

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.

Covered in this issue (alphabetical order):

<b>Births, 2007</b>	<b>2</b>
In 2007, the Territory total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.3 babies per woman was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national TFR (1.9 babies per woman). The Territory TFR has fluctuated at around 2.2 to 2.3 babies per woman over the past decade.	
<b>Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2006-07</b>	<b>3</b>
In the Territory in 2006-07, on an average daily basis most unmet requests for SAAP accommodation (81 per cent) were due to lack of available accommodation, similar to the national situation (82 per cent).	
<b>Disability Support Services, 2006-07</b>	<b>3</b>
In the Territory in 2006-07, Government expenditure on Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) funded services totalled \$33.3 million, with accommodation support services the largest percentage (52 per cent) as it was for Australia (47 per cent).	
<b>Health Expenditure Australia, 2006-07</b>	<b>4</b>
Recurrent health expenditure in the Territory of \$5282 per person in 2006-07 was higher than the national average of \$4185 and represented real average annual growth since 2003-04 of 3.8 per cent, the second highest growth rate behind Queensland (4.1 per cent).	
<b>NT Crime and Justice Statistics – June quarter 2008</b>	<b>5</b>
In the Territory in the June quarter 2008, the total of 1344 recorded offences against the person, most of which (88 per cent) were assaults, was 3 per cent lower than the previous quarter.	
<b>NT Emergency Response: Report of the NTER Review Board October 2008</b>	<b>5</b>
Since June 2007 an additional 51 Australian Federal and Northern Territory Police have been deployed in 18 remote communities and there is evidence the communities are now safer.	
<b>Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover, 2006</b>	<b>6</b>
In the Territory in the five years to 2006, the Darwin City – Remainder area and Jabiru had the highest rates of population turnover (174.1 and 146.9 per cent respectively) and the lowest turnover areas were Angurugu (7.5 per cent) and West Arnhem (15.3 per cent).	
<b>Police Drug Diversion: a study of criminal offending outcomes</b>	<b>7</b>
In the Territory, 125 first-time offenders aged 10 to 17 years participated in drug diversion programs between October 2002 and December 2006 with 34 per cent re-arrested for any offence within 18 months, a lower recidivism rate than participants in drug diversion programs in South Australia (44 per cent) and Tasmania (42 per cent) over the same period.	
<b>Regional Statistics, 2008</b>	<b>8</b>

## Births, 2007

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 3301.0

This publication presents statistics for live births and fertility in Australia. Data, sourced from state and territory administrative collections, relates to births registered during 2007. All fertility rates are age-specific and State or Territory refers to usual residence. The publication also contains information on confinements.

### Key Point:

In 2007, the Territory total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.3 babies per woman was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national TFR (1.9 babies per woman). The Territory TFR has fluctuated at around 2.2 to 2.3 babies per woman over the past decade.

In the Territory in 2007:

- The total of 3894 registered births was 5.4 per cent higher than in 2006, the third smallest percentage increase of all jurisdictions and smaller than the national increase of 7.2 per cent.
- Indigenous births (at least one parent identified themselves as being Indigenous) accounted for 41 per cent (1600) of total registered births, with both parents being Indigenous for 43.6 per cent of those births, 50.6 per cent Indigenous mother only and 5.8 per cent Indigenous father only.
- The sex ratio at birth of 107.6 males per 100 females was the highest of all the jurisdictions and higher than the national sex ratio at birth of 105.5.
- The TFR of 2.27 babies per woman was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national TFR of 1.93 babies per woman (Table 1).
- The median ages of all mothers giving birth (27.9 years) and Indigenous mothers giving birth (23.7 years) were the lowest in Australia and lower than the national median ages of all mothers giving birth (30.7 years) and Indigenous mothers giving birth (24.7 years).
- The teenage fertility rate of 58.6 babies (to mothers aged less than 19) per 1000 women aged 15-19 was lower than the rate of 63.5 in 2006, compared to a national increase from 15.3 to 16.0.
- The Indigenous TFR of 2.5 babies per woman was slightly higher than the national TFR of 2.4 babies per woman.
- The Indigenous teenage fertility rate of 111 babies (to mothers aged less than 19) per 1000 Indigenous women aged 15-19 was seven times greater than the national teenage fertility rate (16).

**Table 1: Fertility rates, median ages, Indigenous and all mothers, Northern Territory and Australia, 2007**

	Northern Territory	Australia
<b>All women</b>		
Total Fertility Rate (births per 1000)	2.3	1.9
teenage fertility rate (births per 1000 women aged 15-19)	58.6	16.0
median age of mothers giving birth (years)	27.9	30.7
<b>Indigenous women</b>		
Total Fertility Rate (births per 1000)	2.5	2.4
teenage fertility rate (births per 1000 women aged 15-19)	111	70
median age of mothers giving birth (years)	23.7	24.7

Source: ABS Cat. no. 3301.0.

## Demand for SAAP accommodation by homeless people 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. HOU 186

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) is the major government response to homelessness in Australia. This annual report outlines service demand during 2006-07 based on data provided by SAAP-funded agencies from two collections; the Client Collection of information about clients receiving assistance collected throughout the year, and the Demand for Accommodation Collection measuring met and unmet demand for SAAP accommodation conducted over two 1-week periods during May and August.

### Key Point:

In the Territory in 2006-07, on an average daily basis most unmet requests for SAAP accommodation (81 per cent) were due to lack of available accommodation, similar to the national situation (82 per cent).

On an average day during the 2006-07 Demand for Accommodation Collection, in the Territory:

- There were 9 unmet requests for SAAP accommodation representing 11 people comprising 6 adults and unaccompanied children, and 5 children accompanied by parent(s) or guardian(s).
- Most unmet requests for accommodation (81 per cent) were due to lack of available accommodation either at the participating agency itself or at referred agencies, similar to the national situation (82 per cent).

## Disability Support Services, 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. DIS 52

This report examines Australia's national disability services, focussed on services funded under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) during 2006-07. Data is sourced from all service providers and service users.

### Key Point:

In the Territory in 2006-07, Government expenditure on Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) funded services totalled \$33.3 million, with accommodation support services the largest percentage (52 per cent) as it was for Australia (47 per cent).

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- Of the 1542 users of CSTDA-funded services 34 per cent were Indigenous, the highest proportion of all jurisdictions and higher than the national proportion of 3.8 per cent.
- Respite care facilities recorded the highest usage of CSTDA funded services of all the jurisdictions (19.5 per cent) and higher than the national proportion (12.9 per cent).
- Administration expenditure accounted for 5 per cent (\$1.8 million) of total Government expenditure on CSTDA-funded services, the lowest rate of all the jurisdictions and lower than the national rate (10 per cent).

## Health Expenditure Australia, 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. HWE42

This publication presents health expenditure data from 1996-97 to 2006-07 to report the volume and proportion of economic resources funded and expended by all levels of government and the non-government sector through the health care system. Previous issues should not be used for time series analysis due to revisions to previously published estimates of health expenditure.

### Key Point:

Recurrent health expenditure in the Territory of \$5282 per person in 2006-07 was higher than the national average of \$4185 and represented real average annual growth since 2003-04 of 3.8 per cent, the second highest growth rate behind Queensland (4.1 per cent).

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- Recurrent expenditure of \$5282 per person was 26 per cent higher than the national average of \$4185 (Table 2).
- The Australian Government provided 33 per cent (\$140 million) of total public funding for Territory public hospital services, smaller than the national percentage (43 per cent) and influenced by the composition of the population e.g. age structure, and related specific health needs.

In the Territory, from 2003-04 to 2006-07:

- Average annual growth of recurrent expenditure per person of 3.8 per cent was the second highest in Australia, higher than national average growth of 2.8 per cent per annum (Table 3).
- Annual real growth (adjusted for inflation) in recurrent health expenditure of 18.7 per cent was the second highest in Australia behind Queensland, and higher than national real growth of 13.3 per cent per annum over the same period.

**Table 2: Average recurrent health expenditure per person, Northern Territory and Australia, 2003-04 to 2006-07 (\$)**

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
<b>Northern Territory</b>				
current prices	4 208	4 532	4 916	5 282
constant prices*	4 716	4 894	5 105	5 282
real growth rate (year on year)		3.8%	4.3%	3.5%
<b>Australia</b>				
current prices	3 432	3 713	3 921	4 185
constant prices*	3 850	3 996	4 054	4 185
real growth rate (year on year)		3.8%	1.5%	3.2%

\*expressed in 2006-07 terms

Source: AIHW Cat. No. HWE 42

**Table 3: Total recurrent health expenditure, Northern Territory and Australia, 2003-04 to 2006-07 (\$m)**

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
<b>Northern Territory</b>				
current prices	845	925	1 025	1 124
constant prices*	947	999	1 065	1 124
real growth rate (year on year)		5.5%	6.6%	5.5%
<b>Australia</b>				
current prices	68 696	75 228	80 573	87 283
constant prices*	77 057	80 961	83 312	87 283
real growth rate (year on year)		5.1%	2.9%	4.8%

\*expressed in 2006-07 terms

Source: AIHW Cat. No. HWE 42

## NT Crime and Justice Statistics – June quarter 2008

Source: NT Department of Justice, NT, Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics, Issue 24: June Quarter 2008

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

### Key Point:

In the Territory in the June quarter 2008, the total of 1344 recorded offences against the person, most of which (88 per cent) were assaults, was 3 per cent lower than the previous quarter.

### Recorded Crime

In the Territory during the June quarter 2008:

- There were 1344 recorded offences against the person, a decrease of 3 per cent from the previous quarter and 13 per cent fewer than the June quarter 2007. Assault offences accounted for 88 per cent of all recorded offences against the person, followed by Sexual Assault offences (7 per cent).
- There were 5623 property offences recorded, a decrease of 6 per cent from the previous quarter and up 7 per cent from the June quarter 2007. Property damage accounted for 37 per cent (the highest proportion) of all recorded property offences, House break-ins accounted for 8 per cent.

### Prisoners and Detainees in Correctional Facilities

In the Territory in the June quarter 2008:

- The daily average number of prisoners was 919, an increase of 2 per cent from the same quarter in 2007.
- Indigenous prisoners accounted for 82 per cent of the daily average prison population.
- The daily average number of juvenile detainees was 21, a decrease of 40 per cent from the same quarter in 2007.
- Indigenous juveniles were 95 per cent of the daily average detainee population.

## NT Emergency Response: Report of the NTER Review Board October 2008

Source: Australian Government-NTER Review <http://www.nterreview.gov.au/report.htm>

On the 6 June 2008 the Australian Government appointed a review board to assess the effectiveness and progress of the NT Emergency Response (NTER) measures. This report released by the federal Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on 13 October 2008 provides an assessment of the first 12 months of operation of the NTER.

### Key Point:

Since June 2007 an additional 51 Australian Federal and Northern Territory Police have been deployed in 18 remote communities and there is evidence the communities are now safer.

The findings from the NTER Review Board Report were:

### Income Management

- Income Management has impacted on approximately 13 300 individuals living in 53 communities within prescribed areas and 46 town camps located in major centres that were subject to the scheme on 30 June 2008.

## Community Stores

- The Board observed obvious and significant disparity between the standard of stores with a number of communities seriously disadvantaged by the poor standards of their local stores.

## Law and Order

- Large numbers of people continue to drink outside prescribed areas, with many people travelling from remote communities into larger regional towns to escape the alcohol restrictions.

## Education

- Of the 8000 children enrolled in schools in the 73 NTER communities, 2500 did not attend school regularly. As many as 2000 additional children of school age were not enrolled in education.
- School participation rates and literacy and numeracy standards were low, with only 27 per cent of students in very remote communities attending school regularly.

## Health

- Based on an analysis of 8324 child health checks approximately 88 per cent were found to have one or more health conditions identified.
- Many children who had received referrals from their health checks were waiting several months for follow-up treatment, 60 per cent as of September 2008

## Housing and Land Reform

- Uncertainty and a lack of knowledge were evident in most communities regarding the Australian Government taking possession and control of the larger Aboriginal communities through the granting of exclusive five-year leases.

## Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover, 2006

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 1380.0.55.005

This publication uses 2006 Census data to produce Statistical Local Area (SLA) population turnover rates, being the combined numbers of people arriving in and departing from the SLA between August 2001 and August 2006 in relation to the SLA's population. Unincorporated SLAs and SLAs with a population of less than 500 usual residents are excluded from analysis.

### Key Point:

In the Territory in the five years to 2006, the Darwin City – Remainder area and Jabiru had the highest rates of population turnover (174.1 and 146.9 per cent respectively) and the lowest turnover areas were Angurugu (7.5 per cent) and West Arnhem (15.3 per cent).

In the Territory in the five years to 2006:

- Four of the five SLAs with the greatest population turnover were in urban areas with the Darwin City – Remainder SLA (Figure 1), which includes RAAF Base Darwin and Defence Establishment Berrimah, having the highest rate (174.1 per cent) and negative net migration (-92 persons) (Table 4).
- Lowest turnover areas were Angurugu and West Arnhem (7.5 and 15.3 per cent respectively).
- People between the ages of 15-29 were the most common age group in over half of the high turnover regions.

Table 4: High Population Turnover SLAs 2001 to 2006, Northern Territory

SLA	Arrivals (persons)	Departures (persons)	Net migration (persons)	Population flow (persons)	Population turnover (%)
(Darwin) City – Remainder	1 440	1 532	-92	2 972	174.1
Jabiru (T)	447	596	-149	1 043	146.9
Durack	1 595	1 579	16	3 174	145.5
(Darwin) City – Inner	1 317	1 269	48	2 586	143.4
Gunn – Palmerston City	1 409	1 061	348	2 470	134.2

Source: ABS Cat. no. 1380.0.55.005

Figure 1: (Darwin) City – Remainder SLA (darker area centred by Darwin airport)



Source: www.abs.gov.au

## Police Drug Diversion: a study of criminal offending outcomes

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, Research and Public Policy Series 97

This report details analysis undertaken by the Australian Institute of Criminology to examine the recidivism of first-time offenders aged 10 to 17 diverted by the police under national Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative (IDDI) programs. In the Territory two diversion programs operate: the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme, and the Illicit Drug Pre-court Diversion Program (non-cannabis). Variations in jurisdictional programs limit comparison of findings among jurisdictions.

### Key Point:

In the Territory, 125 first-time offenders aged 10 to 17 years participated in drug diversion programs between October 2002 and December 2006 with 34 per cent re-arrested for any offence within 18 months, a lower recidivism rate than for drug diversion programs in South Australia (44 per cent) and Tasmania (42 per cent) over the same period.

Of the 125 Territory participants diverted between October 2002 and December 2006:

- 70 per cent were male.
- 31 per cent were Indigenous, the largest percentage in Australia.
- The mean age of 15.2 years was the lowest of any jurisdiction, due largely to diversion being almost exclusively limited to juvenile offenders.
- Within 18 months, 34 per cent of participants were re-arrested for any offence, a lower rate of recidivism than South Australia (44 per cent) and Tasmania (42 per cent), but higher than other jurisdictions.
- The risk of re-offending was highest in the first 30 days after diversion.

### Regional Statistics, 2008

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

This annual publication presents statistics for the Territory and its component regions on a range of current and historical economic, social and demographic topics including; population, law and public safety, education and training, health, and the environment. Some data from ABS and non-ABS sources has been released previously. The following summary presents a selected sample only.

In the Territory:

- In 2007, Indigenous student participation decreased as level of schooling increased, with the Indigenous to non-Indigenous student ratio constant at just over 40 per cent from preschool to Years 8-10 then dropping to just under 30 per cent in Years 11-12.
- In 2007, over half of the 13 459 criminal cases lodged were for traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences (33 per cent) and acts intending to cause injury (21 per cent).
- During 2006-07, of the 87 857 causes related to all hospital separations, care involving dialysis (40 per cent) was the most common cause.
- In 2006-07, 246 persons permanently departed the Territory workforce for overseas and 387 arrived from overseas on a permanent basis. Of those, 345 were employed at the time of arrival.
- Between 2005-06 and 2006-07, applications for public housing declined by 2 per cent and the percentage of applicants experiencing wait times of more than six months increased from 55 per cent to 62 per cent.