

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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## Avoidable hospitalisation in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory

Source: Li, Shu Q., Guthridge, Steve L. et al. *Medical Journal of Australia* Vol 190, No 10

This research publication summarises findings on “avoidable hospitalisations” in the Northern Territory. The concept of “avoidable hospitalisations” provides a framework for measuring the proportion of morbidity that could be avoided by timely and effective care outside hospital. Data is collected from administrative datasets administered by the Department of Health and Family Services and from the 2001 ABS Census.

### Key Point:

Between 1998-99 and 2005-06, Aboriginal people in the Territory had an avoidable hospitalisation rate of 11 090 per 100 000 population, nearly four times higher than the national rate (2848 per 100 000 population).

Between 1998-99 and 2005-06 in the Territory:

- There were 52 144 avoidable hospitalisations reported, accounting for 15.6 per cent of total hospitalisations, with Aboriginal people accounting for 61 per cent of all avoidable hospitalisations.
- The avoidable hospitalisation rate for Aboriginal people was 11 090 per 100 000 population and the rate for the non-Aboriginal population was 2779 per 100 000 population.
- The average annual increase in avoidable hospitalisations was greater for Aboriginal people (11.6 per cent) than for non-Aboriginal people (3.9 per cent).
- The greatest increase in avoidable hospitalisations was for those aged 45 years and over, and was primarily attributable to diabetes complications.

### Report Conclusion:

- The significantly higher rates of avoidable hospitalisations in Aboriginal people in the Territory reflect the emerging epidemic of chronic disease in this population, highlight barriers to Aboriginal people accessing effective primary care and emphasises the extent of potential health gains with appropriate interventions.

## Deaths in Custody in Australia: National Deaths in Custody Program 2007

Source: *Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)*

This publication reports on findings from the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP). The NDICP reports on the circumstances of deaths that occurred whilst in prison, juvenile detention and police custody since 1980. The NDICP draws on data sources from all state and territory police services and juvenile justice and correctional agencies.

### Key Point:

In 2007, there were no deaths that occurred in prison custody or in motor vehicle pursuits recorded in the Territory, whilst two deaths were recorded while under police custody.

In the Territory in 2007:

- There were two deaths recorded in police custody and custody related operations, both of whom were non-Indigenous.
- There were no deaths recorded in prison custody or motor vehicle pursuits.

During 1980 to 2007 in the Territory:

- 24 deaths in prison custody were reported, the lowest of all jurisdictions with Indigenous persons accounting for 75 per cent (18) of deaths.
- No females died in custody.
- Of the 18 Indigenous deaths in prison custody, 13 died from natural causes, 4 were a result of self-inflicted death and 1 death resulted from an accident.
- Of the 6 non-Indigenous deaths in prison custody, 5 were self-inflicted deaths and 1 death was attributed to natural causes.

During 1990 to 2007 in the Territory:

- 31 deaths in police custody were reported of which 52 per cent (16) were Indigenous.
- The most common cause of death for Indigenous persons was by accident (8) followed by natural causes (5), while self-inflicted death (7) was the most common cause of death for non-Indigenous persons.

## Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2007-08

*Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). AIHW Cat. No. HOU 211*

This report is the thirteenth in a series of annual reports on the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection. The report provides information on people who were homeless or were at risk of being homeless, who accessed SAAP in 2007-08. The report also focuses on the number of persons turned away from SAAP accommodation in 2007-08.

### Key Point:

In 2007-08, the Territory had the second lowest proportion of unmet demand for SAAP accommodation and the highest level of referrals for accommodation at another source. The main reason for unmet requests was due to insufficient accommodation available.

In the Territory in 2007-08:

- The level of direct provision of SAAP or Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP) accommodation to clients (98 per cent) was the highest of all the jurisdictions and above the national level (87 per cent).
- The proportion of unmet demand for SAAP accommodation (0.7 per cent) was the second lowest of the jurisdictions, behind Western Australia (0.5 per cent), and well below the national proportion (5.0 per cent).
- The proportion of unmet demand for SAAP accommodation for accompanying children (2.0 per cent) was equal third lowest of the jurisdictions (with Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory), compared to 6.7 per cent nationally.
- The predominant reason why valid unmet requests for SAAP accommodation could not be met in all jurisdictions was due to insufficient accommodation and was the highest in the Territory (70.3 per cent), compared with 59 per cent nationally.
- The proportion of referrals for accommodation at another source (69 per cent) was the highest of the jurisdictions.
- 69.3 per cent of people with a valid unmet request for SAAP accommodation required accommodation within 24 hours, compared to 58.5 per cent of people nationally.
- The percentage of adults and accompanying children requiring new accommodation that were turned away (40 per cent) was the lowest of the jurisdictions, while the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest (81 per cent).

## Experimental Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2005-2007

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 3302.0.55.003

This publication presents experimental life tables for male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for the period 2005-2007, for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory and Australia.

This publication uses a new methodology to produce the 2005-2007 life tables and therefore new estimates are not comparable with previously published life expectancy estimates by the ABS. The estimates in this publication have been compiled after adjusting death registrations data for under-identification of Indigenous people. The under identification factors are obtained from the Census Data Enhancement Indigenous Mortality Quality Study. Life expectancy is then calculated using the direct demographic method in which standard life tables are prepared.

For further information on the new methodology see ***Discussion Paper: Assessment of methods for Developing Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006, 3302.0.55.002.***

### Key Point:

In the Territory in the period 2005 to 2007, the lowest life expectancy at birth of all jurisdictions was reported for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous males and females.

In the Territory between 2005-2007:

- The life expectancy at birth for Indigenous males was 61.5 years, compared to 75.7 years for non-Indigenous males. Nationally, the life expectancy for Indigenous males was 67.2 years, compared to 78.7 years for non-Indigenous males (Table 1).
- The life expectancy at birth for Indigenous females was 69.2 years, compared to 81.2 years for non-Indigenous females. Nationally, the life expectancy for Indigenous females was 72.9 years, compared to 82.6 years for non-Indigenous females (Table 1).
- The largest life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous males of all jurisdictions was reported (14.2 years), higher than the life expectancy gap for females (11.9 years) (Table 1).

**Table 1 - Life expectancy at birth, Indigenous status, 2005-2007**

	Indigenous years	non-Indigenous years	Total (b) years	Differences between non- Indigenous and Indigenous life expectancy at birth years
<b>Males</b>				
NSW	69.9	78.7	78.5	8.8
QLD	68.3	78.6	78.4	10.4
WA	65.0	79.0	78.7	14.0
NT	61.5	75.7	72.0	14.2
Aust.(d)	67.2	78.7	78.5	11.5
<b>Females</b>				
NSW	75.0	82.5	82.4	7.5
QLD	73.6	82.5	82.3	8.9
WA	70.4	82.9	82.5	12.5
NT	69.2	81.2	77.6	11.9
Aust.(d)	72.9	82.6	82.4	9.7
<b>Difference between males and females</b>				
NSW	-5.1	-3.9	-3.9	-
QLD	-5.3	-3.9	-4.0	-
WA	-5.4	-3.8	-3.9	-
NT	-7.7	-5.4	-5.6	-
Aust.(d)	-5.6	-3.8	-3.9	-

(a) Due to significant changes in methodology, estimates of life expectancy at birth for 2005-2007 are not comparable to previously published estimates.

(b) Estimates of life expectancy at birth for the total population presented in this publication differ from estimates in Deaths, Australia, 2006 (Cat. No. 3302.0). See paragraph 27 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(c) Differences are based on unrounded estimates.

(d) Includes all states and territories.

**Source:** ABS Cat. No. 3302.0.55.003

## Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators, 2009

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 1383.0.55.001

This annual report summarises the state of major features of Australian life by using a set of summary indicators. The summary indicators are grouped into four areas – the individual (health, education and training, work), the economy and economic resources (income, economic hardship, national wealth), the environment (atmosphere and water) and living together (crime). Data is collated from a range of publications and over a range of years.

### Key Point:

Between 2005 and 2008, the Territory reported the highest annual real gross state income per person; produced more greenhouse gas emissions per person; and persons in the Territory were more likely to be victims of household and personal crime than those living in other jurisdictions.

In the Territory (Table 2):

- In 2008, 60.2 per cent of people aged 25-64 had non-school qualifications, similar to the national proportion (61 per cent).
- In June 2008, the annual real gross state income per person (\$69 855) was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national income per person (\$51 809).
- In 2006, net greenhouse gas emissions per person of 76.7 carbon dioxide equivalent in tonnes (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national rate (27.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e).

- In 2005, the highest crime victimisation rate of all jurisdictions was reported for personal crime (6.6 per cent) and household crime (13 per cent), higher than the national proportions of 5.3 per cent and 6.2 per cent, respectively.

**Table 2 – Selected Summary Indicators for the Northern Territory and Australia**

	NT	Australia
Highest level of non-school qualification of people aged 25-64 years, 2008		
Proportion of people with bachelor degree or above (%)	23.3	25.5
Proportion of people with advanced diploma or diploma or below (%)	33.2	34.1
Annual real gross state income per person, chain volume measures, June 2008 (\$)	69 855	51 809
Average real equivalised disposable household income per week per person, 2005-06 (\$)		
Low income group <sup>a</sup>	422 <sup>c</sup>	341
Middle income group <sup>b</sup>	697 <sup>c</sup>	565
Average net worth of household, 2005-06 (\$000)	391.9 <sup>c</sup>	562.9
Net greenhouse gas emissions per person, 2006 (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e) <sup>d</sup>	76.7	27.8
Victims of selected personal crimes, 2005 (victimisation prevalence rates %)	6.6	5.3
Victims of selected household crimes, 2005 (victimisation prevalence rates %)	13	6.2

<sup>a</sup> Comprises people in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> decile from the bottom of a distribution of equivalised disposable household income ranked from lowest to highest.

<sup>b</sup> Comprises people in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> decile from the bottom of a distribution of equivalised disposable household income ranked from lowest to highest.

<sup>c</sup> Excludes households in very remote areas.

<sup>d</sup> Carbon dioxide equivalent in tonnes.

**Source:** ABS Cat. No. 1383.0.55.001