Strategic Review of Child and Family Wellbeing in the Northern Territory

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Number of Notifications, Investigations and Substantiations of Abuse/Neglect, 2008-09 to 2012-13

Source: DCP 2013
Note: Data should be used when analyzing figures from the most recent year displayed as some child protection investigations from that year have not concluded and therefore are not represented in this figure.
National Comparison Aboriginal Children Substantiation rates during 2012–13 (number per 1,000 children)

Source: AHW 2013 (adapted from Table 3.8)
Note: AHW Census only.

Number of Children in Care by Aboriginality, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013

Source: DCF 2013
National Comparison of Aboriginal Children in care rates at 30 June 2013 (number per 1,000 children)

Source: AHRC (2014) (adapted from table 5.4)  
Note: AHRC Casework apply.

Number of Repeat Substantiations within a 12 Month Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children with a substantiation in 2011-12</td>
<td>1585</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children re-substantiated within 12 months</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OCF 2013
School attendance of very remote Aboriginal children in the NT by year

Source: NT Department of Education and Training

Hospitalisation rates for Indigenous children by condition 2000-01 to 2010-11 (per 1,000)

Source: CTG NT Monitoring Report (2013)

* Children aged 0-14
** Children aged 5-14
*** Children aged 5-13
Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

**Household Dysfunction**
- Substance abuse
- Parental separation/divorce
- Mental illness
- Domestic violence
- Criminal Behavior

**Abuse**
- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual

**Neglect**
- Emotional
- Physical

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Ace Study and alcoholism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACE Score</th>
<th>% Reporting Alcoholism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Felitti, VJ, Anda, RF et al (1998)
ACES and teen pregnancy

The population attributable (to ACEs) risk is 54% for depression and 58% for female suicide attempts.
Prevalence of ACES amongst court-involved youth

![Bar chart showing prevalence of ACES among court-involved youth]

Adapted from Family Policy Council (2007) Pierce County, Washington State ACE Study

ACES and risk of adolescent violence perpetration

For boys the risk for violence perpetration was increased 35% to 144% with each increase in the adverse childhood events score.

Duke, Pettingel, McMorris & Borowsky, 2013
The four key risk factors for Indigenous youth crime, from ‘Arresting Incarceration’ 2014

- Poor parenting – especially abuse and neglect
- Poor school performance
- Unemployment
- Drug and alcohol use

Weatherburn, 2014

Risk factors for youth justice involvement in the NT

- Highest rates of abuse and neglect
- Lowest school attendance and performance
- One of the highest youth unemployment rates (Outback NT)
- Highest rates of alcohol consumption
Children exposed to repeated episodes of overwhelming arousal ...may never develop their capacity to self-regulate...

they may be chronically irritable, angry, unable to manage aggression, impulsive, anxious or depressed.

Bloom & Farragher 2011

Violence in the Northern Territory

• Aboriginal people in the NT are twice as likely to be hospitalised for assault as are Aboriginal people in the rest of Australia (AIHW).

• The latest Closing the Gap report revealed that the night patrols which were set up as a first response to violence or potential violence, dealt with over 84,700 incidents in the last 6 month reporting period, or 160,000 incidents p.a. – that is in a target area of around 30,000 adults.
Hospitalisation of NT Indigenous women due to assault, 2008-09 – 2011-12

Source: Adapted from Annual Analysis of the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

Hospitalisation rates of NT Indigenous women due to assault, 2008-9 - 2011-12

Source: Adapted from Annual Analysis of the National Hospital Morbidity Database.*
Violence in the Northern Territory

- Aboriginal women in the NT make up only 0.3% of all Australian women, but they account for 16% of the hospitalisations for assault.

- In 2011-12, 34 non-Indigenous women had assault related admissions to hospital in the NT. In the same period 1,059 Aboriginal women were admitted.

Source: AIHW Analysis of the National Hospital Morbidity Database

Other outcomes faced by Aboriginal children in the NT

- **Infant mortality** rates 3 times those of other Australian infants
- Highest **child death rates** due to injury and accident
- Highest rate of **youth justice incarceration**
- Highest **child and youth suicide rates**
Indigenous Children who are developmentally on track in 4 or more domains of the AEDI, 2009 and 2012 (percentages)

Source: AEDI (2010 & 2013)

In my beginning is my end

T.S. Eliot