

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.

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Regional Statistics 2007

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007, ABS Cat no. 1362.7

This publication presents a range of information from a variety of sources relating to economic, social and demographic indicators for Northern Territory statistical subdivisions, total Northern Territory and Australia for 2007. This summary presents information for relevant social indicators not briefed on significantly in other forms.

In the Territory in 2006;

Population

- The structure of families resembled nationally; with the single largest proportion being total couple families with children (48 per cent), compared with nationally (46 per cent), Couple families without children consisted 35 per cent of families (38 per cent nationally). The single largest subset of these groups was Couple families with children under 15 years (34 per cent) and nationally (26 per cent); followed by one-parent families (19 per cent) and nationally (16 per cent). *Note: The 2006 Census of Population and Housing indicates that of families consisting of at least one Indigenous person, couple families with children comprised the single largest proportion (50 per cent), followed by one-parent families (28 per cent) and couple families without children (18 per cent).*

Education

- There were 25 865 enrolled VET students, 43 per cent of which were Indigenous students.
- There were 32 921 enrolments in government schools, 9358 enrolments in non-government schools and 1910 enrolments in higher education, compared with 32 864, 9077 and 2519 nationally.

Employment

- The main sources of employment in the Territory were public administration and safety (22 per cent), health care and social assistance (10 per cent), and education and training (9 per cent) (Table 1).

Table 1: Primary employment sectors, Northern Territory and Australia

	Northern Territory	Australia
Public Administration and safety	22	7
Health care and social services	10	11
Education training	9	8
Retail Trade	9	11
Manufacturing	5	11

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Prices, Income and Expenditure

- The average cost of a basket of groceries in 2006 was highest in Nhulunbuy (\$221.97) followed by Yulara (\$216.06), Darwin (\$186.38), Katherine (\$184.80) and Alice Springs (\$179.67). The same basket was much lower in price in Mount Isa (\$180.94) and Cairns (\$177.75). *Note: Source is Northern Territory Treasury.*
- The single largest proportion of households were paying \$500 or more a week in loan repayments (14.4 per cent), less than the proportion of Australian households (17.5 per cent) (Table 1).

Table 2: Weekly loan repayments, Proportion of households 2006

	Northern Territory	Australia
\$1-49	1.3	1.9
\$50-59	2.5	3.9
\$100-149	5.3	7.3
\$150-199	8.4	9.1
\$200-249	11.7	11.3
\$250-299	13.6	10.6
\$300-349	12.4	9.6
\$350-399	10.7	8.8
\$400-449	7.8	6.6
\$450-499	4.9	5.3
\$500+	14.4	17.5

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Deaths 2006

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007, ABS Cat no. 3302.0

This publication presents information relating to deaths for states and territories for 2006. Data is sourced from state and territory registrars of births, deaths, and marriages. The quality of coverage of Indigenous deaths can vary across jurisdictions. In the Territory, deaths registrations are of relatively sound quality.

In the Territory in 2006:

Deaths

- There were 932 deaths registered, of which 452 deaths (48 per cent) were identified as Indigenous. The total number of deaths decreased by 5 per cent (985) since 2005. The number of Indigenous deaths each year has remained relatively constant since 2005.
- The age-standardised death rate was highest of the jurisdictions, 8.7 deaths per 1000 population (a slight decrease on 9.3 deaths in 2005), compared to 6 deaths per 1000 population nationally.

Infant Deaths

- The infant mortality rate was 8.9 per 1000 live births (33 deaths).
- The highest death rate for infants was at between 4 weeks and 1 year of age (3.5 deaths per 1000 live births, followed by under 1 day of age (3.2 deaths per 1000 live births).

Mothers and Babies 2005

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2007, AIHW Cat no. PER 40.

This publication presents information relating to mothers and babies, based on the National Perinatal Minimum Data Set, state and territory administrative data and information from the Australian and New Zealand Neonatal Network.

In 2005 the Territory had;

Mothers

- 3657 live births, of which 1372 (38 per cent) were to Indigenous mothers.

- A mean maternal age of mothers was the youngest of the jurisdictions at 27.3 years, compared to 29.8 years nationally.
- The highest proportion of births to mothers aged less than 20 years of the jurisdictions (13.2 per cent compared to 4.4 per cent nationally), and mothers aged 20-24 years (22 per cent compared to 14.6 per cent nationally).

Place of birth

- A higher proportion of women that gave birth in public hospital (81 per cent in the Territory compared to 70 per cent nationally) than private hospital (19 per cent and 30 per cent respectively).

Smoking during pregnancy

- The highest proportion of women that smoked during pregnancy (31 per cent), compared to the national rate (17.4 per cent nationally).

Babies

- 11.1 per cent of all births were preterm (36 weeks or less), higher than nationally (8.1 per cent).
- 9.6 per cent of live births were babies defined as low birthweight (less than 2500 grams), higher than nationally, (6.4 per cent).
- 14.5 per cent of Indigenous live births were babies defined as low birthweight (less than 2500 grams), compared to 13.2 per cent nationally.

Deaths

- The highest perinatal death rate (a fetal or neonatal death from 20 weeks gestation or 400 grams birth weight to 28 days after birth) of the jurisdictions; 14.6 deaths per 1000 births, compared with 8.5 deaths per 1000 births nationally.

Housing Occupancy and Costs 2005-06

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007, ABS Cat no. 4130.0.55.001

This publication presents data from the Survey of Income and Housing including housing costs, characteristics of occupants, tenure, family composition and income. Note that limited Territory-specific information is available, and very remote areas are excluded.

In the Territory in 2005-06;

- The single largest proportion of households were owners with a mortgage (37.2 per cent compared to 35.0 per cent nationally), followed by renters from a private landlord (20.5 per cent compared to 22.0 per cent nationally) and owners without a mortgage (18.4 per cent compared to 34.3 per cent in Australia). Renters from a state/territory housing authority were 11.7 per cent of all households in the Territory, compared to 4.7 per cent in Australia. *Note the estimate for Renters from a state/territory housing authority for the Territory has a high standard error of 25-50 per cent and should be used with caution.*
- Median weekly housing costs were highest for owners with a mortgage (\$257), followed by renters from a private landlord (\$242). Median weekly costs for renters from a state/territory housing authority were \$79. *Note this estimate has high a standard error of 25-50 per cent and should be used with caution.*

- The median value of houses was \$300 000 (\$350 000 nationally), and median equity was \$220 000 (\$275 000 nationally) (Table 2).

Table 3: Housing value, equity and mortgage outstanding of owner households

	Northern Territory	Australia
	\$(000)	\$(000)
Median value of dwelling	300	350
Median value of equity	220	275
<u>Median mortgage outstanding</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>134</u>

Note: Excludes households in collection districts classified as remote, accounting for 24% of the Territory's total population.

In Australia in 2005-06;

- 41.9 per cent of first home buyer households had housing costs equivalent to 25 per cent or less of gross income (compared 61.4 per cent of all recent buyer households). The next largest proportion had household costs between 30 per cent and 50 per cent (33.5 per cent and 20.5 per cent respectively). *Note that households are considered to be in "housing affordability stress when household costs exceed 30% of gross income.*

Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia 2005-06

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007, ABS Cat no. 6554.0

This publication presents a range of financial information relating to households from the Survey of Income and Housing. This publication is the second in the series, the first undertaken in 2003-04. Note that limited jurisdiction-specific information is included in this publication and very remote areas are excluded.

In Darwin in 2005-06;

- The total value of accounts and shares held by households was lowest of the jurisdictions (17.5 per cent and 10.4 per cent respectively, compared with 24.6 per cent and 26.2 per cent nationally) (Table 3).

In the Territory in 2005-06;

- The median net worth of households (\$238 285), was lower than nationally (\$339 765).
- Median gross income per week was highest of the jurisdictions (\$1507), compared to nationally (\$1040).
- Government pensions and allowances contributed proportionally less to household income than nationally; 53.4 per cent of Territory households indicating the contribution was nil or less than 1%, compared to 43.7 nationally.

Table 4: Mean Household Assets and liabilities, Capital cities

	Darwin	Australia Capital Cities
	\$(000)	\$(000)
Assets		
Value of accounts held with financial Institutions	*17.5	24.6
Value of shares	*10.4	26.2
Value of owner-occupied dwellings	200.6	316.1
Value of other property	*82.7	93.4
Liabilities		
Principal outstanding on loans owner occupied dwelling	53.3	56.1
Principal outstanding on other property loans	*25.5	31.8
Debt outstanding on study loans	*1.3	1.8
Amount owing on credit cards	3.1	2.5

*Estimate has a standard errors between 25-50% and should be used with caution.

Recidivism in Australia

Source: *Australian Institute of Criminology 2007, Research and Public Policy Series, No. 80.*

This paper provides a review of literature on recidivism in Australia and makes recommendations for future research areas. The paper states that accurate and complete evidence on recidivism is not available due a range of factors. This includes lack of a standard definition and methodology, problems in tracking offenders through various sectors of the justice system and the fragmented nature of justice statistics leading to research representative of certain groups in the justice system only.

In the Territory;

Adult Prisoners

- Of all prisoners released during 2002-03, a larger proportion were imprisoned again within two years (42 per cent) than nationally (38 per cent).
- When community corrections orders are included, the proportion of prisoners released that were imprisoned again within two years increased to 46 per cent of all prisoners released in 2002-03, equivalent to nationally.

In Australia:

Adult Prisoners

- The ABS national prisoner census (30 June 2005) shows that 60 per cent of all adult Australian prisoners were imprisoned before, translating to 77 per cent of all Indigenous prisoners and 57 per cent of non-Indigenous prisoners.
- Prisoners most likely to have been imprisoned already are those currently incarcerated for an offence against justice procedures or for break and enter offences.

Transition of juvenile detainees into adult imprisonment

- A study of 1503 offenders aged 10-17 years in Queensland was undertaken from 1994-95 to 2002. It found 49 per cent of participants progressed to adult imprisonment and 79 per cent progressed to adult corrections including community corrections and custodial care.

Relationship of demographic characteristics with recidivism

- Indigenous status is highly correlated with recidivism.
- The probability of being recidivist is highest between the ages of 17 and 21 years.
- The relationship between gender and recidivism is unclear.

Corrective Services Annual Statistics 2006-07

Source: Northern Territory Department of Justice, 2007.

This publication presents a summary of information relating to prisoners in the Territory based on Northern Territory corrections administrative data sets and published Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) information, including Corrective Services (ABS Cat no. 4512.0 and Prisoner Census 4517.0). Figures in this publication relating to ABS Prisoner Census pertain to preliminary estimates; therefore discrepancies may occur to final estimates published by the ABS.

In the Territory in 2006-07;

Adults Prisoners

- The average daily number of prisoners was 833, a 5 per cent increase on 2005-06 (791).
- Of these prisoners, 443 (53 per cent) were incarcerated in Darwin and 390 (47 per cent) were Alice Springs based.
- The most common offence, based on most serious offence data, for prisoners held in custody was assault (42 per cent of prisoners), followed by sexual assault (10 per cent).
- The Indigenous imprisonment rate was 1857 per 100 000 adults, compared to a non-Indigenous imprisonment rate of 133 per 100 000 adults.

Juvenile Detainees

- The average daily number of juvenile detainees was 28, a 56 per cent increase on 2005-06 (18). *Note that the average daily imprisonment rate for juvenile detainees fluctuates considerably across years.*
- Indigenous persons comprised 211 (88 per cent) of all juvenile receptions.
- The most common offence, based on most serious offence data, for juvenile detainees held in custody was property offences (47 per cent of receptions), followed by offences against the person (42 per cent).

Community Corrections

- Conditional liberty commencements (1367) decreased by 3 per cent compared to 2005-06. Of this number, 82 per cent (1121 commencements) were Indigenous persons.