

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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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2008 Report

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2008 AIHW Cat no. IHW 22.

This report contains detailed analyses underlying the summary data presented in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework (HPF) 2008 report. This report is the second in the HPF series produced by the Department of Health and Ageing. The HPF consists of 70 measures covering three Tiers – Health Status and Outcomes; Determinants of Health; and Health Systems Performance.

Key Point:

In the Territory between 1996-2001 the life expectancy at birth for Indigenous males was still significantly less for Indigenous males (12 years) and Indigenous females (10 years).

Health Status and Health Outcomes

- From July 2004 to June 2006 in the Territory, the age-standardised rate of hospitalisation (excluding private hospital patients) of 444.7 per 1000 people for Indigenous people was higher than non-Indigenous rate of 194.2 per 1000 people.
- Over the period 1996-2001, the life expectancy at birth for Indigenous people in the Territory was estimated to be around 58 years for males and 65 for females.
- In 2006 in the Territory, the median age at death was lower for Indigenous males (45 years) than non-Indigenous males (64 years), and was lower for Indigenous females (55 years) compared with non-Indigenous females (75 years).
- For the period 2005-2006, the Indigenous infant mortality rate per 1000 live births in the Territory was 16.1, higher than the infant mortality rate of 15.4 reported in 2002-2004 but lower than rates reported in earlier reports that cover the 1996-2001 period.
- In the Territory between 2003 and 2005 a significant proportion of Indigenous babies born were classified as low birthweight babies (14.3 per cent), higher than non-Indigenous babies (6.6 per cent).

Determinants of Health Status

- In 2004-05, the Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous people living in overcrowded households (64 per cent), higher than the national proportion (25 per cent). In contrast, the proportion of non-Indigenous people living in overcrowded households was 7.8 per cent.
- In 2006, the Territory recorded the lowest Indigenous achievement of the national reading benchmarks in years 3, 5 and 7 with 39.6, 39.7 and 38.6 per cent of Indigenous students achieving the benchmark respectively. At the national level the respective achievement levels for the same period were 79.7, 66.3, and 63.2 per cent respectively.
- In 2006, the Territory had the lowest proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over who completed a VET (2.2 per cent), the lowest proportion nationally.

Health Systems Performance

- In 2006, the Territory had the highest proportion of health workers of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin (8.8 per cent).
- As at 31 December 2007, the vaccination coverage rate for Indigenous children aged 6 years in the Territory was 93.3 per cent, the highest of the jurisdictions and above the vaccination coverage rate for non-Indigenous Territory children of the same age (84.7 per cent).
- In the Territory from July 2004 to June 2006, the age-standardised discharge rate from hospital against medical advice was 6 times higher for Indigenous patients compared to non-Indigenous patients.

Apprentices and Trainees, June quarter 2008

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

This quarterly publication presents statistics on apprentice and trainee activity in Australia based on administrative data provided by state and territory authorities.

Key Point:

In the Territory, 40 per cent more apprentices and trainees started in the June quarter than for the same period last year.

For apprentices and trainees in the Territory:

In-training at 30 June 2008

- Estimated at 3800 persons, 15 per cent more than at 30 June 2007 (3300) and 6 per cent more than at 31 March 2008 (3600), while national estimates increased by 3 and 1 per cent at the respective dates.
- Predominant characteristics: male (68 per cent); aged 19 years or under (32 per cent); aged 25 to 44 years (34 per cent); and technicians and trades workers (53 per cent).

Commencements during June quarter 2008

- Estimated at 700 persons, 40 per cent more than the June quarter 2007 (500) and 22 per cent less than the March quarter 2008 (900). National estimates increased 17 per cent and decreased 28 per cent during the respective periods.
- Predominant characteristics: male (57 per cent); aged 19 years or under (43 per cent); and traditional trades (29 per cent).

Completions during June quarter 2008

- Estimated at 200 persons, no change from the previous quarter or the same period last year.
- Predominant characteristics: male (50 per cent) and traditional trades (50 per cent).
- The average quarterly number completing in the 12 months to 30 June 2008 (200) was slightly lower than in the 12 months to 30 June 2003 (300).

Cancer in Australia: An overview 2008

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2008 AIHW Cat no. Can 42.

This report presents estimates of the numbers of new cases (incidence) of cancer and cancer deaths in 2005 as well as projections for 2006 and 2010. To reduce the problems of statistical variation due to small numbers of cases, the numbers and rates presented for the states and territories are presented as annual averages over the 5-year period 2001–2005.

Key Point:

Between 2001-2005 the lowest age-standardised incidence rate reported for all cancers combined was in the Territory.

In the Territory for the period 2001-2005 there was:

- The lowest age-standardised incidence rate for melanoma of the skin: 32.5 cases per 100 000 persons compared to Queensland which had the highest age-standardised incidence rate of 65.3 cases per 100 000 persons.
- Between 2001-2005 the Territory recorded the lowest age-standardised incidence rate of all combined cancers (excluding non-melanocytic cancer types): 425.4 cases per 100 000 persons, while Queensland had the highest incidence rate (494.4 cases per 100 000 persons).

- The lowest age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer was recorded: 120.3 cases per 100 000 males, while Tasmania recorded the highest age-standardised incidence rate of 157.8 cases per 100 000 males.
- The highest age-standardised incidence rate for lung cancer was recorded: 53.6 cases per 100 000 persons, slightly ahead of Tasmania which recorded an incidence rate of 50.5 cases per 100 000 persons.

Child Protection Australia 2007-08

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009, AIHW Cat no. CWS 33.

This publication presents information from 2007-08 relating to child safety and wellbeing issues, based on four national child protection data collections, which include child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations, children on care and protection orders, children in out-of-home care and intensive family support services.

Key Point:

The Territory had the second highest substantiation rate of finalised child abuse and neglect investigations (59.3 per cent), behind Victoria (63.1 per cent).

In 2007-08 the Territory recorded;

- The highest rate of substantiations for children aged 0-16 years (11.9 per 1000 children) up from 9.3 per 1000 children recorded in 2006-07.
- A substantiation rate of 23.7 per 1000 children for Indigenous children aged 0-16 years, lower than the national Indigenous substantiation rate of 35.3 per 1000 children.
- The second highest proportion of sexual abuse cases for children subject to substantiations (15.5 per cent), behind Western Australia 18.2 per cent, while neglect was the most common cause for substantiations or notifications for Territory children (34.4 per cent).
- The rate of children aged 0-17 years on care and protection orders (8.4 per 1000 children) was the highest of all jurisdictions. Indigenous children recorded a rate of 14.6 per 1000 children significantly higher than the non-Indigenous rate (4.2 per 1000 children).

Homicide in Australia: 2006-07 National Homicide Monitoring Program Annual Report

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, Monitoring Reports 01.

This 18th annual report on the National Homicide Monitoring Program contains information on all homicide incidents (in which one or more persons are killed at the same time and place) during the twelve months ending 30 June 2007.

Key Point:

In the Territory, over half of the homicide deaths (18) were due to stab wounds.

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- There were 18 incidents, with 18 victims and 22 offenders, an increase of 13 per cent from 16 incidents the previous year; nationally homicides decreased 8 per cent from 283 to 260 deaths.
- The homicide victimisation rate per 100 000 population increased to 8.5 from 7.8 in 2005-06, compared with a decrease to 1.3 per 100 000 population from 1.5 nationally over the same period.
- Of the 22 offenders, 16 were Indigenous (89 per cent).

Mothers and Babies 2006

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2008, AIHW Cat no. PER 46.

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.

Key Point:

In 2006 the Territory fetal death rate was the highest of all the jurisdictions.

In 2006 the Territory recorded;

Mothers

- 3689 live births, of which 1461 (39.6 per cent) were to Indigenous mothers.
- The youngest mean maternal age of mothers of the jurisdictions (27.4 years), younger than (29.8 years) nationally.
- The highest proportion of births to mothers aged less than 20 years of the jurisdictions (13.3 per cent compared to 4.3 per cent nationally).

Confinement in public or private Hospital

- A higher proportion of women that gave birth in a public hospital (82.1 per cent in the Territory, 70.1 per cent nationally) than private hospital (17.9 per cent and 29.9 per cent respectively).

Smoking during pregnancy

- The Territory had the highest proportion of women that smoked during pregnancy (29.3 per cent).

Babies

- 11.6 per cent of all births were preterm (36 weeks or less), higher than the national rate (8.2 per cent).
- 9.8 per cent of live births were babies defined as low birthweight (less than 2500 grams), the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national rate of (6.4 per cent).
- 14.2 per cent Indigenous live births were babies defined as low birthweight compared to greater than nationally (12.4 per cent).
- In 2006 the Territory recorded a fetal death rate of 11 deaths per 1000 births the highest of all the jurisdictions and higher than the national rate of 7.4 deaths per 1000 births.

NT Crime and Justice Statistics – September quarter 2008

Source: NT Department of Justice, NT, Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics, Issue 25: September Quarter 2008.

This publication presents Territory crime and justice statistics from the September quarter 2006 to the September quarter 2008. Data is sourced from administrative systems maintained by the Territory Government.

Key Point:

There were less offences recorded against the person (1407) compared to the same period last year (1222).

Recorded Crime

In the Territory during the September quarter 2008:

- There was an increase in offences recorded against the person (6 per cent), but fewer offences than for the same period last year. Assault offences accounted for 89 per cent

of all recorded offences against the person, followed by Sexual Assault offences (7 per cent).

- Property offences (5098) decreased by 10 per cent from the previous quarter but, showed an increase of 6 per cent from the September quarter 2007. Property damage accounted for 39 per cent (the highest proportion) of all recorded property offences, while house break-ins accounted for 6 per cent.

Prisoners and Detainees in Correctional Facilities

In the Territory in the June quarter 2008:

- The daily average number of prisoners (947) increased by 3 per cent in the quarter and increased 12 per cent from the same quarter in 2007.
- Indigenous prisoners accounted for a significant proportion of the daily average prison population (83 per cent).
- The daily average number of juvenile detainees was 22, a decrease of 21 per cent from the same quarter in 2007.
- Indigenous juveniles accounted for 91 per cent of the daily average juvenile detainee population.

Prisoners in Australia, 2008

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat no 4517.0.

This annual publication presents point-in-time information about persons held in Australian prisons on the night of 30 June 2008 based on administrative data provided by states and territories. It does not represent the flow of prisoners during the year.

Key Point:

At 30 June 2008, the age-standardised Territory Indigenous and non-Indigenous imprisonment rates per 100 000 adult population were higher than at 30 June 2007, but lower than respective national rates.

In the Territory at 30 June 2008:

- The Indigenous prisoner proportion (83 per cent) was much the same as at 30 June 2007 (84 per cent) and larger than the national proportion (24 per cent).
- The male prisoner proportion (95 per cent) was unchanged from 30 June 2007, but slightly larger than the national proportion (93 per cent).
- The majority (69 per cent) had a prior imprisonment the highest of all jurisdictions and larger than the national proportion (55 per cent).
- The number of prisoners increased to 953 from 906 at 30 June 2007 (5 per cent), larger than the national increase (1 per cent).
- The crude imprisonment rate (prisoners per 100 000 adult population) increased to 610 from 595 at 30 June 2007 (3 per cent).
- The age-standardised Indigenous imprisonment rate (prisoners per 100 000 adult Indigenous population) increased to 1679 from 1603 (5 per cent) and was also lower than the national Indigenous rate (1769).
- The age standardised non-Indigenous imprisonment rate (prisoners per 100 000 adult non-Indigenous population) increased to 128 from 117 (9 per cent), but was lower than the national non-Indigenous rate (133).

Progress of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2008 AIHW Cat no. IHW 25.

This report is the second progress report released to provide findings on health conditions identified and referrals made during Child Health Checks (CHC) provided during the NTER. This report provides a preliminary analysis of data that was available as of 17 October 2008.

Key Point:

Almost 70 per cent of the children checked as part of the NTER child health check initiative required follow up treatment.

In the Territory as at 17 October 2008

- Of the total 489 children with a Primary Health Care (PHC) referral for ear related problems 421 (86.1 per cent) had been seen by a health professional (see Table 1).
- Of the total 1319 oral health referrals, 1041 children (78.9 per cent) had yet to be seen for their specialist referral,
- 386 children (57.5 per cent) were still waiting to receive specialist treatment for ear referrals.
- A total of 337 (16.3 per cent) children were yet to be seen for a Primary Health Care referral, while 915 (68.7 per cent) were waiting to be seen by an ear, nose and throat specialist.
- A total of 1581 children (42 per cent) had to wait 9 months or longer from their initial CHC to an initial chart review, while the average elapsed period between CHC and chart reviews (assessment of health records to ascertain need for follow-up care) for all NTER regions was 215 days.

Table 1: Selected Health Conditions with referrals to PHC, by whether or not child has been seen once at chart review

Health Condition	Primary Health Care (PHC)				Total Number with PHC referral
	Child seen		Child not seen		
	no.	%	no.	%	
Ears	421	86.1	68	13.9	489
Eyes	43	81.1	10	18.9	53
Oral health	239	90.5	25	9.5	264
Skin	450	88.6	58	11.4	508
Anaemia	404	85.4	69	14.6	473
Total	1557	87.1	230	12.9	1787

Source: AIHW Cat no. IHW 25

Public rental housing 2007-08

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009, AIHW Cat no. HOU 187.

This publication provides information regarding people seeking and receiving public housing assistance and the dwellings managed by state and territory housing authorities during 2007-08, based on data collected from states and territories for national reporting under 2003 CSHA.

Key Points

As at 30 June 2008 the Territory recorded the longest average turnaround time for public dwelling vacancies (68.3 days) for all jurisdictions.

In the Territory as at 30 June 2008;

- There were 5032 occupied public dwellings representing an occupancy rate of 95.4 per cent, of which 1850 (36.8 per cent) were Indigenous households.
- The highest average rental subsidy of all jurisdictions (\$126) was also higher than the national average rental subsidy (\$109).
- In 2007-08 the average cost of providing assistance (excluding capital) was \$10 918 per dwelling, the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national average of \$6064 per dwelling.

Student Outcomes 2008

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

This report presents student outcomes for students who have completed VET qualifications or modules based on a survey of students. The survey presents results for the Northern Territory) and other jurisdictions.

Key Point:

In 2008 in the Territory VET graduates were of the 686 respondents that graduated with a VET qualification; 85.4 per cent were satisfied with the overall quality of their training.

In 2008 in the Territory;

- 80.3 per cent of graduates were employed after training compared with 80.7 per cent nationally.
- 9.4 per cent of students were not employed prior to undertaking VET courses and gained employment after graduation (compared to 12.5 per cent nationally), while 32.6 per cent enrolled in further study after completing their VET qualification (compared to 32.8 per cent nationally).
- Of those completing modules but not completing the VET qualification: 76.8 per cent gained employment or were enrolled in further study after training compared with 79.3 per cent nationally.

The scale and composition of Indigenous housing need, 2001-06

Source: ANU-CAEPR Working Paper No. 47/2008.

This report presents the change in Indigenous housing need across 37 ABS Indigenous between the two Census years 2001 and 2006. The report breaks housing need into four categories; housing utilisation and overcrowding; housing tenure; condition of housing stock; and household income and housing costs.

Key Point:

In 2006 the Nhulunbuy region had the highest proportion of overcrowded Indigenous dwellings (87.1 per cent), compared to overcrowded non-Indigenous dwellings (6.9 per cent).

In 2006 in the Territory;

- The Nhulunbuy region had the highest proportion of people living in overcrowded dwellings (87 per cent) followed by Jabiru (79 per cent).
- The Darwin region had the lowest ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous overcrowded dwellings (3.6), while the Nhulunbuy region recorded the highest ratio (12.7).
- Of the 6448 dwellings managed by Indigenous Housing Organisations, 31.3 per cent were requiring major repairs or replacement.

- The Nhulunbuy region had the lowest proportion of Indigenous households being owned or purchased (2.0 per cent) in the Territory followed by Apatula (2.4 per cent), while the Darwin region recorded the highest proportion (40.4 per cent).
- The Katherine region recorded the highest proportion of Indigenous households being classed as improvised housing in the Territory followed by the Darwin region (7.1 per cent).

Table 2: Proportion of people living in dwelling requiring additional bedrooms, Indigenous status, 2006

Region	Indigenous	Number of dwellings	non-Indigenous	Number of dwellings	Ratio
Alice Springs	39.2	235	4.5	135	8.7
Jabiru	79.4	708	9.9	35	8.0
Katherine	73.9	697	9.3	109	8.0
Apatula	76.7	706	11.2	39	6.8
Nhulunbuy	87.1	678	6.9	45	12.7
Tennant Creek	62.0	226	5.5	12	11.3
Darwin	28.6	520	7.9	1336	3.6

Source: ANU Working paper 47/2008