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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.

Australian Crime: Facts & Figures 2010

Australian Institute of Criminology, <http://www.aic.gov.au>

About this publication

Australian Crime: Facts & Figures is an annual publication by the Australian Institute of Criminology, which provides information on crime trends and patterns across Australia. The information includes types of crimes, victims, offenders, the location of criminal acts, and the operation of criminal justice systems. Aggregate data is provided for most measures, however information on criminal justice resources and offender drug use is provided for each state and territory.

Summary

The following is a summary of the key statistics for the Territory in 2008-09 and, where applicable, comparisons with the national average. A summary of nationally compiled data on Indigenous offenders is also provided.

- The Territory had the highest expenditure on corrective services (prisons and community corrections) per head of adult population, at \$517, compared with \$193 nationally.
- Recurrent expenditure on police services per head of adult population was \$1484, the highest of all jurisdictions, compared to a national average of \$482.
- On a per capita basis, the Territory had the highest number of police officers (455 per 100 000 population), which was over twice the national average (223 per 100 000 population).
- In 2009, Darwin had the lowest rates of adult male detainees testing positive to any drug. In 2009, 50 per cent of detainees in Darwin tested positive to any form of illicit drug, compared to 62 per cent nationally.
- Nationally, between 1992 and 2009, the percentage of prisoners who were Indigenous increased from 14 per cent to 26 per cent.
- Indigenous people were subject to community corrections orders at a rate of 3 334 per 100 000 Indigenous adult population compared with a rate of 261 per 100 000 non-Indigenous adult population.

Chart 1: Sworn police officers by jurisdiction (per 100 000 population)



Source: AIC

What works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

About this publication

This publication provides policy makers with information as to what works to improve the lives of Indigenous people. The report discusses the importance of a number of factors, including Indigenous community involvement and engagement, the promotion of respect for the Indigenous language and culture and the encouragement of partnerships, networks and shared leadership to overcome Indigenous disadvantage.

Summary

The following includes outcomes identified in the report as factors that may assist to overcome Indigenous disadvantage and successful initiatives already in place.

- Strong and ongoing support by community leaders is a key success factor in implementing health interventions for Indigenous people. An integrated multidisciplinary team approach where local health and liaison workers implement the project, with technical and professional support by experts, also increases the likelihood of success of initiatives.
- Schools that employ and value Indigenous staff provide ready links between school, families and communities that can enhance the transition to school for Indigenous students. Similarly, the likelihood of successful literacy and numeracy programs is increased when there is continuity of teachers, where kindergartens are linked with preschools and where there is a good relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous teachers.
- Involvement of the Indigenous community is necessary when planning and providing education, the implementation of school absentee programs and mentor programs to meet the needs of students at risk of low achievement. For example, an Aboriginal-driven program increased knowledge about nutrition, exercise, obesity and chronic diseases including diabetes.
- To prevent and respond to maltreatment of Indigenous children, there are possible advantage to services where control and responsibility for outcomes rest with Indigenous-managed agencies that provide holistic services and which are appropriately resourced and supported.
- Among labour market programs, wage subsidy programs are consistently identified as having the best outcomes to secure long term jobs for Indigenous job seekers, and were shown to increase earnings.
- Rates of risky alcohol and other drugs consumption and related harms among Indigenous Australians are generally twice those in non-Indigenous population. Effective supply reduction strategies of alcohol and other drugs include price controls, restrictions on trading hours, reducing alcohol outlet density, dry community declarations, substitution of Opal fuel for unleaded fuel and culturally sensitive enforcement of existing laws.

Northern Territory Crime & Justice Statistics, September quarter 2010

Northern Territory Department of Justice, <http://www.nt.gov.au/justice>

About this publication

Northern Territory Crime and Justice Statistics is a quarterly publication produced by the Northern Territory Department of Justice. The report presents details of crimes in major urban centres, adult prisoners and juvenile detainees in correctional facilities, outcomes for drug offences and court outcomes for aggravated property offences.

Summary

Crime rates, average numbers of prisoners, and court outcomes in the Territory for the September quarter 2010 are outlined below.

- There were a total of 7001 offences recorded, of which 1731 were offences recorded against the person and 5270 were property offences.
- The total number of recorded offences against the person was increased 8 per cent from the previous quarter.
- Darwin City had the highest proportion of recorded offences against the person (25.6 per cent), followed by Northern Territory Balance (25.5 per cent), Alice Springs (25.4 per cent), Katherine (9.5 per cent), Tennant Creek (6.2 per cent), Palmerston (6.6 per cent) and Nhulunbuy (1.1 per cent).
- The total number of recorded property offences decreased 8 per cent from the previous quarter.
- The majority of offences against property relate to property damage (37 per cent), and other theft (33 per cent). The remaining offences were motor vehicle theft and related offences (12 per cent), house break-ins (8 per cent), break-ins to commercial or other premises (8 per cent).
- The majority of recorded offences against property occurred in Darwin City (44.6 per cent), followed by Alice Springs (19.8 per cent), Northern Territory Balance (13.5 per cent), Palmerston (12.2 per cent), Katherine (9.3 per cent), Tennant Creek (2.5 per cent) and Nhulunbuy (1.3 per cent).

Table 1: Number of recorded offences by type and region, September quarter 2010

| | Darwin | Palmerston | Alice Springs | Katherine | Tennant Creek | Nhulunbuy | NT Balance | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Offences against the person | 443 | 115 | 440 | 165 | 107 | 19 | 442 | 1 731 |
| Offences against property | 2 349 | 645 | 1 041 | 323 | 132 | 70 | 710 | 5 270 |
| Total | 2 792 | 760 | 1 481 | 488 | 239 | 89 | 1 152 | 7 001 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Justice

People turned away from government-funded specialist homelessness accommodation 2009-10

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

About this publication

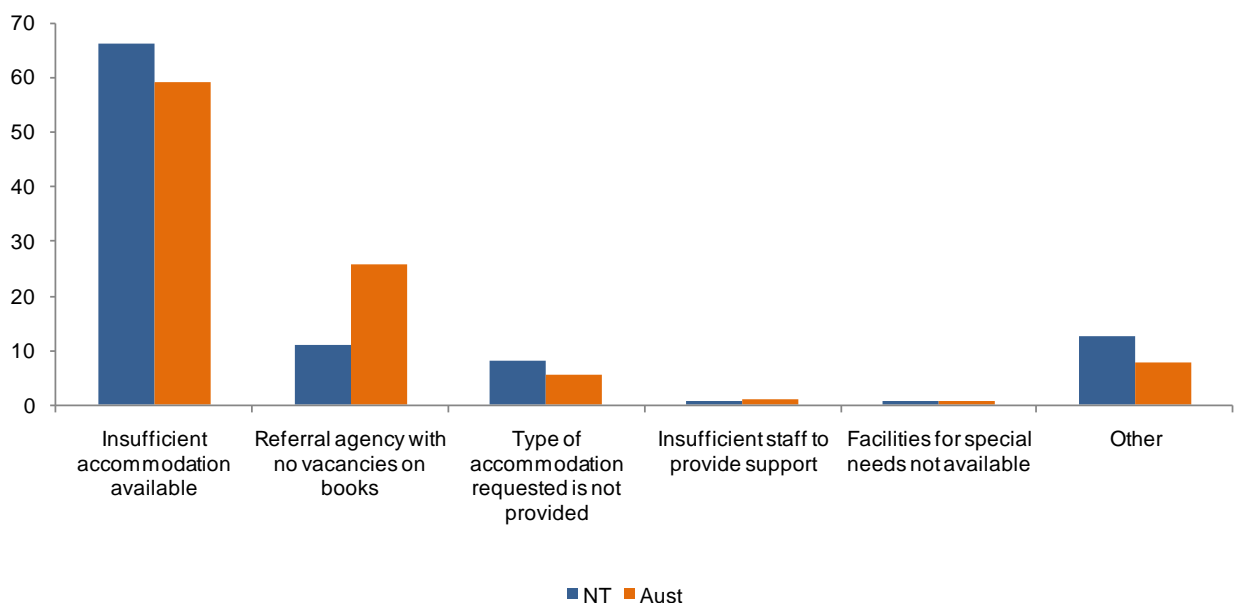
This publication presents data on people turned away from government-funded specialist homelessness services in 2009-10. The data in this report was collected in the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection (SAAP NDC). A new collection reflecting the changed arrangements under the National Affordable Housing Agreement and associated national partnership agreements is planned to replace the SAAP NDC from 1 July 2011.

Summary

The following is a summary of the characteristics of people turned away from government funded specialist homelessness services in the Territory in 2009-10 and, where applicable, comparisons with the national average.

- Only 3 per cent of people who sought accommodation in the Territory were turned away, compared to 2 per cent nationally. When only new requests for accommodation are considered, the Territory reported the lowest percentage of people being turned away, with 45 per cent of people with new requests being turned away on any given day, compared to 58 per cent nationally.
- The majority of unmet requests for accommodation in the Territory were from people under 20 years old (53 per cent), which is similar to the national average for this age category (56 per cent). However, there was a greater proportion of people turned away in the Territory who were aged 45 years and older (11 per cent) compared to the national average for this age range (6 per cent).
- The main reason that accommodation requests were not met was that there was not enough accommodation available (66 per cent of requests). This was similar to the national average (60 per cent).

Chart 2: Main reason why request was not met (per cent)



Source: AIHW

Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

About this publication

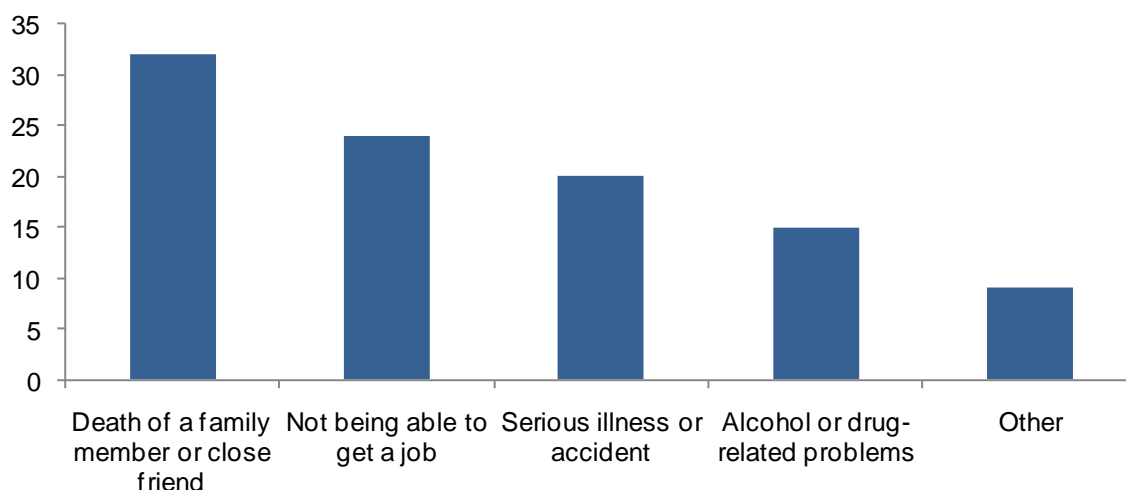
This publication is the fourth national statistical report on young people aged 12-24 years in Australia. It provides the latest available information on the health status of young people, and the factors affecting their health. Information on health status includes self-assessed health status, disability, mortality, mental health, injury, chronic conditions, communicable diseases, and oral health. Factors influencing health addressed in this report include health behaviours, family and community environments, socioeconomic factors, and health system performance. This report also includes a separate section on the health and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Summary

The information below summarises national youth characteristics, unless stated otherwise.

- The Territory has the highest proportion of young people of any state (20 per cent). Four per cent of young people in Australia are Indigenous, and approximately 40 per cent of Indigenous young people live in the Territory.
- Nationally, the prevalence of asthma is declining (11 per cent of young people compared to 16 per cent in 2001), but the incidence of insulin-treated diabetes is increasing (31 cases per 100 000 compared to 22 cases per 100 000 in 2001).
- Between 1987 and 2007, youth mortality rates halved from 72 to 37 deaths per 100 000. This was mainly due to decreases in deaths from road transport accidents and suicide.
- Indigenous young people are more likely to have poorer health behaviours than non-Indigenous young people. Indigenous young people are less likely to meet physical activity guidelines (14 per cent compared to 34 per cent of non-Indigenous young people), and are more than twice as likely to be obese.
- The rates of vaccine-preventable diseases are nearly three times higher for Indigenous as non-Indigenous young people (121 per 100 000 compared to 43 per 100 000). High levels of psychological distress are also nearly three times as likely in Indigenous young adults (33 per cent compared to 14 per cent of non-Indigenous young adults).

Chart 3: Causes of psychological distress among Indigenous young people (per cent), Australia



Source: AIHW

Corrective Services, Australia, March Quarter 2011

Australian Bureau of Statistics, <http://www.abs.gov.au>

About this publication

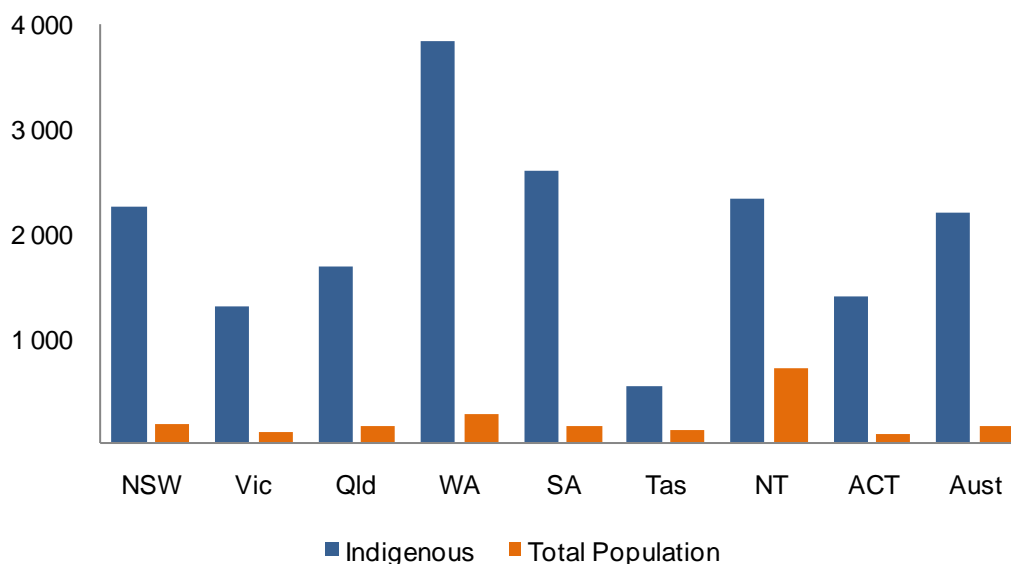
This quarterly publication is prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and provides information on persons in custody and community-based corrections. The report includes prisoner numbers of Indigenous Australians imprisonment rates and the number of persons serving community-based corrections orders.

Summary

Unless stated otherwise, the following information pertains to the Territory for the March quarter 2011.

- The average number of persons in full-time custody per day in the March quarter 2011 was 1203 (an increase of 22 per cent since 2008). The average daily number of Indigenous Australians in full-time custody was 991, reflecting 82.4 per cent of the Territory's prison population.
- The Territory recorded the highest imprisonment rate of all jurisdictions at 719 prisoners per 100 000 adult population, compared with the national average of 165 prisoners per 100 000 adult population.
- The Territory's imprisonment rate of Indigenous Australians was 2338 per 100 000 adult Indigenous population, the third highest of all jurisdictions.
- The imprisonment rate for Indigenous males was 4625 per 100 000 relevant population, the third highest of all the jurisdictions, after Western Australia (6992) and South Australia (5033) and above the national average of 4131 per 100 000 relevant population. The imprisonment rate for Indigenous females was 216 per 100 000 relevant population, the second lowest of all jurisdictions.
- There was an average of 1072 people serving community-based correction orders. This equates to a rate of 641 per 100 000 adult population, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national rate of 316 per 100 000 adult population.

Chart 4: Imprisonment rate per 100 000 adult population, March Quarter 2011



Source: ABS Cat. No. 4512.0