

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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2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey – State and Territory supplement

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. PHE 102

This report presents statistics for states and territories from the 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey. The survey covered drug-related attitudes, beliefs and behaviours. Respondents aged 12 years or older were included, but only results for those aged 14 years or older are presented (1012 respondents in the Territory).

Key Points:

In 2007, the Territory population aged 14 years or older reported the highest levels of all the jurisdictions of high risk drinking, cigarette smoking and illicit drug use in the past 12 months.

In 2007, in the Territory population aged 14 years or older:

- 25.3 per cent smoked daily, the largest proportion of all jurisdictions and larger than the national proportion (16.6 per cent).
- Most daily smokers (29.2 per cent) and nationally (21.4 per cent) were aged 20 to 29.
- Daily smokers aged 14 to 19 accounted for 13.6 per cent of all daily smokers, larger than the national proportion (7.3 per cent).
- 6.5 per cent drank at levels with a high* risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term, the largest proportion of all jurisdictions and larger than the national proportion (3.4 per cent).
 - * for males, 29 or more standard drinks per week; for females, 15 or more standard drinks per week
- A fifth had used an illicit drug in the past 12 months, the largest proportion of all jurisdictions and larger than the national proportion (13.4 per cent), with marijuana/cannabis the most common drug used (13.8 per cent).
- Of those who used cannabis in the past 12 months most were aged 14 to 24, both in the Territory (19.7 per cent) and nationally (17.0 per cent), while 8.9 per cent were aged 40+ compared with 3.9 per cent nationally.
- Although a smaller proportion supported increasing the price of alcohol to address alcohol-related issues than at the national level (21.7 and 24.1 per cent respectively) a larger proportion supported reducing the number of outlets that sell alcohol (43.2 and 32.2 per cent respectively).

Aged care packages in the community 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. AGE 57

This ninth annual report presents statistics on Australian Government funded Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) which is similar to CACP with the addition of nursing and allied health services, and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACH Dementia) packages for 2006-07. The packages are designed to provide care equivalent to residential aged care, in the care recipient's home.

Key Points:

In the Territory, the 3 per cent increase in the number of recipients of Community Aged Care Packages to 715 in 2006-07 from 696 in 2005-06 was smaller than the national increase over the same period (11 per cent). At 30 June 2007, 60 per cent of CACP recipients in the Territory were female and 65 per cent were Indigenous compared to respective national proportions of 71 per cent and 4 per cent.

In 2006-07, in the Territory:

- Of the combined total of 743 CACP, EACH and EACH Dementia packages (combined packages) 88 per cent were CACPs, similar to the proportion of CACPs in the national combined packages total (89 per cent).
- The care provision ratio of 128.7 combined packages per 1000 persons aged 70 years and over was the highest of all jurisdictions and higher than the national ratio (21.8). This is partly due to there being proportionally fewer persons aged 70 years in the total Territory population than there is nationally, and partly due to the large proportion of Indigenous people in the Territory population who, like at the national level, on average tend to need community care at younger ages than non-Indigenous people. To account for the different population structures, if the care provision ratio denominator populations include Indigenous Australians aged 50-69, the Territory ratio is halved to 64.5, yet the national ratio reduces only slightly to 21.3.
- Combined packages in very remote areas (340) accounted for half of all combined packages in very remote areas across Australia (678).
- The number of CACP assistance recipients (715) was 3 per cent higher than in 2005-06, smaller than the national increase over the same period (11 per cent).
- The number of EACH assistance recipients (104) was 58 per cent higher than in 2005-06, larger than the national increase during the same period (46 per cent).

At 30 June 2007, in the Territory (Table 1):

- 60 per cent of the 569 CACP recipients were females and 65 per cent were Indigenous which was larger than the national Indigenous proportion (4 per cent), with Western Australia having the next largest Indigenous proportion (5.5%).

Table 1: Recipients of Community Care Packages at 30 June 2007, Northern Territory and Australia

	CACP	EACH	EACH Dementia
Northern Territory			
number of recipients	569	58	13
females (%)	60	53	62
aged up to 64 (%)	26	10	31*
aged 90+ (%)	3	16	0
Indigenous (%)	65	7	not published
Australia			
number of recipients	34 867	2 999	872
females (%)	71	62	64
aged up to 64 (%)	5	7	11*
aged 90+ (%)	16	16	14
Indigenous (%)	4	1	not published

* aged up to 70 (%)

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. AGE 57

Dental Reports:

Dentist labour force in Australia, 2005

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, DSRU Research Report No. 33

Survey data was collected in conjunction with state and territory dental registration renewal in 2005. The response rate of the 97 dentists registered in the Territory (33 per cent) was lower than the national response rate (83 per cent). For the purposes of analysis, it is assumed non-respondents have the same characteristics as respondents. Therefore these results should be used with caution.

Key Points:

From 2003 to 2005, the Territory rate of practising dentists per 100 000 population increased from 32.7 to 36.3 to become the second lowest rate in Australia after Tasmania (31.2) and lower than the national rate (49.5).

In the Territory in 2005:

- Of the 97 registered dentists in the Territory it's estimated that 74 were practising in the Territory and 16 worked mainly or solely in another state and 7 were retired.
- 19 per cent of practising dentists (14) worked in the public sector, a smaller proportion than Queensland and South Australia (both 21 per cent) and larger than the national proportion (16 per cent).

Dental hygienist labour force in Australia, 2005

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, DSRU Research Report No. 34

Key Points:

Survey data was collected in conjunction with state and territory registration renewal in 2005. None of the 12 dental hygienists registered in the Territory responded. It is possible that hygienists are also registered as dental therapists and responded to a different survey.

Dental therapist labour force in Australia, 2005

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, DSRU Research Report No. 35

Survey data was collected in conjunction with state and territory registration renewal in 2005. The response rate of the 28 dental therapists registered in the Territory (68 per cent) was lower than the national response rate (70 per cent). For the purposes of analysis, it is assumed non-respondents have the same characteristics as respondents.

Key Points:

From 2003 to 2005, the Territory rate of practising dental therapists per 100 000 population increased from 8.0 to 12.7 to become the second highest rate in Australia after Western Australia (15.9) and higher than the national rate (7.5).

In the Territory in 2005:

- Of the 28 registered dental therapists in the Territory it's estimated that 26 were practising therapy in 2005.
- The average age of dental therapists was 40.8 years, similar to the national average age of 40.7 years.

The National Survey of Adult Oral Health, 2004-06: Northern Territory

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Cat. no DEN 177

This report describes levels of oral health in the adult population of the Territory. The findings are from the Territory component of the 2004-06 National Survey of Adult Oral Health in which 1082 Territorians aged 15 years or more were interviewed and 517 were dentally examined.

Key Points:

From the 2004-06 survey, a larger proportion of adult Territorians had untreated dental decay (34.9 per cent) than the national proportion (25.5 per cent). For most of the 29 relevant indicators in the report, Government health cardholders had poorer oral health status, oral health care and perceived oral health than non-cardholders, including 14 indicators for which the difference was statistically significant.

From the 2004-06 survey, for the Territory population aged 15 years or more:

- 2.4 per cent had no natural teeth, significantly lower than the national estimate of 6.4 per cent. There was no statistically significant difference in prevalence of complete tooth loss between Darwin and the rest of the Territory.
- The prevalence of inadequate natural dentition (fewer than 21 teeth), which means the person is more likely to suffer impaired quality of oral health, was 5.4 per cent, significantly less than the national figure (11.4 per cent). There was a tendency for prevalence to be higher among people without dental insurance compared to those who were insured, but no difference between Darwin and the rest of the Territory.
- 34.9 per cent had untreated dental decay, larger than the national estimate of (25.5 per cent). More non-urban people appeared to have untreated decay than people living in Darwin (37.1 and 33.2 per cent respectively).
- 49.1 per cent had visited a dentist within the last 12 months, significantly fewer than the national estimate of 59.4 per cent. Females reported a higher percentage than males (53.3 and 45.4 per cent respectively). Socioeconomic area had little impact on whether a person visited a dentist frequently.
- 34.4 per cent had avoided or delayed visiting a dental professional because of the cost during the last 12 months, significantly larger than the national estimate (30.0 per cent).
- 25.7 per cent had foregone recommended dental treatment during the last 2 years, higher than the national estimate (20.6 per cent). The percentage was significantly higher among adults with no dental insurance (32.6 per cent) than for those with insurance (19.7 per cent).
- Government health cardholders had significantly poorer oral health status, oral health care and perceived oral health for 14 of the 29 relevant indicators in the report than non-cardholders.
- People without dental insurance had generally poorer oral health outcomes compared to those who were insured.

Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2006

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 3238.0.55.001

This release contains the final Indigenous population estimate at 30 June 2006. The main adjustment to previously released preliminary estimates for 30 June 2006 is the recalculation by the ABS of the 2006 Census undercount.

Key Points:

Following recalculation of the 2006 Census undercount, the final Territory Indigenous estimated resident population (ERP) at 30 June 2006 of 64 005 is 3.9 per cent lower than the preliminary Territory Indigenous ERP at 30 June 2006 of 66 582. The changes occur across all age groups and across all parts of the Territory.

In the Territory at 30 June 2006:

- The preliminary undercount rate for the Indigenous population decreased from 19.2 to 16.0 per cent causing the preliminary Territory Indigenous population ERP to drop from 66 582 to the final ERP of 64 005, a decrease of 3.9 per cent.
- The Indigenous population share of the total population decreased from 31.6 per cent to 30.4 per cent and the Territory's share of the Australian Indigenous population decreased from 12.9 per cent to 12.4 per cent.
- The final population has been re-distributed between Indigenous and non Indigenous populations. For example, Greater Darwin decreased by 834 Indigenous people and gained 828 non-Indigenous people. Balance of NT dropped by 1743 Indigenous people

and gained 1702 non-Indigenous people. A notable exception is Alice Springs which gained 858 non-Indigenous people and lost 165 Indigenous people, a net gain of 693 non-Indigenous people.

Mental Health Services in Australia, 2005-06

Source: *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. HSE 56*

This tenth annual report presents statistics on mental health care services in Australia for 2005-06, and more recent years when available, based on administrative and survey data. It includes information on specialised community and residential mental health care, and mental health care provided to patients admitted to hospital.

Key Points:

From 2004-05 to 2005-06 in the Territory, there was a 29 per cent increase in public hospital mental health related emergency department services. In 2006-07, the Territory per capita rate of Medicare expenditure on psychiatrists services (\$3.72) was lower than the national rate (\$16.83).

In the Territory in 2005-06 (Table 2):

- The number of public hospital mental health related emergency department services increased by 29 per cent to 3482 from 2703 in 2004-05, larger than the national increase of 8 per cent over the same period. Service for disorders due to psychoactive substance abuse formed the largest category (28 per cent).
- There were 36 356 community mental health care service contacts, slightly fewer than in 2004-05 (36 377). The associated contact rate of 31.8 patients per 1000 population was lower than the Australian Capital Territory (39.1) and New South Wales (42.6), but higher than the national rate (28.7).

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- Of the 747 mental health-related closed support periods provided by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), 80 per cent involved supported accommodation services, larger than the national proportion (54 per cent).
- The number of Medicare-subsidised psychiatrist services (4370) was slightly lower than the 4474 reported in 2005-06 and the number of mental health-related general practice encounters (44 957) was lower than the 55 625 reported in 2005-06 (Table 2).
- The per capita rate of Medicare expenditure on services provided by psychiatrists (\$3.72) was the lowest of all jurisdictions and lower than the national rate (\$16.83).

In the Territory:

- In 2005, the rate of full-time equivalent (FTE) psychiatrists (employed and in-training) of 12 per 100 000 population was higher than the 2004 rate of 10 per 100 000 and lower than the national 2005 rate (17). The report advises caution with the estimated Territory rates due to low response rates.
- In 2004, the rate of FTE mental health nurses of 38 per 100 000 population was the lowest of all jurisdictions and lower than the national rate of 67 per 100 000.

Table 2: Mental Health Services, Northern Territory, 2003-04 to 2006-07

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Estimated number of mental health-related general practice encounters*	38 128	39 302	55 625	44 957
Mental health-related occasions of service in emergency departments in public hospitals	unavailable	2 703	3 482	unavailable
Community mental health care service contacts	26 054	36 377	36 356	unavailable
Medicare-subsidised psychiatrist services	4 722	4 887	4 474	4 370

* large 95% confidence intervals e.g. 2006-07 (lower limit 24 320, upper limit 65 594)

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. no. HSE 56

Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006 (updated)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 3218.0

This release contains final population estimates at 30 June 2006 by Statistical Local Area (SLA) and Local Government Area (LGA) from 1996 to 2006. The main adjustment to previously released preliminary estimates for 30 June 2006 is the recalculation by the ABS of the 2006 Census undercount.

Key Points:

Over the period 2001-2006, the regional towns of Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Katherine and Tennant Creek grew more rapidly than during 1996-2001, while Alice Springs experienced slower growth.

Selected statistics are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Selected* Territory ERPs and average annual growth rates, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

SLA/LGA	1996	2001	2006	Average Annual Growth	
				1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006
Alice Springs (T)	25 040	26 520	26 887	1.2%	0.3%
Bakewell	283	2 816	3 218	58.3%	2.7%
Bayview - Woolner	722	719	1898	-0.1%	21.4%
Darwin City – Inner	1 823	2 112	2 820	3.0%	6.0%
Gunn-Palmerston City	0	1 273	2 545	0.0%	14.9%
Jabiru	1 457	1 181	1 285	-4.1%	1.7%
Katherine	9 446	8 961	9 192	-1.0%	0.5%
Nhulunbuy	3 759	3 800	4 559	0.2%	3.7%
Rapid Creek	3 068	3 125	3 169	0.4%	0.3%
Tennant Creek (T)	3 694	3 002	3 330	-4.1%	2.1%
Tiwi Islands	2 143	2 455	2 449	2.8%	0.0%

* areas randomly selected from publication for illustrative purposes only

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. no. 3218.0