

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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- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Information and Discussion Papers** **2**
 Information Paper: Census Data Enhancement – Indigenous Mortality Quality Study
 Discussion Paper: Assessment of Methods for Developing Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians Territory
- Corrective Services, Australia, September quarter 2008** **2**
 The average daily number of Territory prisoners (947) in the September quarter 2008 was 12 per cent higher than in the September quarter 2007 (842). The corresponding average daily imprisonment rate increased from 553 per 100 000 adult population to 606 over the same period.
- Deaths, Australia, 2007** **3**
 In 2007, the Territory had the highest standardised death rate of 8.9 deaths per 1000 population and the lowest life expectancy at birth for both males of 72.4 years and females of 78.4 years of all jurisdictions.
- Education and Work, Australia** **4**
 In May 2008, females accounted for 52 per cent of Territorians aged 15-64 years enrolled in a course of study, slightly larger than the national percentage (51 per cent).
- Hospital separations due to injury and poisoning, Australia, 2004 05** **4**
 In 2004-05, residents of the Territory had the highest age-standardised rate of hospitalised injury cases (2596.6 per 100 000 population) of all jurisdictions, and higher than the national rate (2107.6 per 100 000 population).
- Indigenous participation in regional labour markets, 2001-06** **5**
 In the Territory between 2001 and 2006, Katherine recorded the largest percentage increase in employed Indigenous median weekly incomes (8.9 per cent) to \$239, while Tennant Creek recorded the largest percentage decrease in median weekly incomes (15.9 per cent) to \$232.
- Medical Labour Force, 2006** **6**
 In the Territory, between 2002 and 2006 the estimated number of employed practitioners increased from 684 to 866 and the number of primary care clinicians (GPs) increased from 257 to 306.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Information and Discussion Papers

Information Paper: Census Data Enhancement – Indigenous Mortality Quality Study

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 4723.0

Discussion Paper: Assessment of Methods for Developing Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians Territory

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 3302.0.55.002

These information and discussion papers deal with the topic of Indigenous deaths recording and estimation of life expectancy. Life expectancy for the Indigenous population is difficult to measure because information is missing on the Indigenous status of deaths.

- The information paper provides the results of a study linking Census records and deaths registered in the year after the Census.
- Results suggest that coverage of Indigenous deaths may be higher than previously thought. The study provides a method of correcting for the under-registration of Indigenous deaths.
- As a cautionary note, a quarter of Indigenous death records could not be matched to a Census record. Undercounting in the Census and other factors associated with Census field procedures contributed to the failing to match. In the Territory, 40% of death records could not be matched to a Census record.

ABS has been investigating methods for constructing life tables for the Indigenous population and the results are presented in the discussion paper. ABS have used the correction factors mentioned above in the preparation of new life tables and have produced life expectancy estimates for Australia that are higher than those that the ABS has previously derived using other methods.

- The new estimates are 66.9 years for Australian Indigenous males and 72.6 years for Australian Indigenous females compared with the highest estimates under the previous methods of 63.2 (males) and 71.7 (females).
- For the Territory, the corresponding new estimates are 61.5 and 69.2. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy in the Territory remains very high at 17.2 years for males and 13.4 years for females.
- While the ABS is recommending the new method for use, it should be noted that the work is investigative and the results are open to discussion. Please refer to the paper for further details.

Corrective Services, Australia, September quarter 2008

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 4512.0

This quarterly publication presents information based on administrative data for persons in adult custody facilities or directed to serve community-based orders administered by adult corrective services agencies. In all states and territories persons are considered adults if aged 18 years and over, except Queensland (17+).

Key Point:

The average daily number of Territory prisoners (947) in the September quarter 2008 was 12 per cent higher than in the September quarter 2007 (842). The corresponding average daily imprisonment rate increased from 553 per 100 000 adult population to 606 over the same period.

In the September quarter 2008 the Territory had:

- The highest average daily imprisonment rates per 100 000 adult population of all jurisdictions for male (1101), female (65) and all prisoners (606), above respective national rates. All Territory rates were higher than in the September quarter 2007 (Table 1). The overall young age structure and large percentage of Indigenous people in the Territory population impact on the total imprisonment rate.*
- An average daily number of total prisoners of 947, 3 per cent higher than the previous quarter (919) and 12 per cent higher than the September quarter 2007 (842).
- On average, 1044 persons in community-based corrections on the first day of each month, fewer than the previous quarter (1152) and the September quarter 2007 (1187).
- An average daily number of Indigenous prisoners of 782, 3 per cent higher than the previous quarter (756) and 12 per cent higher than the June quarter 2007 (699).
- The fourth highest average daily imprisonment rate per 100 000 adult Indigenous population (2063), below the national average (2218) (Table 1).

* In Australia, imprisonment rates decrease in older age groups so it is likely the Indigenous imprisonment rate will be higher than the non-Indigenous rate because of the larger proportion of young people in the Indigenous population. At 30 June 2007, the national age standardised ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates of imprisonment was 13:1 (ABS Cat. no. 4517.0, Prisoners in Australia, 2007).

Table 1: Imprisonment rates, Northern Territory and Australia, September quarter, 2007 and 2008

	All		Indigenous	
	NT	Australia	NT	Australia
September quarter 2007	rate per relevant 100 000 adult population			
Male	1 013	310	3 665	4 135
Female	52	23	173	391
All	553	164	1 880	2 202
September quarter 2008				
Male	1 101	314	3 998	4 197
Female	65	23	210	358
All	606	166	2 063	2 218

Source: ABS Cat. no. 4512.0

Deaths, Australia, 2007

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

This annual publication presents information relating to deaths for states and territories. 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.

Key Point:

In 2007, the Territory had the highest standardised death rate of 8.9 deaths per 1000 population and the lowest life expectancy at birth for both males of 72.4 years and females of 78.4 years of all jurisdictions.

In the Territory in 2007:

Deaths

- There were 1001 deaths registered (7.4 per cent more than in 2006), including 936 usual residents of the Territory of which 461 (49 per cent) were identified as Indigenous deaths.
- The number of Indigenous deaths (461) is a return to the 2002 level (462) following lower levels during recent years.

- The age-standardised death rate of 8.9 deaths per 1000 population was highest of the jurisdictions, a slight increase on the 2006 rate (8.7) and higher than the national rate (6.0).
- Life expectancy at birth for males of 72.4 years was lowest of all jurisdictions and 6.6 years less than the national life expectancy (79.0 years).
- Life expectancy at birth for females of 78.4 years was the lowest of all jurisdictions and 5.3 years less than the national life expectancy (83.7 years).
- The infant mortality rate of 8.5 per 1000 live births (33 deaths) was the highest of the jurisdictions and well above the national rate (4.2).

Education and Work, Australia

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 6227.0

This publication presents information about the educational experience of persons aged 15-64 years, especially in relation to their labour force status. The ABS Survey of Education and Work was conducted in May 2008 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. Limited results are presented for the Territory and these refer mainly to urban areas only.

Key Point:

In May 2008, females accounted for 52 per cent of Territorians aged 15-64 years enrolled in a course of study, slightly larger than the national percentage (51 per cent).

In the Territory in May 2008, about 19 100 people aged 15-64 years were enrolled in a course of study. Of these:

- 13 800 (94.5 per cent) were employed, higher than the national rate of 93.1 per cent.
- females accounted for 52 per cent of Territorians aged 15-64 years enrolled in a course of study, slightly larger than the national percentage (51 per cent).
- The largest represented age group was 15-19 years (37.7 per cent), as it was nationally (43.1 per cent).

Of the 104 800 Territorians aged 15-64 years at May 2008:

- 14.3 per cent reported a highest education level of attainment of Bachelor Degree, less than the national percentage (15.8 per cent).
- 23 per cent of females recorded an attainment of Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 17.3 per cent for males, while 18.4 per cent of males reported Certificate III/IV as their highest educational attainment compared with 9.4 per cent for females.
- Year 10 or below was the highest level of attainment for 23.6 per cent of all persons, similar to the national rate (23.7 per cent).

Hospital separations due to injury and poisoning, Australia, 2004 05

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. INJCAT 117

This annual publication presents statistical information on hospitalisation due to injury and poisoning (external causes) for all jurisdictions for 2004-05. The high rate of hospitalised injury for Territory residents is most likely related to the higher injury risk for residents of more remote areas and among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Territory has a majority of its population classified as Remote or Very Remote.

Key Point:

In 2004-05, residents of the Territory had the highest age-standardised rate of hospitalised injury cases (2597 per 100 000 population) of all jurisdictions, and higher than the national rate (2108 per 100 000 population).

In 2004-05, the Territory had the highest age-standardised rate of hospitalisations due to the following external causes: assault, fire, burns and scalds, drowning and submersion (Table 2)

Table 2: Selected age standardised rates of hospitalisation due to injury and poisoning, Northern Territory and Australia, 2004-05

	Northern Territory	Australia
	(per 100 000 population)	
Total	2597	2108
Selected External Causes		
Assault		
Male:	571	150
Female:	660	53
Falls	656	608
Transportation	328	253
Fires, burns and scalds	69	27

Source: AIHW Cat. no. INJCAT 117

Indigenous participation in regional labour markets, 2001-06

Source: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Discussion paper No. 288/2008

This paper examines the extent to which Indigenous Australians have shared in the expansion of the Australian workforce mostly using data extracted from the 2001 and 2006 Census. The analysis involved 37 Indigenous Regions across Australia. Caution is required with census data given the widespread and substantial undercount of Indigenous population in remote towns and outstations, particularly for NT and WA. It should be noted that Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) is included in these figures as employment.

Key Point:

In the Territory between 2001 and 2006, Katherine recorded the largest percentage increase in employed Indigenous median weekly incomes (8.9 per cent) to \$239, while Tennant Creek recorded the largest percentage decrease in median weekly incomes (15.9 per cent) to \$232.

At the regional level, between 2001 and 2006 in the Territory:

- The largest increase in the Indigenous employment rate was reported in Jabiru (6.1 percentage points) to 38.7 per cent, followed by Nhulunbuy (4.9 percentage points) to 33.5 per cent. The national Indigenous employment rate increased from 41.9 per cent to 46.1 per cent.
- Tennant Creek recorded the lowest increase in Indigenous employment rates for the period (0.4 percentage points) 32.5 per cent, followed by Apatula (2.5 percentage points) 24.8 per cent.
- The largest decrease in the Indigenous unemployment rate was reported in Darwin (6.1 percentage points) to 13.3 per cent, while Apatula recorded the largest increase in unemployment (11.9 percentage points) to 24 per cent. The national Indigenous unemployment rate decreased by 4.2 percentage points to 15.5 per cent.

- Katherine recorded the largest percentage increase in employed Indigenous median weekly incomes (8.9 per cent) to \$239, while Tennant Creek recorded the largest percentage decrease in median weekly incomes (15.9 per cent) to \$232.

To halve the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates by 2016, an additional 1481 jobs will be needed in the Katherine region (assuming CDEP is retained) (Table 3).

Table 3. Projected Indigenous jobs required to meet employment targets by 2016 for Indigenous Regions

Indigenous Region	2006 estimates		Additional jobs required by 2016			
	Employed		Status quo		Halve the gap	
	Total	CDEP	CDEP kept	No CDEP	CDEP kept	No CDEP
Alice Springs	1 590	424	412	592	949	1 177
Jabiru	2 613	2 066	676	1 476	1 969	3 082
Katherine	2 786	2 086	721	1 645	1 481	2 605
Apatula	1 766	992	457	703	3 066	3 600
Nhulunbuy	2 224	1 600	576	1 112	2 281	3 143
Tennant Creek	864	874	224	508	940	1 411
Darwin	3 850	357	996	1 161	1 829	2 021
Total:	15 693	8 399	4 062	7 197	12 515	17 039

Note: the estimate for total employed population in 2006 includes those in the CDEP scheme.

Source: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Discussion paper No. 288/2008

Medical Labour Force, 2006

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. HWL 42

This report provides information on medical practitioners by demographic and labour force characteristics derived from the 2006 AIHW Medical Labour Force Survey. Estimates for the Territory are derived from the 2007 Medical Labour Force Survey, weighted to 2006 benchmark figures as no 2006 survey data was received. Results for the Territory should be used cautiously because of the low estimated response rate of 28.6 per cent.

Key Point:

In the Territory, between 2002 and 2006 the estimated number of employed practitioners increased from 684 to 866 and the number of primary care clinicians (GPs) increased from 257 to 306.

In the Territory in 2006:

- 89 per cent of the 977 registered medical practitioners were employed in medicine in the Territory, slightly higher than the national average of all jurisdictions of 87 per cent, with the remaining 11 per cent either retired, not employed, on extended leave, employed in medicine overseas, or employed elsewhere (not in medicine).
- The average age of practitioners (41 years) was the lowest of all jurisdictions and lower than the national average (46 years).
- The full time equivalent employed (FTE) rate of 402 per 100 000 population was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national rate (290).
- Between 2002 and 2006 the estimated number of employed practitioners increased from 684 to 866 and the number of primary care clinicians (GPs) increased from 257 to 306.
- On average per week, primary care clinicians (GPs) worked the longest hours of all jurisdictions (40.5 hours), compared to the national average of 39.5 hours.

- The percentage of Indigenous medical practitioners (2.8 per cent) was the highest for all jurisdictions and higher than the national percentage (0.3 per cent).