

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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Adoptions Australia 2007-08 Child Welfare Series No. 46

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2008 AIHW Cat No CWS 34

This annual report includes data on all finalised adoptions recorded by the state and territory agencies responsible for adoption in 2007-08. It also highlights important trends over the last few decades.

Key Point:

The Territory has a comparatively high rate of adoption compared to other jurisdictions, most of which are inter-country adoptions.

In the Territory during 2007-08:

- The number of adoptions (9) was the lowest of all jurisdictions, while the rate of adoptions (4.1 per 100 000 persons) was the third highest in the country and above the national rate (2.1 per 100 000 persons).
- Over the past five years the national rate of adoption has ranged between 2.1 and 2.9 (per 100 000 persons). Due to the small number of adoptions in the Territory the rate has been more volatile, ranging between 2.5 and 8.3 (per 100 000 persons).
- The majority of adoptions in the Territory were inter-country adoptions (7 people); 3 from China, 2 from Ethiopia, 1 child from India and 1 from the Philippines. Nationally, the largest number of inter-country adoptions was from China (23 per cent of total).

Criminal Courts Australia, 2007-08

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat No 4513.0

This publication compiles data from the national Criminal Courts collection summarising key statistics on defendants, offences, and sentencing in Supreme and Intermediate, Magistrates and Children's courts across Australia.

Key Point:

During 2007-08, 80 per cent of Territory defendants were male (8 691), the second highest rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average (77.2 per cent).

In the Territory during 2007-08:

- 80 per cent of all defendants were male (8 691) compared to 77 per cent nationally. In the higher courts (Supreme and Intermediate) 93 per cent were male (255 persons) compared to a national rate of 86 per cent.
- About 85 per cent of all defendants were found guilty (9 315), with 31 per cent issued custodial orders (either detained in an institution or home). This is the highest rate of custodial orders in all states and territories. The national average is 10 per cent.
- The Territory had the highest acquittal rate in the higher courts (15 per cent), third highest acquittal rate in the Magistrates Court (6 per cent) and the second highest rate in the Juvenile Court (11 per cent).
- Acts intended to cause injury were the largest proportion of charges (37 per cent) in the higher courts, while road traffic offences were the largest proportion in the Magistrates Court (42 per cent) and Juvenile Court (27 per cent).

Table 1 Summary of criminal court data for the Northern Territory and Australia

	High Courts		Magistrates Court		Juvenile Court	
	NT	Australia	NT	Australia	NT	Australia
Defendants (number)	275	16 812	9 976	619 542	659	39 412
Male (%) ¹	92.7	86.0	79.2	76.9	81.5	78.2
Female (%) ¹	7.3	12.2	17.4	21.5	18.5	21.7
Acquitted (%) ²	14.9	6.8	6.1	3.9	10.8	3.2
Guilty (%) ²	77.2	78.5	86.1	87.4	77.7	78.0
Custodial Orders (%)	94.4	83.3	29.4	8.4	22.7	8.5
Non-Custodial (%)	5.6	16.7	70.6	91.4	77.3	91.3

Notes: 1 Numbers do not always add to 100% due to a small no. of cases brought by organisations

2 Numbers do not always add to 100% due to non-finalised or withdrawn cases

Source: ABS Cat No 4513.0

Homeless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clients in Supported Assistance Accommodation Program (SAAP) 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). AIHW Cat No HOU 190

The report provides information on assistance provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and their accompanying children by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) during 2006-07.

Key Point:

In 2006-07, most SAAP clients in the Territory were Indigenous while most national clients were non-Indigenous. The most common reason for Territory and national SAAP clients seeking assistance was domestic violence.

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- There were 3200 SAAP clients (66 per cent were Indigenous), 1950 accompanying children (79.5 per cent were Indigenous) and 4750 support periods (see Table 1 for breakdown).
- Most accompanying children were aged 0-4 years (51 per cent in the Territory, 45 per cent nationally).
- The main reason for seeking assistance in both the Territory and Australia was domestic violence (34 per cent and 24 per cent respectively).
- The most common length of SAAP support was 1 week or less (54 per cent in the Territory; 49 per cent nationally).
- The majority of SAAP services provided to clients both in the Northern Territory and nationally was housing/accommodation followed by basic support (including meals, laundry, shower, etc.).

Table 2 SAAP client profiles by Indigenous Status, Northern Territory & Australia, 2006-07

	Northern Territory			Australia		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Clients (number)	2 100	1 100	3 200	20 100	89 800	109 900
Male	350	550	900	5 600	36 650	42 250
Median Age (years)	24	36		30	32	
Female	1 750	550	2 300	14 550	53 200	67 750
Median Age (years)	28	26		28	29	
Accompanying Children (number)	1 550	400	1 950	17 700	47 850	65 550
Total Support Periods (number)	3 250	1 500	4 750	34 150	157 000	191 150

Source: AIHW Cat No HOU 190

Indigenous SAAP Clients

- 83 per cent of Indigenous SAAP clients were female compared to 72 per cent nationally.
- The largest proportion of female clients were aged 25-34 years in both the Territory (29 per cent) and nationally (30 per cent). The largest proportion of male clients were those aged 15-19 years in the Territory (31 per cent) and 35-44 years nationally (23 per cent).
- The main reason for seeking assistance in both the Territory and nationally was domestic/family violence (44 per cent and 29 per cent respectively).

Non-Indigenous SAAP Clients

- There were equal proportions (50-50) of male and female non-Indigenous SAAP clients in the Territory compared to a 59 per cent majority of females nationally.
- The largest proportion of female clients were those aged 15-19 years in the Territory (25 per cent) and 25-34 years nationally (27 per cent). The largest proportion of male clients were those aged 45+ years in the Territory (28 per cent) and 25-34 years nationally (23 per cent).
- The main reasons for seeking assistance were domestic/family violence (14 per cent in the Territory, 22 per cent nationally), financial difficulty (11.5 per cent in the Territory, 8.2 per cent nationally) and relationship/family breakdown (11.3 per cent in the Territory, 10.6 per cent nationally).

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2008

Source: Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA).

This report presents detailed results of the May 2008 NAPLAN student testing for all States and Territories. Students were tested against a national minimum standard (NMS) in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy.

Key Point:

NAPLAN testing found that the percentage of Northern Territory students that were at or above the national minimum standard was below the national average in each area tested and year level.

In the Territory during 2008 in all year levels and subjects:

- Participation rates in the assessment were the lowest in Australia ranging between 78.5 per cent (yr 9 writing) and 85 per cent (yr 5 numeracy) compared to national participation rates of 93.3 per cent (yr 9 numeracy) to 96.9 per cent (yr 5 spelling, grammar and punctuation).
- When comparing to national achievement standards, Territory Indigenous students had significantly poorer results than all Australian Indigenous students.
- Fewer children living in very remote areas reached minimum standards than children living in remote and non-remote locations both at the national and Territory level.
- A greater percentage of students were at or above NMS in numeracy, while grammar and punctuation had the lowest proportion of students at or above NMS.

Year 3

- Student results were strongest in numeracy (total at or above NMS: 77 per cent).
- Grammar and punctuation followed by spelling were the areas of most concern (60.1 per cent and 61.4 per cent total at or above NMS).
- More female students were at or above NMS than male students in each area tested.
- Indigenous student results were most significantly different to non-Indigenous students results in grammar and punctuation (61.3 percentage points difference), reading (57.8 percentage points difference) and spelling (58.2 percentage points difference).

Year 5

- Less than 70 per cent of all students were at or above NMS in all areas tested.
- Numeracy results were the highest (69.1 per cent at or above NMS) and this was the only area tested in which male students performed better than female students (70.1 per cent compared to 67.9 per cent)
- The areas of most concern were grammar and punctuation (61.5 per cent at or above NMS) followed closely by spelling (62.1 per cent) and reading (62.5 per cent).

Year 7

- The highest results were in numeracy with (75.9 per cent at or above NMS) while grammar and punctuation had the poorest results (60.3 per cent)
- The most significant difference between male and female students (9.1 percentage points) occurred in the writing test with 59.3 per cent of males at NMS while 68.4 per cent of females at NMS.
- 23.9 per cent of Indigenous students were at or above NMS for grammar and punctuation compared to a national average of 62.7 per cent.

Year 9

- The highest results were in numeracy 74.1 per cent at NMS or above while grammar and punctuation and writing had the lowest percentage of students at or above NMS (63.3 per cent).
- Writing (12.8 percentage points) and spelling (9.2 percentage points) had the most significant difference between male and female student results.
- The greatest percentage of Indigenous students at or above NMS was in numeracy (46.1 per cent) while the lowest percentage was in grammar and punctuation (28.4 per cent).

Table 3 Percentage of students at or above national minimum standard, NAPLAN 2008

	Year 3		Year 5		Year 7		Year 9	
	(%)		(%)		(%)		(%)	
	NT	Aust	NT	Aust	NT	Aust	NT	Aust
READING								
Total	62.7	92.1	62.5	91.0	67.1	94.2	69.9	92.9
Male	60.1	90.3	60.2	89.3	65.5	92.8	68.5	91.5
Female	65.5	94.1	65.1	92.8	69.0	95.6	71.4	94.4
Indigenous	30.4	68.3	25.8	63.4	32.4	71.9	37.9	70.7
Non-Indigenous	88.2	93.5	88.9	92.6	93.5	95.4	92.2	94.2
Non-remote	82.8	91.0	82.1	90.0	88.4	93.9	84.4	92.4
Remote	69.9	79.6	72.5	79.7	75.2	83.9	73.7	82.3
Very remote	25.4	51.1	19.1	46.1	23.5	49.2	25.4	51.3
WRITING								
Total	73.7	95.4	66.3	92.6	63.6	91.8	63.3	87.2
Male	70.4	93.7	62.4	89.8	59.3	88.6	57.1	82.2
Female	77.0	97.1	70.6	95.5	68.4	95.3	69.9	92.5
Indigenous	46.6	78.8	32.8	69.7	29.9	67.9	32.8	59.7
Non-Indigenous	95.1	96.4	90.2	93.9	89.2	93.2	84.6	88.8
Non-remote	91.9	95.3	84.9	91.5	83.8	90.4	76.2	84.7
Remote	82.5	88.5	77.0	83.7	72.3	81.0	66.1	73.3
Very remote	38.0	62.7	24.1	52.9	21.1	48.1	24.5	44.3
NUMERACY								
Total	77.0	95.0	69.1	92.7	75.9	95.4	74.1	93.6
Male	76.8	94.6	70.2	92.8	76.1	95.4	74.5	93.7
Female	77.1	95.5	67.9	92.5	75.7	95.3	73.6	93.6
Indigenous	52.4	78.6	38.3	69.2	50.2	78.6	46.1	72.5
Non-Indigenous	96.5	96.0	91.6	94.0	95.6	96.4	93.6	94.8
Non-remote	93.5	94.8	86.7	91.9	91.9	95.1	86.4	92.9
Remote	85.3	88.5	78.0	83.4	83.4	88.4	78.2	84.1
Very remote	44.5	64.4	30.2	54.3	42.0	62.2	35.3	57.8

Source: MCEETYA

Ranking Regions: Revisiting an Index of Relative Indigenous Socioeconomic Outcomes

Source: ANU-CAEPR Working Paper No. 50/2009

The report analyses socioeconomic wellbeing of Indigenous Australians at a regional and area level. Researchers constructed a new index using factors that cover employment, education, income and housing to rank and compare. The purpose of the new index is to more specifically target Indigenous needs and culture, as the researchers felt the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Index For Areas (SEIFA) indices are dominated by characteristics of the non-Indigenous population.

Key Point:

When assessed against the Indigenous index of socioeconomic outcomes, the lowest 5 ranking Indigenous regions in Australia were found in the Territory; Apatula, Nhulunbuy, Jabiru, Tennant Creek and Katherine.

In 2006:

- Socioeconomic outcomes across the Territory were relatively unchanged from 2001. The most significant change occurred in Alice Springs which dropped three ranking places (20 to 23). This is believed to be due to a large population inflow mainly from Apatula (the worst ranked region in Australia).
- Of the 72 Indigenous areas in the NT, 40 are ranked in the bottom decile, making up just over three quarters of national Indigenous areas ranked in the bottom decile.
- Of the Territory's Indigenous areas, the outer parts of Palmerston ranked highest with a national ranking of 56.

Underemployed Workers, September 2008

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat no 6265.0.

This publication presents information about underemployed workers aged 15 years and over throughout Australia. The data is compiled from ABS Labour Force and Underemployed Workers surveys. This data should be used with caution due to low levels of statistical confidence for NT data.

Key Point:

In September 2008, 2600 persons were assessed as underemployed in the Territory (2.7 per cent of employed persons), lower than the national rate (6.1 per cent).

In the Territory in September 2008:

- 95 100 persons were employed, of this number 78 400 were employed full-time and 16 800 persons were employed part time.
- 2400 part-time employees (14.3 per cent) are underemployed (would prefer more hours), compared with the national part-time underemployed rate (20.1 per cent).
- 200 fulltime employees (0.3 per cent) are underemployed (reduced hours due to economic reasons), below the national proportion (0.7 per cent).