

Social Indicators March 2021

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Crime Victimization, Australia, 2019-20 This annual publication provides results from the Crime Victimization Survey, conducted throughout Australia from July 2019 to June 2020. The data provides a unique insight into crime that is not reported to police. Author: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Date of release: 18 February 2021	3
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Disclaimer

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

More information:

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Social Indicators March 2021

Recorded Crime, Offenders, 2019-20

The following is a summary of information on alleged offenders as recorded by police in the Northern Territory in 2019-20, unless otherwise stated:

- There was a total of 9505 offenders, a decrease of 12.6 per cent compared to 2018-19. The offence rate was 4538 per 100 000 persons, the highest rate across the jurisdictions, followed by South Australia with a rate of 2371 (Figure 1).
- The most common types of offences were acts intended to cause injury (including assault) at 27.9 per cent, followed by public order offences (including disorderly and offensive conduct) at 27.7 per cent, and illicit drug offences (including possession and dealing) at 13.8 per cent. Nationally, the most common offences were acts intended to cause injury (21.0 per cent), illicit drug offences (19.9 per cent), and public order offences (10.9 per cent) (Table 1).
- Acts intended to cause injury were the most common principal offences for male offenders, with a total of 2123 offences (30.8 per cent of total male offences). Public order offences were the most common offences for female offenders, with a total of 1025 offences (39.8 per cent of total female offences).
- There were a total of 4779 offenders identified as being Indigenous (excluding offenders primarily proceeded against with a penalty notice). The most common principal offence types for Indigenous offenders were acts intended to cause injury (49.0 per cent), offences against justice (12.6 per cent) and unlawful entry with intent (8.3 per cent).
- There were a total of 693 youth offenders (persons aged 10-17 years), a decrease of 9.4 per cent compared to 2018-19. The offence rate was 2681 per 100 000 youths, the highest rate across the jurisdictions, followed by New South Wales with a rate of 2297 (Table 2).
- The most common youth principal offence types were acts intended to cause injury (28.7 per cent), followed by unlawful entry with intent (25.3 per cent). Nationally, the most common youth principal offence type was also acts intended to cause injury (20.1 per cent) (Table 2).
- There were 87 COVID-19 related offences. Of these, a third of offenders were aged between 20-29. Of the jurisdictions, the Territory had the third lowest proportion of repeat offences (8.0 per cent), above Queensland (5.8 per cent) and South Australia (1.8 per cent).

Figure 1: Offender rates per 100 000 persons by jurisdiction, 2019-20

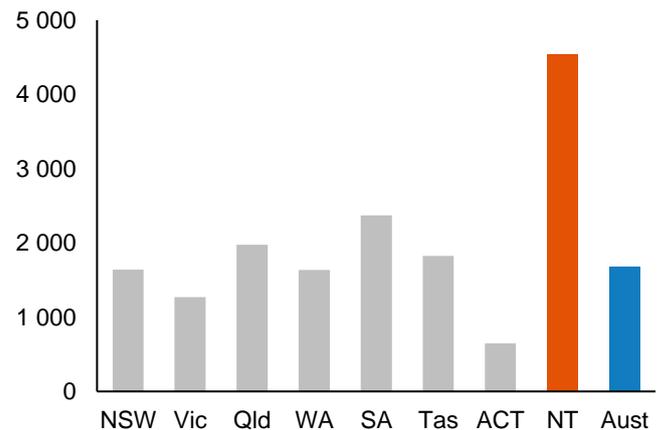


Table 1: Most common principal offence types, 2019-20^{1,2,3}

	NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Acts intended to cause injury	2 652	27.9	78 523	21.0
Public order offences	2 633	27.7	40 975	10.9
Illicit drug offences	1 316	13.8	74 443	19.9
Offences against justice	785	8.3	27 695	7.4
Weapons/explosives	470	4.9	15 018	4.0
Unlawful entry with intent	416	4.4	12 323	3.3
Theft	258	2.7	39 021	10.4
Property damage and environmental pollution	207	2.2	14 281	3.8
Other	774	8.1	49 407	13.2
Total	9 505	100.0	374 645	100.0

1 Other offences include homicide and related offences, sexual assault and related offences, dangerous/negligent acts, abduction/harassment, robbery/extortion, fraud/deception and miscellaneous.

2 Figures may not add due to ABS adjustment.

3 Totals include offenders with unknown or undeterminable principal offence and fare evasion.

Table 2: Most common youth principal offence types, 2019-20^{4,5}

	NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Acts intended to cause injury	199	28.7	9 447	20.1
Unlawful entry with intent	175	25.3	3 765	8.0
Theft	72	10.4	6 657	14.2
Public order offences	64	9.2	4 007	8.5
Robbery/Extortion	38	5.5	1 780	3.8
Weapons/Explosives	31	4.5	1 264	2.7
Property damage and environmental pollution	22	3.2	2 717	5.8
Other	79	11.4	9 560	20.4
Total	693	100.0	46 949	100.0

4 Figures may not add due to ABS adjustment.

5 Totals include offenders with unknown or undeterminable principal offence and fare evasion.

Source data in Recorded Crime – Offenders, 2019-20: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS

The following summarises crime victimisation estimates in the Northern Territory in 2019-20, unless otherwise stated:

- An estimated 6.5 per cent of Territorians aged 15 and over experienced physical and/or threatened assault, the highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 4.5 per cent (Table 3).
- About 3400 Territorians experienced physical assault, a 51.4 per cent decrease compared to 2016-17. Nationally, physical assault increased by 3.0 per cent over the same period.
- From 2016-17 to 2019-20, the victimisation rate of physical assault in the Territory decreased by 2.5 percentage points, compared to the national victimisation rate which increased by 0.1 percentage points.
- About 7100 persons aged 15 and over experienced threatened assault, representing 4.9 per cent of Territorians, compared to 2.7 per cent nationally.
- About 4400 or 7.0 per cent of households experienced a break-in, the highest of all the jurisdictions and above the national victimisation rate of 2.4 per cent. In 2019-20, 77.3 per cent of Territory break-in victims reported to police (Figure 2).
- About 3700 or 5.9 per cent of households experienced an attempted break in. Of these households, 67.6 per cent reported to police. Nationally, 1.9 per cent of households experienced an attempted break-in and 39.8 per cent reported to police (Figure 2).
- About 5300 or 8.5 per cent of households experienced malicious property damage. Of these households, 66.0 per cent reported to police. Nationally, 4.6 per cent of households experienced malicious property damage and 53.6 per cent reported to police.
- About 2700 or 4.3 per cent of households experienced theft from a motor vehicle. Of these households, 63.0 per cent reported their most recent incident to police. Nationally, 2.7 per cent of households experienced theft from a motor vehicle and 52.6 per cent reported to police.
- From 2016-17 to 2019-20, the victimisation rate of household break-ins in the Territory decreased by 1.2 percentage points while the victimisation rate nationally decreased by 0.1 percentage points (Table 4).

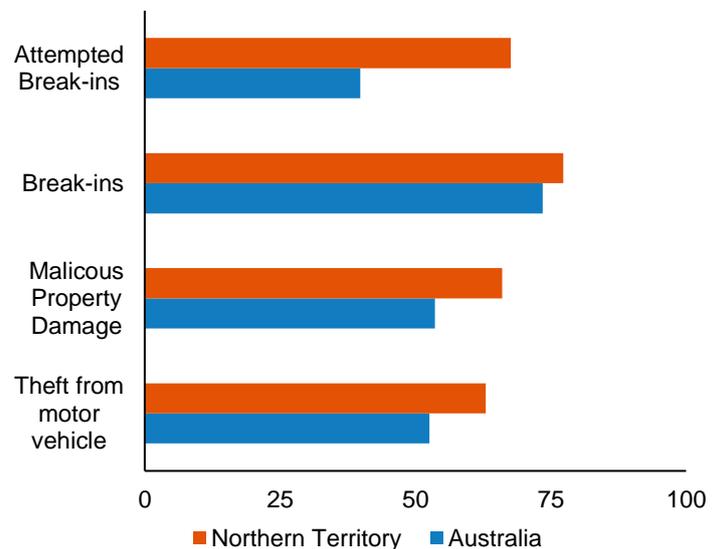
Table 3: Victimization rate for persons experiencing physical and/or threatened assault^{6,7}

	2016-17	2019-20	Change
	%	%	ppt
New South Wales	4.1	3.9	-0.2
Victoria	4.7	4.1	-0.6
Queensland	4.9	5.3	0.4
Western Australia	6.6	5.8	-0.8
South Australia	4.5	4.0	-0.5
Tasmania	4.8	5.5	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	3.8	3.6	-0.2
Northern Territory	9.0	6.5	-2.5
Australia	4.8	4.5	-0.3

6 Victimization rate is the total number of persons aged 15 years and over who experienced the crime, expressed as a percentage of all persons aged 15 years and over.

7 Where a person has experienced both physical and threatened assault it is counted only once in the aggregated total.

Figure 2: Reporting rates for selected crimes, 2019-20⁸



8 Reporting rate refers to the total number of households that reported the most recent incident of crime to police, expressed as a percentage of the total number of households that experienced the crime.

Table 4: Victimization rate for persons experiencing break-ins

	2016-17	2019-20	Total change
	%	%	ppt
New South Wales	2.0	1.8	-0.2
Victoria	2.8	2.4	-0.4
Queensland	2.0	2.5	0.5
Western Australia	4.3	4.1	-0.2
South Australia	1.9	2.7	0.8
Tasmania	2.0	2.1	0.1
Australian Capital Territory	2.5	2.3	-0.2
Northern Territory	5.0	7.0	2.0
Australia	2.5	2.4	-0.1

Source data in Crime Victimization, Australia, 2019-20: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS

The following is a summary of information on offence counts in the Northern Territory in the December quarter 2020 compared to the December quarter 2019, unless otherwise stated:

- Recorded offences against property decreased by 309, or 5.4 per cent, to 5455. This decrease was driven by decreases in all offences against property other than property damage, which increased by 251 or 12.5 per cent (Table 5).
- Commercial break-ins decreased by 5.8 per cent to 473 with the decline driven by decreases in Tennant Creek (65.3 per cent or 32 break-ins), Alice Springs (20.9 per cent or 24 break-ins) and NT Balance (3.6 per cent or 7 break-ins). This was partially offset by increases in Palmerston, Katherine and Nhulunbuy (Table 5).
- House break-ins decreased by 21.6 per cent to 589, driven by decreases in all regions except Alice Springs (46) and Nhulunbuy (3) (Table 6).
- The number of offences against persons increased by 586, or 27.8 per cent, to 2695, primarily driven by an increase in acts intended to cause injury (566) (Table 5).
- The number of acts intended to cause injury increased by 30.8 per cent to 2402 offences. This was primarily due to increases in Darwin (192), NT Balance (143) and Palmerston (103).
- Of the total number of acts intended to cause injury, 2392 were assaults. Of these assaults, 64.3 per cent involved domestic violence, 49.2 per cent involved alcohol and 34.7 per cent involved both domestic violence and alcohol.
- In the year ending December 2020, offence rates for assaults involving domestic violence reached a five-year peak of 2000 per 100 000 population. Offence rates for assault not involving domestic violence were 1212 per 100 000 population, the highest rate since 2017 (Figure 3).
- In the year ending December 2020, the number of assaults involving domestic violence increased by 27.2 per cent to 4921 assaults, compared to 2019. The increase was driven by significant increases in most jurisdictions, including Tennant Creek (39.6 per cent), Alice Springs (31.7 per cent) and Katherine (30.6 per cent).
- The Northern Territory crime statistics are prepared by the Department of Attorney-General and Justice using data recorded by the Northern Territory Police.

Table 5: Selected recorded offences against property and persons, Northern Territory, December quarter, 2019 and 2020^{9,10,11}

	Dec qtr 2019 No.	Dec qtr 2020 No.	Annual change %
Offences against property			
House break-ins	751	589	-21.6
Commercial break-ins	502	473	-5.8
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	468	381	-18.6
Theft	2 038	1 756	-13.8
Property damage	2 005	2 256	12.5
Total	5 764	5 455	-5.4
Offences against persons			
Homicide and related offences	4	2	-50.0
Acts intended to cause injury	1836	2402	30.8
Sexual assault and related offences	113	109	-3.5
Other	156	182	16.7
Total	2109	2695	27.8

⁹ Break-ins include actual and attempted break-ins.

¹⁰ Other includes other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, abduction, harassment and other offences, robbery, extortion and related offences.

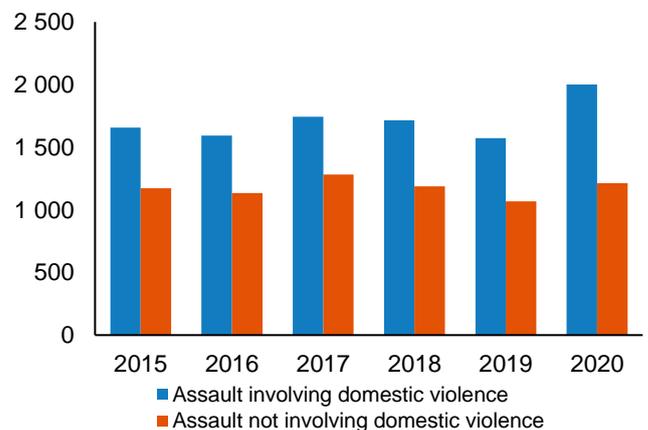
¹¹ Acts intended to cause injury includes assault and related offences.

Table 6: Recorded house break-ins by region, Northern Territory, December quarter, 2019 and 2020¹²

	Dec qtr 2019 No.	Dec qtr 2020 No.	Annual change %
Darwin	243	116	-52.3
Palmerston	110	93	-15.5
Alice Springs	160	206	28.8
Katherine	45	16	-64.4
Tennant Creek	52	24	-53.8
Nhulunbuy	8	11	37.5
NT Balance	133	123	-7.5
Total	751	589	-21.6

¹² NT Balance is the area of the Northern Territory that lies outside of the six urban centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

Figure 3: Domestic violence related assaults per 100 000 population, Northern Territory, for the 12 months ending December



Source data in Northern Territory Crime Statistics, December 2020: Department of Treasury and Finance, NTPFES

Social Indicators March 2021

Schools, Australia, 2020

The following is a summary of information on students and schools in the Northern Territory in 2020, unless otherwise stated:

- There were a total of 190 schools in the Territory, comprised of 152 or 80.0 per cent Government schools, 20 or 10.5 per cent Independent schools and 18 or 9.5 per cent Catholic schools.
- There were 40 809 total students (full-time and part-time in schools, an average annual decrease of 0.7 per cent since 2017. Territory students represented 1.0 percent of national students.
- Of the total students, 30 411 or 74.5 per cent attended Government schools, 5604 or 13.7 per cent attended Independent schools and 4794 or 11.7 per cent attended Catholic schools. Nationally, 65.6 per cent of students attended Government schools, 15.0 per cent attended Independent schools and 19.4 per cent attended Catholic schools.
- Of the total number of Territory students who attended Government schools, 63.3 per cent attended primary schools and 36.7 per cent attended secondary schools. Nationally, 60.7 per cent attended primary schools and 39.3 per cent attended secondary schools (Table 7).
- Of the total number of Territory students attending non-Government schools, 49.2 per cent attended primary schools and 50.8 per cent attended secondary schools. These figures are similar to the national results of 48.8 per cent and 51.2 per cent respectively (Table 7).
- There were 15 914 Indigenous students, of which 82.7 per cent attended Government schools, similar to the national rate of 83.4 per cent.
- Indigenous students represented 43.3 per cent of total Government school students, compared to 7.6 per cent nationally (Table 8).
- The apparent retention rate for all students in years 10 to 12 was 70.4, the lowest of the jurisdictions and a 6.3 percentage point increase in comparison to 2019. Nationally, the retention rate was 82.1 per cent, a 0.1 percentage point decrease compared to 2019 (Figure 4).
- The apparent retention rate for Indigenous students in year 10 to 12 was 51.9, the lowest of the jurisdictions and an 8.1 percentage point increase in comparison to 2019. Nationally, the retention rate for Indigenous students was 61.5 per cent.

Table 7: Total students in Government and non-Government schools, 2020¹³

	No. '000	Primary %	Secondary %
Government			
NSW	810.7	61.0	39.0
Vic	644.5	60.7	39.3
Qld	573.9	59.2	40.8
WA	290.0	61.3	38.7
SA	177.0	64.2	35.8
Tas	57.0	58.3	41.7
ACT	45.6	59.8	40.2
NT	30.4	63.3	36.7
Australia	2 629.1	60.7	39.3
Non-Government			
NSW	431.3	49.0	51.0
Vic	362.0	48.4	51.6
Qld	284.0	48.7	51.3
WA	139.9	46.8	53.2
SA	96.7	51.1	48.9
Tas	25.0	49.5	50.5
ACT	28.6	50.7	49.3
NT	10.4	49.2	50.8
Australia	1 377.8	48.8	51.2

¹³ Figures may not add due to rounding

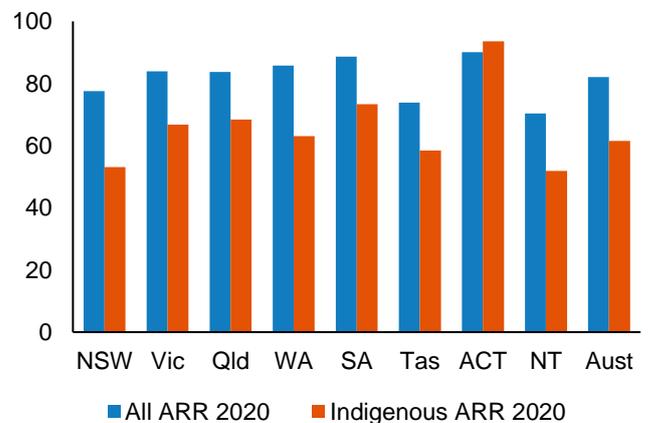
Table 8: Indigenous students in Government and non-Government schools, proportion of total students, 2020^{14,15}

	Government		Non-Government	
	'000	%	'000	%
NSW	66.9	8.3	12.9	3.0
Vic	15.2	2.4	3.0	0.8
Qld	60.7	10.6	12.6	4.4
WA	24.3	8.4	4.7	3.4
SA	11.9	6.7	1.7	1.8
Tas	6.3	11.1	1.6	6.4
ACT	1.8	4.0	0.5	1.9
NT	13.2	43.3	2.7	26.4
Australia	200.3	7.6	39.8	2.9

¹⁴ Figures may not add due to rounding

¹⁵ Students include full-time and part-time students.

Figure 4: Apparent retention rate for students in year 10 to 12, 2020 (per cent)¹⁶



¹⁶ Apparent retention rate (ARR) for students in year 10 to 12 is the proportion of students in year 10 in 2018 that remained in the schooling system until year 12 in 2020.

Source data in Schools, Australia, 2020:
Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS