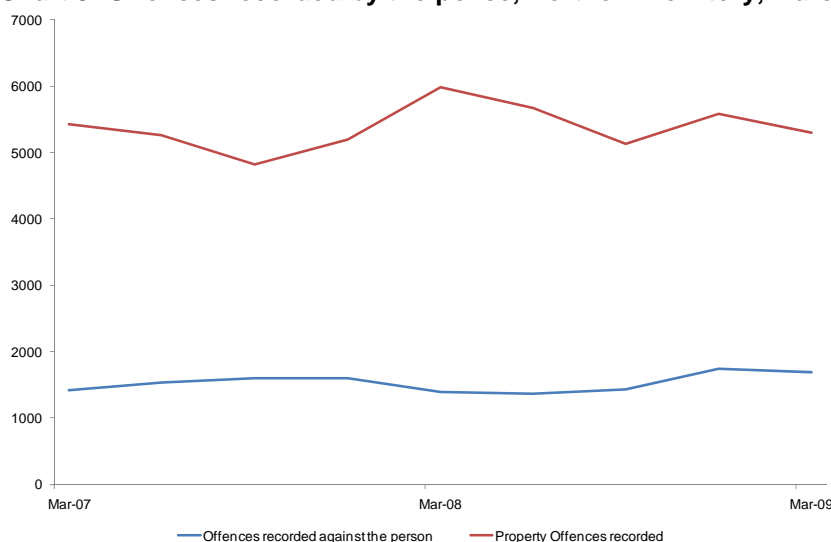
- There were 1686 offences recorded against the person, a 3 per cent decrease from the previous quarter and a 21 per cent increase in the number of offences reported since the March quarter 2008 (Chart 3). Assault offences accounted for 92 per cent of all recorded offences against the person, followed by sexual assault offences (4 per cent).
- Property offences (5295) decreased by 5 per cent from the previous quarter, and decreased 12 per cent from the March quarter 2008 (Chart 3). Property damage accounted for 38 per cent (the highest proportion) of all recorded property offences, other theft accounted for 33 per cent of offences, while house break-ins accounted for 8 per cent.

Prisoners and Detainees in Correctional Facilities

In the Territory in the March quarter 2009:

- The daily average number of prisoners (1105) increased by 11 per cent in the quarter and increased 23 per cent from the March quarter 2008.
- Indigenous prisoners accounted for a significant proportion of the daily average prison population (82 per cent).
- The daily average number of juvenile detainees was 30, an increase of 11 per cent from the March quarter 2008.
- Indigenous juveniles accounted for 90 per cent of the daily average juvenile detainee population.

Chart 3: Offences recorded by the police, Northern Territory, March 2007-2009



Source: Northern Territory Department of Justice, Quarterly Crime Statistics, Issue 27