

Social Indicators May 2022

Released: 6 May 2022 | Next release: 3 June 2022

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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.

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The following is a summary of information on offence counts in the Northern Territory in the February quarter 2022 compared to the February quarter 2021, unless otherwise stated:

- Recorded offences against property increased by 615, or 10.8%, to 6,329. This decrease was driven by increases in all offences against property, with the largest increase in the number of offences being commercial break-ins (242) (Table 1).
- Commercial break-ins increased by 41.5% to 825 with the increase driven by increases in NT Balance (53.0% or 122 break-ins), Katherine (161.3% or 50 break-ins), Alice Springs (29.6% or 47 break-ins) (Table 1).
- House break-ins increased by 16.9% to 858, partially offset by decreases in Tennant Creek (-65), Palmerston (-19) and Nhulunbuy (-11) (Table 2).
- The number of acts intended to cause injury decreased by 3.4% to 2,078 offences. This was primarily due to decreases in Darwin (-66), NT Balance (-60) and Palmerston (-38).
- Of the total number of acts intended to cause injury, 2,071 were assaults. Of these assaults, 65.3% involved domestic violence, 48.5% involved alcohol and 34.5% involved both domestic violence and alcohol.
- For the twelve months ending February 2022, the highest rate of assault was recorded in Tennant Creek, with an offence rate of 11,061 per 100,000 population, of which 72.5% involved alcohol. The second highest offence rate for assault was recorded in Alice Springs, with an offence rate of 7,419 per 100,000 population, of which 47.9% involved alcohol (Figure 1).
- In the same period, the lowest rate of assault was recorded in Nhulunbuy, with an offence rate of 1,573 per 100,000 population, of which, 61.5% involved alcohol. The second lowest offence rate for assault was recorded in Palmerston, with an offence rate of 2,255 per 100,000 population, of which 55.7% involved alcohol.
- The Northern Territory crime statistics are prepared by the Department of Attorney-General and Justice using data recorded by the Northern Territory Police.

Table 1: Selected recorded offences against property and persons, February quarter, 2021 and 2022 ^{1,2,3}

	Feb qtr 2021 No.	Feb qtr 2022 No.	Annual change %
Offences against property			
House break-ins	734	858	16.9
Commercial break-ins	583	825	41.5
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	398	430	8.0
Theft	1 938	2 020	4.2
Property damage	2 061	2 196	6.6
Total	5 714	6 329	10.8
Offences against persons			
Homicide and related offences	5	7	40.0
Acts intended to cause injury	2 152	2 078	-3.4
Sexual assault and related offences	117	87	-25.6
Other	159	190	19.5
Total	2 433	2 362	-2.9

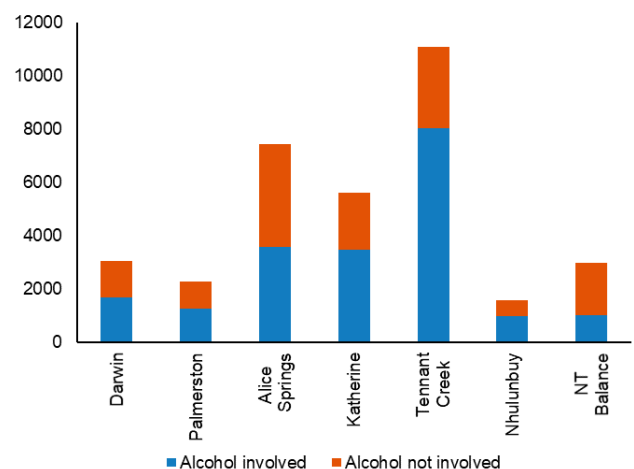
- Break-ins include actual and attempted break-ins.
- Other includes other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, abduction, harassment and other offences, robbery, extortion and related offences.
- Acts intended to cause injury includes assault and related offences.

Table 2: Recorded house break-ins by region, February quarter, 2021 and 2022 ⁴

	Feb qtr 2021 No.	Feb qtr 2022 No.	Annual change %
Darwin	125	177	41.6
Palmerston	88	69	-21.6
Alice Springs	219	369	68.5
Katherine	36	43	19.4
Tennant Creek	83	18	-78.3
Nhulunbuy	15	4	-73.3
NT Balance	168	178	6.0
Total	734	858	16.9

- 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 1: Rate of assault per 100 000 population, divided by rate of alcohol involvement, for the 12 months ending February 2022 ⁵



- 'Alcohol not involved' includes assaults where alcohol involvement is unknown.

Source data in Northern Territory Crime Statistics, February 2022: Department of Treasury and Finance, NTPFES

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Preschool Education, Australia 2021

The following is a summary of information on preschool programs in the Northern Territory in 2021, unless otherwise stated:

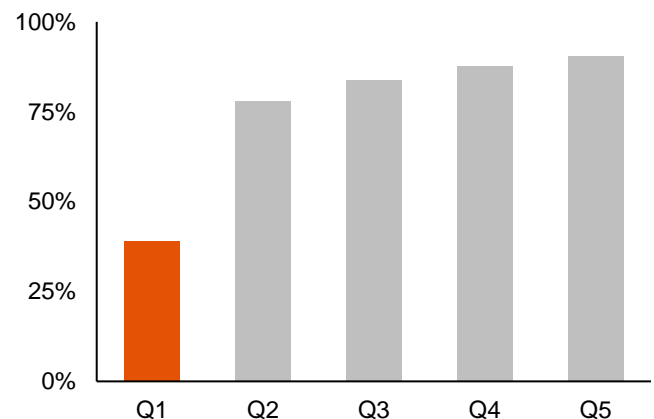
- In 2021, there were 3,481 children enrolled in a preschool program. Of these, 1,236 or 35.5% were Aboriginal, the highest proportion across Australia. Nationally, Aboriginal enrolments accounted for 6.2% of total enrolments.
- Of the total number of preschool enrolments, 2,062 were located in inner/outer regional areas, with Aboriginal children accounting for 18.1% of these enrolments. There were 1,421 enrolments in remote/very remote areas, of which 61.1% were Aboriginal children.
- Of the 3,439 children enrolled in 600 hours or more of preschool programs annually, only 74.1% of children attended for the full time period. This was the second lowest attendance rate of the jurisdictions and compares to the national attendance rate of 80.9% (excluding Victoria and NSW) (Figure 2).
- The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage ranks the relative disadvantage of areas in Australia in five increments. For example, Quintile 1 (Q1) represents the proportion experiencing the highest level of disadvantage. Of the total children enrolled in 600 hours or more of preschool annually, 878 or 25.5% were in Q1, the second highest of the jurisdictions after Tasmania (31.7%).
- Of the children enrolled for 600 hours or more annually in Q1, only 39.1% attended. This compares with 78.1% of children in Q2, 83.7% in Q3, 87.6% in Q4 and 90.5% in Q5 (Figure 3).
- The attendance rate of Aboriginal children enrolled in a preschool program for 600 hours or more annually was 77.8% in inner/outer regional areas compared to 34.5% in remote/very remote areas. Nationally (excluding Victoria and NSW), Aboriginal child attendance was 74.0% in inner/outer regional areas and 52.2% in remote/very remote areas (Figure 5).
- Of the total preschool service providers, 56 or 24.7% delivered a preschool program without a qualified early childhood teacher. This was the highest proportion of the jurisdictions and well above the national rate of 0.8% (excluding Victoria).

Figure 2: Attendance of children enrolled in 600 hours or more of preschool annually, 2021 (%)⁶



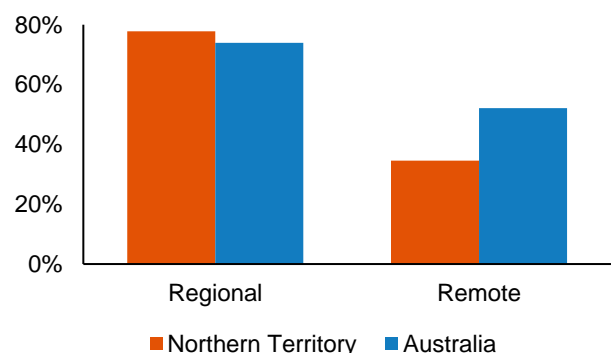
6 Attendance data has not been collected for Victoria and NSW. Australian attendance totals and averages exclude Victoria and NSW.

Figure 3: Attendance of Territory children enrolled in 600 hours or more of preschool annually, by socio-economic status, 2021 (%)⁷



7 Socio-economic status is measured by the ABS Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. Populations are classified by the area of residence.

Figure 4: Attendance of Aboriginal children enrolled in 600 hours or more of preschool annually, by remoteness area, 2021 (%)^{8, 9, 10}



8 Victoria is excluded from Australian attendance rates.

9 Remoteness is classified by Australian Statistical Geography Standard, Remoteness Structure, 2016.

10 'Regional' classification includes 'inner' and 'outer' regional areas. 'Remote' classification includes 'remote' and 'very remote' areas.

Source data in Preschool Education, Australia 2021: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS