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Dental health of Indigenous children in the Northern Territory

AIHW, <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

About this publication

This report presents information on the progress of the Closing the Gap Oral Health Program from August 2007 to December 2011. The Closing the Gap Oral Health Program aims to improve Indigenous children's oral and dental health through the provision of checkups and services, when required.

Summary

The following is a summary of information on Indigenous children's dental health in the Territory to December 2011.

- From July 2011 to December 2011, 1329 Indigenous children were given an oral health check which resulted in 1619 dental services (1.2 per Indigenous child) being performed.
- Since 2007, 8317 Indigenous children have received health checks and a total of 14 834 services (1.8 per Indigenous child) have been performed.
- A total of 73 per cent or 6840 Indigenous children consented to sharing additional information about their dental health. The following is a summary of indicators drawn from this sample.
- The largest age group of Indigenous children in the Territory that received dental services comprised those aged 6 to 11 years (57.0 per cent), followed by children aged 0 to 5 years (21.3 per cent) and children aged 12 to 15 years (19.5 per cent) (Table 1).
- Of those who agreed to share additional information, 56 per cent received treatment for at least one oral health problem. The most common treatments were for 'untreated caries' (3365), followed by 'mouth infection and sore mouth' (352) and 'dental abscesses' (339) (Table 2).
- Of the 104 children with mouth infections and sores, 97.1 per cent did not have the condition at the end of their last course of care. The treatment rate for the 766 children with untreated caries was lower with 60.1 per cent being free of the condition on their last course of care.

Table 1: Age of Indigenous children who received dental services, 2007-2011

	NT	
	No.	%
0-5	1 379	21.3
6-11	3 692	57.0
12-15	1 261	19.5
16+	131	2.0
Not recorded	17	0.3
Total	6 480	100

Source: AIHW

Table 2: Types of dental health problems of Indigenous children that received treatment, 2007-2011

	NT	
	No.	%
Untreated caries	3 365	51.9
Mouth infection or mouth sore	352	5.4
Dental abscesses	339	5.2
Gum disease	161	2.5
Broken or chipped tooth due to trauma	78	1.2
Abnormal teeth growth	71	1.1
Missing tooth	15	0.2
Other	203	3.1

Source: AIHW

Preschool Education, 2011

ABS, <http://www.abs.gov.au>

About this publication

This report presents experimental data, which describes the characteristics of preschool education in Australia during 2011.

Summary

The following is a summary of information on preschools in the Territory during 2011.

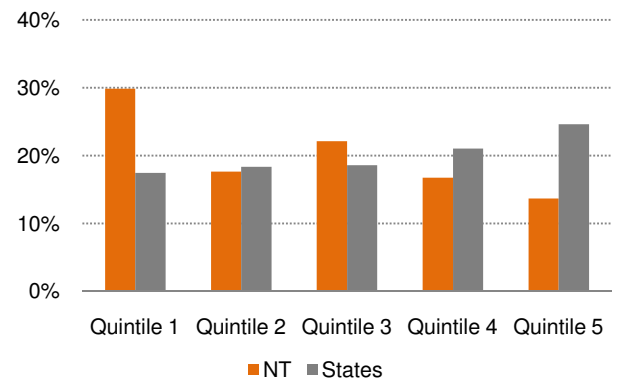
- In 2011, there were 3194 children enrolled in preschools in the Territory which comprises 1.4 per cent of national preschool enrolments.
- Of the total number of preschool enrolments, 90.8 per cent were in government preschools, the second highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national average of 38.6 per cent.
- No hourly rate was charged in 97.3 per cent of preschool enrolment cases, the second highest rate of the jurisdictions, and above the national rate of 38.1 per cent (Figure 1).
- Outer regional enrolments comprised 59.4 per cent of preschool enrolments (compared to 7.5 per cent nationally), followed by remote areas with 20.1 per cent (compared to 1.2 per cent nationally) and very remote areas with 20.1 per cent (compared to 0.4 per cent nationally).
- Those in the first or lowest socio-economic quintile comprised 29.8 per cent of total preschool enrolments (compared to a state average rate of 17.5 per cent) while those in the highest quintile excluding South Australia made up 13.7 per cent of total enrolments (compared to a state average rate excluding South Australia of 24.6 per cent), the lowest rate of the quintiles (Figure 2).
- In 2011, Indigenous enrolments comprised 1372 or 40.8 per cent of total enrolments, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 4.3 per cent (Figure 3).
- Indigenous outer regional enrolments comprised 32.6 per cent of Indigenous enrolments (compared to 22.5 per cent nationally), followed by remote areas with 20.9 per cent (compared to 8.7 per cent nationally) and very remote areas with 46.5 per cent (compared to 4.4 per cent nationally).

Figure 1: Proportion of preschool student enrolments with no charge per hour of preschool attendance, 2011



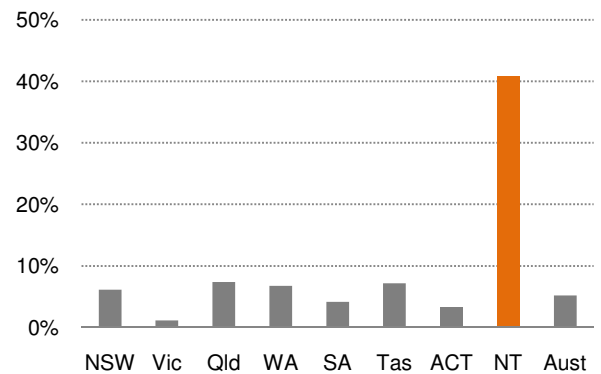
Source: ABS

Figure 2: Socioeconomic preschool enrolment rate – excludes South Australia, 2011



Source: ABS

Figure 3: Indigenous preschool enrolment rate as a proportion of total enrolments, 2011



Source: ABS

Specialist Homelessness Services Collection, September quarter 2011

AIHW, <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

About this publication

This report presents the first results of the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection which describes the services and kinds of assistance given to homeless clients by homelessness agencies.

Summary

The following is a summary of information on specialist homelessness services in the Territory during the September quarter 2011.

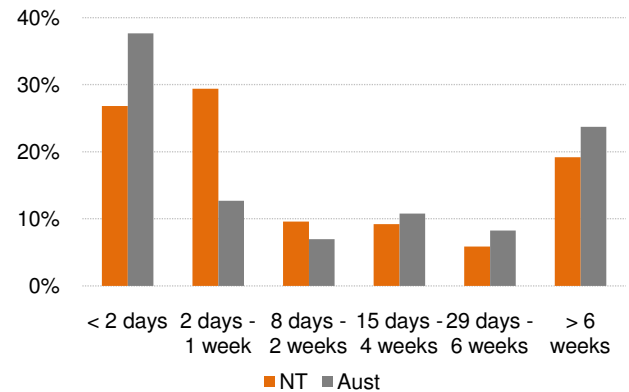
- In the September quarter 2011, there were 2084 clients who accessed 2397 support periods (or about 1.15 support periods per client). Nationally, there were 91 627 clients who accessed 115 491 support periods (or about 1.26 support periods per client).
- Female clients were more prevalent than male clients (66.2 per cent compared to 33.8 per cent) and on average used more services per person (1.16 compared to 1.13). Nationally, female clients were more prevalent than males (58.5 per cent compared to 41.5 per cent) though there was no difference between male and female service use (1.26 compared to 1.26).
- During the September quarter 2011, the rate that people were accessing specialist homelessness agencies was 91 per 10 000 people, the highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national rate of 41 per 10 000 people.
- In the month before presenting to a homelessness agency for support, 62.3 per cent of clients identified as not being homeless (compared to 55.1 per cent nationally), 22.1 per cent had lived in short-term or emergency accommodation (compared to 31.4 per cent nationally) and 19.3 per cent of clients had slept rough (compared to 19.1 per cent nationally) (Table 3).
- Where support was provided, 29.4 per cent of clients were supported for two days to a week, while 19.2 per cent were supported for more than six weeks. Nationally, 37.6 per cent of clients were supported for less than two days and 23.7 per cent were supported for more than six weeks (Figure 4).

Table 3: Previous experience of homelessness in the month before support, September quarter 2011

	Sleeping rough	Short-term or emergency accommodation	Not homeless
	%	%	%
NSW	17.8	33.5	53.6
Vic	20.8	35.6	52.2
Qld	24.9	29.6	51.8
WA	14.2	20.5	68.1
SA	11.0	29.6	59.3
Tas	21.6	37.4	49.2
ACT	26.8	34.4	48.0
NT	19.3	22.1	62.3
Australia	19.1	31.4	55.1

Source: AIHW

Figure 4: Length of support period, September quarter 2011



Source: AIHW

Report on Government Services – Indigenous Compendium 2012

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, <http://www.pc.gov.au>

About this publication

This is an annual publication of a range of national Indigenous performance indicators across core government service areas including: education; law and order; health; and housing and homelessness.

Summary

The following is a summary of key Indigenous statistics in the Territory.

Education

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 20 to 64 who completed Year 12 or gained an equivalent qualification was 30.5 per cent. Nationally, the Indigenous proportion was 44.2 per cent.
- The apparent retention rate to Year 12 for full time Indigenous students in government schools in 2010 was 33.6 per cent, the lowest of all jurisdictions, and below the national average of 43.4 per cent.
- In 2010, the proportion of Territory Indigenous students that achieved the minimum standard for reading, writing and numeracy was lower than the non-Indigenous rate for Territory students and the national Indigenous student rate (Table 4).

Law and Order

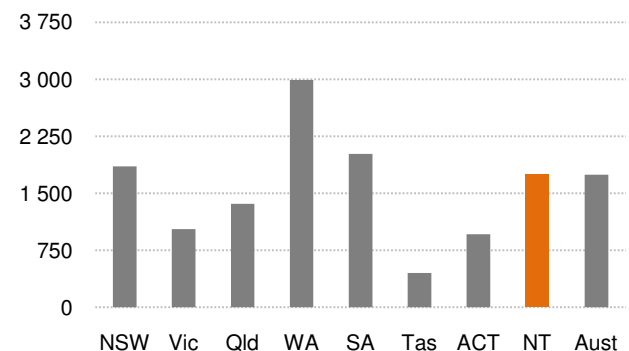
- In 2010-11, 7.6 per cent of police staff were Indigenous, the highest proportion of all jurisdictions.
- The Indigenous age standardised imprisonment rate (per 100 000 adult population) in 2010-11 was 1745.3 which is comparable to the national rate of 1746.5 (Figure 5).
- In 2009-10, the Indigenous juvenile detention rate (per 100 00 people aged 10-17 years) was 230.5, the second lowest of all jurisdictions, and below the national average of 452.6 (Figure 6).
- In 2010-11, the crude Indigenous community corrections rate (per 100 000 adults) was 1905.4, the second lowest of the jurisdictions, and below the national rate of 3241.2.

Table 4: Proportion of students who achieved at or above the minimum standard, 2010

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	NT	Aust	NT	Aust
	%	%	%	
Year 3				
Reading	43.0	75.1	90.7	95.0
Writing	45.3	79.0	94.2	96.6
Numeracy	46.1	76.6	93.0	95.3
Year 5				
Reading	31.3	66.2	89.4	92.7
Writing	30.2	70.5	89.3	94.4
Numeracy	37.7	71.4	93.1	95.0
Year 7				
Reading	40.4	76.6	93.1	95.9
Writing	30.2	70.5	89.3	93.9
Numeracy	41.8	77.0	93.5	96.1
Year 9				
Reading	32.1	64.2	91.1	92.2
Writing	24.1	59.0	82.0	88.7
Numeracy	36.3	92.5	70.4	94.3

Source: SCRGSP

Figure 5: Indigenous age standardised imprisonment rate, 2010-11



Source: SCRGSP

Figure 6: Average detention rate for Indigenous juveniles, 2009-1



Source: SCRGSP

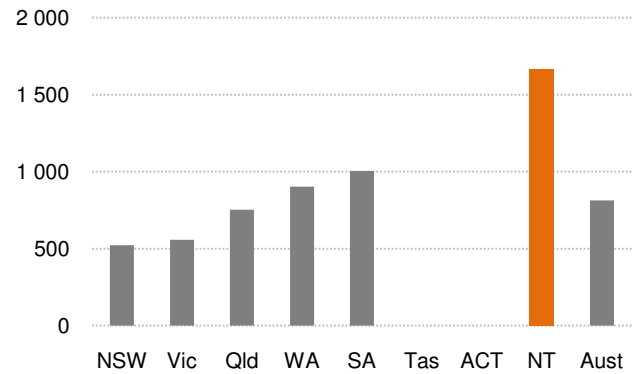
Health

- There were 69 431 Indigenous public hospital separations in 2009-10. This represents an Indigenous hospital separation rate (per 100 people) of 1663.8, the highest rate of all jurisdictions, and above the national average of 813.4 (Figure 7).
- In 2007-08, the Territory reported the equal second highest age standardised rate of Indigenous adults who were daily smokers (46.6 per cent compared to 44.8 per cent nationally). The comparable Territory non-Indigenous rate was 22.2 per cent (Table 5).
- The age standardised rate of Indigenous people at risk of long term harm from alcohol consumption in 2004-05 was 7.2 per cent, the lowest proportion of all jurisdictions, with Queensland the highest (17.5 per cent) (Figure 8).
- The Indigenous perinatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births) was 21.6 from 2005-2009 compared to a non-Indigenous rate of 8.0. Nationally, the Indigenous perinatal mortality rate was 12.9.
- The proportion of Indigenous children who received a fourth year developmental health checks in 2010-11 was 44.6 per cent, the highest of the all jurisdictions, and above the national average of 21.7 per cent.

Housing and Homelessness

- In 2009-10, Indigenous people represented 69.2 per cent of all accommodated homelessness clients, an increase of 4.6 per cent compared to 2005-06. Nationally, over the same period, the proportion of Indigenous people using homelessness accommodation increased 1.0 per cent to 22.4 per cent.

Figure 7: Indigenous hospital separations per 1000 people, 2004-05



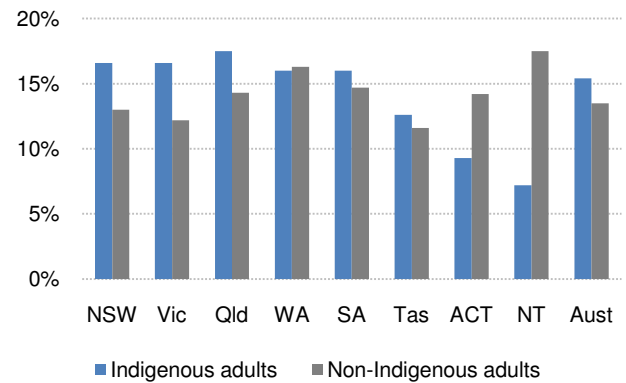
Source: SCRGSP

Table 5: Age standardised rate of Indigenous adults who smoked daily, 2007-08

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous
	%	'000	%
NSW	47.6	42.5	18.8
Vic	46.6	9.3	17.3
Qld	42.8	36.6	21.5
WA	39.6	17.2	16.9
SA	47.0	7.9	20.0
Tas	44.2	5.1	23.5
ACT	29.8	0.9	16.0
NT	46.6	19.2	22.2
Australia	44.8	138.7	18.9

Source: SCRGSP

Figure 8: Proportion of Indigenous people at risk of long term harm from alcohol consumption, 2004-05



Source: SCRGSP