

This brief contains key points extracted from recent 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 any 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 due care has been exercised in the preparation of this document, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

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## Corrective Services, Australia

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Corrective Services*, June 2007. ABS Cat no 4512.0. Canberra.

This quarterly publication presents state and territory information on persons in custody and community-based corrections from state-and territory-based administrative datasets.

In the June quarter 2007 the Territory had:

- The highest average daily imprisonment rate per 100 000 adult population of the jurisdictions for male (1097), female (52) and all prisoners (597) when compared to the national rates (Table 1):
- The Territory also had the fourth highest average daily imprisonment rate per 100 000 adult population for Indigenous adults (2002), however below the national Indigenous rate (2227) (Table 1).

During the June 2007 quarter for the Territory:

- The average daily number of prisoners (902) was similar to the previous quarter (901), but represented an annual increase of 15 per cent from June 2006 quarter (783).
- The average daily number of Indigenous prisoners in full time custody increased slightly to 744 persons and increased 12 per cent on the June 2006 quarter (662).
- Persons in community-based corrections (persons undertaking programs, community work or under supervision) decreased to 1170 persons, but increased 3 per cent on the June 2006 quarter (1132).

**Table 1: Imprisonment rates for the Northern Territory and Australia, June quarter 2007**

	Northern Territory		Australia	
	rate per 100 000 adult population			
	All persons	Indigenous persons	All persons	Indigenous persons
Male	1097	3921	313	4185
Female	52	168	23	393
Persons	597	2002	166	2227
Unsentenced	125	405	38	498
Sentenced	472	1579	127	1712
no. in community based corrections	774	n.a.	328	n.a.

Source: ABS Cat no. 4512.0

## From Infancy to Young Adulthood, Health status in the Northern Territory, 2006

Source: Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, *From Infancy to Young Adulthood, Health status in the Northern Territory, 2006*.

This report is the second in a series with the first released in 1998. The report provides an overview of the health and wellbeing of young people in the Northern Territory based on 67 selected indicators. The report presents survey and administrative data from 30 different national, territory and independent sources. Information is presented in six categories; population characteristics, social environment, mothers and babies, nutritional and behavioural determinants, childcare and safety and morbidity and mortality. The report acknowledges inconsistencies in geographical classification among indicators as a limitation. *(Note that 2006 Census data (first release already available) updates much of the information presented here).*

### Social Environment

In 2001, in the Northern Territory:

- There was a greater proportion of single-parent Indigenous families (23.5 percent) than nationally (10.7 per cent). It is noted that single-parent families carry a greater risk of lower health status than two-parent families.
- There was a slight increase from 1996 in the proportion of the population whose main language spoken at home was an Indigenous language (0.4 percent). Nationally this proportion remained constant at 0.3 percent over the period.
- A greater proportion of Indigenous students left school by year 9 (about 20 per cent) compared to 7 per cent and 5.8 per cent for non-Indigenous males and females respectively. Nationally, the proportion of the population that left school by year 9 was 8.3 per cent and 8.2 per cent for males and females respectively.
- Indigenous people not in the labour force increased to 61.5 per cent (from 57.7 per cent in 1996). The proportion of non-Indigenous people not in the labour force in the Territory in 2001 decreased to 24.5 per cent (from 25.3 per cent in 1996).
- In 2005, there was a slight decrease (2 per cent) in the proportion of non-Indigenous students that achieved the year three literacy benchmark (86 per cent). There was also a significant decrease (10 percent) in the proportion of Indigenous students in Darwin and Palmerston schools who reached the year three literacy benchmark over the four year period (61 percent).
- In 2002, the average number of persons per dwelling in remote households in the Territory was 6.1 people for Indigenous households and 2.7 for non-Indigenous households. In rural households in the Territory, this average number decreased to 3.6 people and 2.6 people respectively. In urban areas the average number of people per household was 3.1 people and 2.7 people for Indigenous and non-Indigenous households respectively.

*(Note that 2006 Census data is now available).*

### Mothers and Babies

- The rate of teenage mothers aged 15-19 years in 2002 was highest in the Katherine region; for Indigenous women, 185 teenage mothers for every 1000 women aged 15-19 years compared to 72.4 per 1000 women aged 15-19 years for non-Indigenous women, approximately 3 times the rate of teenage mothers in Darwin Urban (Table 2).

- The proportion of Indigenous infants with low birthweight in the Territory decreased to 14 per cent in 2002 (from 16.4 per cent in 1986), compared with a decrease to 5.8 per cent of non-Indigenous infants in 2002 (from 6.6 per cent in 1986).
- The proportion of Indigenous antenatal women that smoked in the third trimester of pregnancy in the Territory decreased slightly by 0.1 per cent in 2002 (from 28.2 per cent in 2000), compared to a moderate decrease of 1 per cent of non-Indigenous antenatal women in 2002 (from 14.2 per cent in 2000).

**Table 2: Teenage mothers per 1000 women aged 15-19 years in 2002**

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	rate per 1 000 women aged 15-19 years	
Australia	n.a.	17.3
Northern Territory	134.9	28.4
Darwin Urban	58.9	24.2
Alice Springs Urban	86.7	26.3
Katherine	185.0	72.4
East Arnhem	172.6	24.7
Barkly	168.9	33.2
Alice Springs Rural	140.9	14.4

Source: Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, from infancy to young adulthood, health status in the Northern Territory, 2006, p 23.

### Nutritional and Behavioural Determinants

The internationally accepted measures of nutrition are 'underweight' (lighter than expected for age), 'stunting' (shortness), and 'wasting' (thinness). Stunting is a result of slowing skeletal growth in children and results from chronic under nutrition and chronic illness. Wasting may occur as a result of inadequate food/intake and/or illness. Overweight and obese information is calculated from child height and weight measurements taken during routine school entry health checks.

In 2004 in the Territory had;

- Proportionally more Indigenous infants from remote areas were being breastfed when in hospital and at 3 months of age (98 per cent and 97 per cent respectively) than urban Indigenous infants (84.1 per cent and 62.3 per cent respectively) and urban non-Indigenous infants (92.7 per cent and 68.5 per cent respectively).
- Proportionally more remote Indigenous children 'underweight' (14.5 per cent), 'stunted' (11.3 per cent) and 'wasted' (9 per cent), than urban Indigenous and non-Indigenous children (Table 3).
- Similar levels of urban non-Indigenous children (12.1 per cent) and urban Indigenous children overweight (12 per cent), compared to remote Indigenous children (4 per cent).
- Further, urban Indigenous children had the greatest proportion in the obese category (6.5 per cent), more than urban non-Indigenous children (3.6 per cent) and remote Indigenous children (0 per cent).

**Table 3: Nutrition in Children in the Northern Territory, 2004**

	Urban Indigenous	Urban Non- Indigenous	Remote Indigenous
	%	%	%
Breastfeeding			
Breastfed at hospital*	84.1	92.7	98.0
Breastfed at 3 months age*	62.3	68.5	97.0
Undernutrition			
Underweight	3.6	6.0	14.5
Stunted	1.3	3.0	11.3
Wasted	4.1	3.9	9.0
Overweight	12.0	12.1	4.0
Obese	6.5	3.6	0.0

\* 'Urban Non-Indigenous' refer to the proportion of all Territory non-Indigenous infants. 'Remote Indigenous' refers Indigenous infants in rural areas.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, From Infancy to Young Adulthood, Health status in the Northern Territory, 2006, pp 30-32.

### Childcare and safety

- In the Northern Territory, between 2001-2003, the rate of child maltreatment was highest among Indigenous children aged 0-4 years, (22.7 per 1000 children), compared to non-Indigenous children (3.5 per 1000 children) and all Australian children (5.9 per 1000 children) (Table 4).
- Detention episodes increased with age, with the highest incidence among 16-17 year olds (40.5 per 1000 and 7.0 per 1000 population for Indigenous Territorians and non-Indigenous Territorians respectively).

**Table 4: Substantiated cases of child maltreatment, annual average rate, 2001 to 2003**

Age (yrs)	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	Australia
	rate per 1 000 population		
0-4	22.7	3.5	5.9
5-9	9.2	3.5	4.4
10-14	7.7	4.6	4.3
15-17	2.2	1.5	1.6
Total	11.5	3.5	4.3

Source: Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, From Infancy to Young Adulthood, Health status in the Northern Territory, 2006, pp 46.

### Morbidity and mortality

- Indigenous persons were overrepresented in acute rheumatic fever (120.8 and zero cases per 100 000 population of for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons respectively in Central Australia and 62.1 and zero cases per 100 000 population for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons respectively in the Top End).
- Indigenous persons were also over represented in rheumatic heart disease (1310 and 500 cases per 100 000 population for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons respectively in Central Australia and 2800 and 100 cases per 100 000 population for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons respectively in the Top End).

- In 2005 an estimated 91 per cent of Indigenous children aged 0-4 years from remote communities had some form of otitis media (middle ear disease). Of all children surveyed, 15 per cent had chronic otitis media (chronic infection and damage that would require significant long term medical care). Note: Otitis media in early childhood may lead to hearing loss and speech and language delay. The World Health Organisation considers otitis media a preventable disease with a rate greater than 4 per cent prevalence in the population indicating concern.

In 2000 in the Territory;

- The average number of decayed teeth in 5 year old children was higher for Indigenous children (3.4 per child) compared to non-Indigenous children (1.4 per child) in the Territory and nationally (1.5 per child).
- The average number of decayed teeth in 12 year old children was also higher for Indigenous children (1.33 per child) when compared to non-Indigenous children (0.71) and nationally (0.84).
- The principal diagnosis for hospital admission for all children aged 4 weeks to 14 years in the Territory was respiratory disease followed by Infectious and parasitic diseases (Table 5).

**Table 5: Hospital incidence rate for children aged 4 weeks to 14 years**

Principal diagnosis	Non-Indigenous	
	Indigenous rate per 1 000 population	Indigenous rate per 1 000 population
Post-neonates (4 weeks-1 year old)		
<i>Respiratory disease</i>	329.9	44.3
<i>Infectious and parasitic diseases</i>	225.9	32.9
1-4 year olds		
<i>Respiratory disease</i>	109.1	39.0
<i>Infectious and parasitic diseases</i>	84.4	21.4
5-14 year olds		
<i>Respiratory disease</i>	21.4	16.5
<i>Infectious and parasitic diseases</i>	14.3	9.8

Source: Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, From Infancy to Young Adulthood, Health status in the Northern Territory, 2006, pp 61-65.

## Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics: Apprentices and Trainees, 2006

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), 2007. *Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics: Apprentices and Trainees, 2006*. Adelaide.

This publication presents an analysis of training activity undertaken by apprentices and trainees in Australia in the period from 1996 to 2006. It provides some summary data and additional information on training rates, completion rates, training within the trades, training duration, and prior education. The figures in this publication are derived from the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection.

For year ending 31 December in the Territory:

- Apprentice and trainee commencements increased by 53 per cent to 2300 in 2006 (from 1500 in 1996), compared to a 196 per cent increase nationally.

- Of all trade apprentice and trainee commencements, electro-technology and automotive industry retail, service and repair were the highest (400 commencing apprentices and trainees). Nationally, general construction and metal and engineering industry had the highest number of commencements (22 100 commencements).
- Of all non-trade apprentice and trainee commencements, business services and retail training were the highest (500 commencing apprentices and trainees). Nationally, these also had the highest number of commencements (63 900 commencements).