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The Child Dental Health Survey Northern Territory, 1994

by

The AIHW Dental Statistics
and Research Unit

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The AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU) is an external unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and was established in 1988 at The University of Adelaide. The DSRU was funded to improve the range and quality of dental statistics and research on the dental workforce, dental health status, dental practices and use of dental services.

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THE CHILD DENTAL HEALTH SURVEY - NORTHERN TERRITORY 1994

Purpose of this report

This report continues the series of annual reports providing descriptive statistics concerning child dental health in the Northern Territory, and follows the 1993 report. The report contains tables describing: the age and sex of children in the sample, their deciduous and permanent caries experience, frequency of fissure sealants, immediate treatment needs and children's history of school dental service examinations.

These data were collected during the 1994 calendar year from NT School Dental Service patients by dental therapists and dentists. A random sampling procedure was used to select approximately one in two (1:1.9) patients living in the Darwin area. In addition, all examined children from other areas were included. The Darwin sampling procedure was achieved by selecting those children whose birthday was between the 1st and 16th (inclusive) of any month. Provision was made for inclusion and numerical weighting of data from children whose date of birth was unknown. Throughout this report, dental health statistics have been weighted during their computation to reflect the sampling procedure. The weighting procedure corrects for the over-representation of children in the sample with an unknown birth date and from outside the Darwin area.

The following sections briefly describe each table and provide a simple, summary statement highlighting differences between the 1994 and 1993 data. *No formal hypothesis tests have been undertaken, and descriptions of difference between years are intended as a guide to the reader, rather than an evaluation of trends.*

Table 1: Demographic composition of the sample

Some 47 per cent of processed records were obtained from the Darwin area. The majority of children in the sample (86 per cent) were aged between 5 and 12 years inclusive, with approximately equivalent numbers in individual ages within this range. However, children aged thirteen years and older than five years were also represented in substantial numbers, particularly in the non-Darwin area. Females and males were represented in similar proportions in all ages.

The distribution of the sample is closely related to the main target groups of children served by the school dental service in the NT. The distribution also illustrates that the sample is representative of primary school aged children, rather than all children in the NT. Moreover, the small numbers of children aged 13 years or more results in less reliability of computed statistics for those ages. It is also important to note that those children who are outside the main school dental service target groups may differ on key characteristics and are likely to be less representative of their respective age groups in the NT population.

Changes since 1993

There were no substantial changes in the sampling procedures between the reporting periods, although the total number of cases is some 1513 fewer in 1994 than for 1993.

Table 2: Country of birth (including Aboriginality)

Table 2 lists the main categories of birthplace and Aboriginality for the weighted sample. The great majority (80 per cent or more) of children and mothers were Australian born. Mothers were more likely than children to be born outside Australia, with South East Asia being the second most frequent region of birth.

Changes since 1993

There has been no substantial changes in the distribution of birthplace between the reporting periods.

Table 3: Deciduous teeth: age-specific caries experience

The mean number of decayed teeth among children aged 5 to 10 years ranges from 0.44 to 1.23 and was lower among older children. There was less variation in mean dmft (1.20 to 2.02) although the prevalence was higher among older children. Mean dmft declined over the age of 9, and this must be interpreted in view of the exfoliation of deciduous teeth as children grow older.

The percentage of caries experience due to decay (d/dmft) shows an age-associated decline, almost halving from 72.8 per cent among 5-year-olds to 34.8 per cent among 10-year-olds. This is the strongest and most consistent age-associated effect for deciduous teeth. By comparison, the percentage of caries-free children (% dmft=0) shows a more modest reduction from 55.4 per cent among 5-year-olds to 54.3 per cent among 10-year-olds. The percentage of caries free children therefore mirrors the mean dmft prevalence.

Changes since 1993

Most changes in mean numbers of deciduous teeth with caries experience among 5- to 9-year-olds between 1993 and 1994 were negligible.

Table 4: Permanent teeth: age-specific caries experience

The mean number of decayed permanent teeth was consistently smaller than the mean number of decayed deciduous teeth, and increased across the range of 7 to 12 years from 0.12 to 0.37. In addition, the mean DMFT increased quite consistently across age groups (up to 13 years), as expected. Related to these changes, the percentage of DMFT due to decay (D/DMFT) and the percentage caries free (DMFT=0) declined across age groups. The mean DMFT score for 12 year old children is 0.81. It is noteworthy that more than 60 per cent of children aged 12 or less were caries free.

Changes since 1993

Changes in the mean number of decayed permanent teeth were inconsequential, and for most ages, the mean DMFT declined although the mean levels differed by less than 0.1 teeth. The percentage of caries free children (DMFT=0) appears to be stable across the two years.

Table 5: All teeth: age-specific prevalence

Untreated caries in the combined deciduous and permanent dentitions existed for between 24 and 37 per cent of children in the age range 5 to 12 years. The greatest likelihood of untreated decay occurred for 6-7-year-olds. Based on observations from previous tables, much of this untreated decay can be attributed to the deciduous dentition. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the most extensive levels of untreated decay (4 or more deciduous or permanent teeth) occur in the younger age groups, with over 10 per cent or more of children aged between 4 and 6 years being affected to this extent.

While more than 95 per cent of children aged 5 to 12 years had no deciduous or permanent teeth missing due to caries, smaller percentages avoid fillings indicated by over 46 per cent of children aged 9 and over having at least one filling. Similarly, there is a decline in the percentage of children with no caries experience in either deciduous or permanent dentition, from 55 per cent at age five to 52 per cent at age 12. Above the age of 10, the percentage is relatively constant at around 50 per cent. This serves to demonstrate that more than one third of children survive primary school with no experience of dental caries.

Changes since 1993

The earlier observations of only small changes in deciduous and permanent caries experience carry through to this table which shows minimal changes compared with the 1993 data.

Table 6: Fissure sealants: age-specific prevalence

Fissure sealants are prevalent in children aged 7 to 12 years, and at those ages the mean number of fissure sealants exceeds the mean number of decayed teeth, and is close to the mean number of filled teeth. There is clear evidence of preferential use of fissure sealants among those with caries experience: children aged 8 to 12 years with some caries experience (DMFT=1+) were about 50 per cent more likely to have fissure sealants as children with DMFT equal to zero.

Changes since 1993

The mean number of fissure sealants in 1994 increased slightly but inconsistently since 1993 among those aged 7 to 12 years.

Table 7: Immediate treatment needs

Immediate treatment needs for existing or imminent pain or infection were infrequent in the key age groups (5 to 12 years). Fewer than six per cent of children required immediate treatment, with the greatest percentage occurring among the youngest ages. This correlates with the peak in mean dmft and may suggest that most forms of immediate treatment are due to disease in deciduous teeth. Certainly the small group of children with immediate treatment needs have a very high mean dmft prevalence.

Changes since 1993

The percentage of children with immediate treatment needs, and their levels of caries experience, are similar to the 1993 estimates, although the percentage with $d+D=4^+$ appears to have declined since 1993.

Table 8: School Dental Service examinations

The left hand side of this table describes the percentage of children who are new patients (having had no previous dental examination) in the NT School Dental service. As expected, the figure is highest for the youngest ages (6 years or less) with fewer than 11 per cent of those aged 7 years or more having had no previous examination. This pattern is expected, and indicates that most patients are enrolled during their early school years.

The right hand side of the table refers to children with previous examinations, and indicates their distribution according to time since last dental examination. Over 45 per cent of children in the key age range received examinations within 13 to 24 months of their previous examination, while approximately one third occurred within 7 to 12 months.

Changes since 1993

There was a tendency for a lower percentage of children to have a repeat exam within 12 months, and a higher percentage to be examined between 13 and 24 months.

Tables S1 and S2: Deciduous teeth of non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children

These supplementary tables describe the age-specific indexes of deciduous caries experience for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children. For those aged 3 to 10 years, Aboriginal children had a higher prevalence of decayed and dmft teeth. Consequently, fewer Aboriginal children had no caries experience. In addition, the percentage of the dmft index attributed to decay (d/dmft) was substantially higher among Aboriginal children.

Changes since 1993

There were no systematic changes in the pattern of deciduous caries experience of Aboriginal children compared to non-Aboriginal children since 1993.

Tables S3 and S4: Permanent teeth of non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children

Differentials in permanent caries experience among non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children were similar to the profile of deciduous caries experience. Aboriginal children had a higher mean number of decayed permanent teeth, and in mean DMFT prevalence. Aboriginal children also had a higher percentage of caries experience attributed to decay (D/DMFT), and slightly lower percentages of children with no caries experience (DMFT=0).

Changes since 1993

There was some indication of improvement in the DMFT scores for Aboriginal children in the older ages, which was reflected also in slightly lower D/DMFT scores from 1993 to 1994.

Figure 1: Percentage of children with dmft=0, DMFT=0 and d+D=4+

This figure presents data contained in Tables 3, 4 and 5 to summarize the extent of dental health (represented by percentage with no caries experience) and the extent of more extensive untreated decay. There is a progressive decline across age in the percentage of children with DMFT scores of zero, and in the percentage of children with dmft+DMFT scores of 4 or more. These reductions most probably indicate firstly the progressive accumulation of disease and treatment, and the treatment of active decay within the school dental service.

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TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THE SAMPLE

Data for the Child Dental Health Survey are collected from a stratified random sample of children in all Australian States and Territories. The sampling procedure selects a constant proportion of children for whom date of birth is known by selecting only those children born on particular dates. Within the Darwin region, the sampling ratio for children whose date of birth is known is 1:1.9. This ratio is achieved by selecting children whose date of birth is between the 1st and 16th (inclusive) of any month. For children with an unknown date of birth, and for those outside the Darwin region, all children are included in the sample.

The following table describes the number of records processed from children in the Northern Territory, as well as the number of children in the sample. The latter figure is weighted to attach more weight to those records which are sampled, and less weight to those records which are fully enumerated. The weighting corrects for the over-representation in the sample of children for whom date of birth is unknown.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	NUMBER OF RECORDS PROCESSED						NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN SAMPLE ¹		
	Darwin region, known date of birth			Non-Darwin or age only known			Males	Females	Persons
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons			
2	2	2	4	14	20	34	12	17	29
3	13	16	29	65	73	138	63	72	135
4	242	274	516	306	335	641	536	599	1136
5	326	305	631	386	364	750	704	661	1365
6	362	316	678	380	382	762	748	688	1436
7	351	345	696	412	380	792	756	725	1481
8	360	343	703	373	363	736	740	711	1451
9	330	339	669	378	361	739	704	704	1408
10	346	351	697	346	338	684	703	704	1407
11	350	328	678	344	333	677	707	670	1376
12	279	253	532	187	185	372	502	466	969
13	76	37	113	66	76	142	147	102	250
14	15	5	20	33	41	74	43	35	78
15	2	9	11	7	19	26	8	25	33
16	1	8	9	4	10	14	4	18	22
17	2	3	5	2	5	7	4	7	12
18	0	1	1	0	5	5	0	5	5
19	0	0	0	1	3	4	1	2	3
20	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	2
Total	3057	2935	5992	3308	3305	6613	6385	6220	12605

¹ The number of children included in the sample equals the number of records sampled where date of birth is known plus the product of the number of records of children with unknown birthdate and sampling ratio. Second and subsequent examinations of children within the reporting period are eliminated. These are rounded numbers of children.

TABLE 2: COUNTRY OF BIRTH (INCLUDING ABORIGINALITY)

The country of birth of children is determined from information concerning birthplace of the child and mother. The number and percentage of children in each group is provided in this Territory-wide report.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CHILDREN		MOTHERS	
	Number ¹	%	Number	%
Australia (non-Aboriginal)	8353	66.3	6644	52.7
Australia (Aboriginal or TSI)	3600	28.6	3481	27.6
United Kingdom and Eire	57	0.4	565	4.5
Other English speaking	144	1.1	445	3.5
Southern Europe	35	0.3	149	1.2
Other Europe	23	0.2	142	1.1
Middle East	4	0.0	15	0.1
South East Asia	246	2.0	786	6.2
Other Asia	55	0.4	163	1.3
Other	47	0.4	118	0.9
Not known	23	0.2	77	0.6
Blank	18	0.1	19	0.2
Total	12605	100.0	12605	100.0

¹ Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

TABLE 3: DECIDUOUS TEETH: AGE-SPECIFIC CARIES EXPERIENCE¹

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the dmft index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	135	1.80	2.61	2.12	3.18	91.3	50.4
4	1136	1.01	2.24	1.20	2.49	85.9	68.8
5	1365	1.23	2.32	1.74	2.89	72.8	55.4
6	1436	1.14	2.08	1.99	2.88	57.9	49.0
7	1481	1.00	1.81	1.96	2.72	52.3	47.7
8	1451	0.74	1.43	2.02	2.52	39.8	42.4
9	1408	0.63	1.25	1.81	2.24	37.7	42.8
10	1407	0.44	0.96	1.37	2.03	34.8	54.3

¹ Legend d - decayed deciduous teeth
 dmft - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
 sd - standard deviation

² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

TABLE 4: PERMANENT TEETH: AGE-SPECIFIC CARIES EXPERIENCE¹

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the DMFT index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with DMFT=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
5	1365	*	*	0.01	0.12	68.5	99.3
6	1436	0.07	0.40	0.11	0.52	74.9	94.3
7	1481	0.12	0.47	0.18	0.59	71.7	88.9
8	1451	0.15	0.56	0.25	0.70	53.7	84.4
9	1408	0.16	0.56	0.36	0.85	43.7	78.9
10	1407	0.19	0.61	0.46	1.01	40.9	75.6
11	1376	0.22	0.73	0.60	1.18	36.5	69.9
12	969	0.37	0.96	0.81	1.40	44.6	62.2
13	250	0.45	1.06	0.99	1.61	43.8	56.6
14	78	1.08	1.66	1.90	2.32	58.6	40.5
15	33	0.65	1.33	1.84	2.84	40.5	39.7

¹ Legend D - decayed permanent teeth
 DMFT - decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth
 sd - standard deviation

² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

TABLE 5: ALL TEETH: AGE-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE¹

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the combined dmft and DMFT indices and their components for individual (year of birth) ages. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	% of children with d+D=					% of children with		
		0	1	2	3	≥4	m+M=0	f+F=0	dmft+DMFT=0
3	135	51.0	11.3	11.3	5.6	20.8	94.4	94.9	50.4
4	1136	71.6	5.3	8.6	3.6	10.8	98.3	95.1	68.8
5	1365	62.3	10.8	8.7	4.8	13.3	96.8	83.8	55.2
6	1436	59.3	12.8	10.9	5.1	12.0	96.5	71.8	47.3
7	1481	59.3	14.9	10.0	4.9	11.0	95.4	67.7	45.2
8	1451	61.5	17.8	9.3	4.8	6.7	95.1	57.2	38.7
9	1408	63.8	17.4	8.4	4.5	5.9	95.2	53.9	36.6
10	1407	68.0	17.4	7.2	3.4	3.9	96.9	56.9	42.6
11	1376	74.7	15.3	5.6	2.4	2.0	98.2	63.6	50.0
12	969	75.7	13.6	6.1	2.0	2.6	97.3	68.6	52.2
13	250	74.4	14.9	3.8	4.4	2.4	98.1	68.4	51.5
14	78	55.4	15.7	14.9	*	9.6	94.7	66.8	40.5
15	33	68.9	18.6	*	*	*	91.5	60.3	37.5

- ¹ Legend
- d - decayed deciduous teeth
 - D - decayed permanent teeth
 - m - deciduous teeth missing due to caries
 - M - permanent teeth missing due to caries
 - f - deciduous teeth restored due to caries
 - F - permanent teeth restored due to caries
 - dmft - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
 - DMFT - decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth

- ² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

TABLE 6: FISSURE SEALANTS: AGE-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE¹

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the distribution of fissure sealants for individual (year of birth) ages, along with the caries experience of those who have fissure sealants and those who do not. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	Number of sealants		CHILDREN WITH DMFT=0		CHILDREN WITH DMFT=1+	
		mean	sd	number	% with F/S=1+	number	% with F/S=1+
6	1436	0.04	0.31	1353	1.7	83	6.6
7	1481	0.25	0.84	1316	8.8	165	17.3
8	1451	0.62	1.30	1225	20.4	226	28.1
9	1408	0.83	1.44	1111	27.6	297	38.1
10	1407	1.06	1.58	1063	34.9	344	45.8
11	1376	1.22	1.77	962	37.6	414	50.7
12	969	1.22	1.81	602	34.2	366	46.8
13	250	1.14	1.94	141	32.4	108	40.5
14	78	0.35	1.12	32	6.6	47	14.9
15	33	*	*	13	21.0	20	17.7

¹ Legend DMFT - decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth
F/S - number of fissure sealed teeth
sd - standard deviation

² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region.

TABLE 7: IMMEDIATE TREATMENT NEEDS AGE-SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION¹

This table, based on Statewide data, describes the number and proportion of children in immediate need of dental treatment. This classification is accorded to children who have, or who are likely to develop within four weeks, oral pain or infection. The dental caries experience of this group of children is also described. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

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CHILDREN IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE TREATMENT												
Age (years)	Number of children in sample		% of all children	dmft		DMFT		% with d+D=				
	No.			mean	sd	mean	sd	0	1	2	3	4+
3	135	10	7.6	3.60	2.70	-	-	0.0	*	46.9	*	33.3
4	1136	32	2.8	5.71	4.75	-	-	0.0	12.8	19.0	*	61.7
5	1365	59	4.3	4.27	4.85	*	*	*	40.1	22.9	*	26.5
6	1436	62	4.3	3.43	3.58	0.54	1.23	17.9	25.1	14.2	9.9	33.0
7	1481	85	5.8	2.99	3.25	0.51	1.08	21.7	25.2	20.6	8.8	23.7
8	1451	74	5.1	3.25	3.05	0.65	0.99	18.7	34.0	19.4	9.3	18.6
9	1408	63	4.5	2.84	2.44	0.59	0.98	15.4	30.9	30.0	14.1	9.7
10	1407	68	4.8	2.20	2.40	1.27	1.56	19.3	41.7	16.8	6.1	16.0
11	1376	60	4.4	1.01	1.69	1.83	1.97	15.8	42.4	24.9	*	14.7
12	969	37	3.8	*	*	2.95	2.56	9.3	36.2	*	10.8	38.1
13	250	9	3.6	*	*	3.89	3.00	*	*	*	*	45.7
14	78	1	*	-	-	8.00	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
15	33	1	*	-	-	0.50	-	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹ Legend dmft - number of decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
 DMFT - number of decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth
 d - number of decayed deciduous teeth
 D - number of decayed permanent teeth

**TABLE 8: SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS:
AGE-SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION¹**

This table describes the percentage distribution of children who have received initial and subsequent dental examinations in the School Dental Service. Data from all examinations of children who were examined during the report period are included in this table; percentage estimates denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these percentages are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

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Age (years)	Number of children examined	Previous examination in School Dental Service (%)			CHILDREN WITH PREVIOUS EXAMINATION			
		No	Yes	Unknown	Months since last examination ² (%)			
					0-6	7-12	13-24	25+
3	138	74.4	16.6	9.0	24.0	42.6	24.3	*
4	1186	76.7	14.3	9.0	42.9	36.8	18.6	*
5	1475	31.9	52.0	16.1	13.5	51.5	34.0	1.0
6	1536	14.5	73.1	12.4	10.7	45.6	42.2	1.5
7	1581	10.3	77.8	11.9	11.1	45.4	40.6	2.9
8	1533	8.5	78.6	12.8	9.8	41.6	45.4	3.2
9	1463	5.8	82.4	11.8	9.6	39.1	46.4	4.9
10	1474	7.6	81.9	10.4	7.4	37.3	49.4	5.9
11	1442	7.0	83.9	9.0	7.8	38.8	49.3	4.1
12	1023	7.6	82.0	10.4	7.3	45.3	41.8	5.6
13	277	4.6	80.0	15.3	14.3	36.6	39.6	9.5
14	82	16.9	63.6	19.5	10.5	28.8	31.7	29.0
15	35	*	74.2	18.0	*	26.2	52.7	18.4

¹ Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region.

² Excludes those with no previous examination and where the date of previous examination is unknown.

**TABLE S1: DECIDUOUS TEETH: AGE-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE¹
NON-ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the dmft index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among non-Aboriginal children. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 6 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
2	34	1.33	2.38	1.45	2.36	84.6	60.6
3	118	1.29	2.26	1.61	2.85	88.6	56.8
4	915	0.70	1.84	0.90	2.16	80.2	74.9
5	985	0.89	1.89	1.43	2.66	65.4	61.6
6	1006	0.76	1.47	1.62	2.59	51.0	55.1
7	1031	0.71	1.35	1.71	2.58	45.2	52.5
8	984	0.55	1.05	1.94	2.47	32.8	44.6
9	935	0.45	0.91	1.75	2.21	29.3	44.1
10	978	0.39	0.85	1.45	2.07	30.0	52.2

¹ Legend: d - decayed deciduous teeth
dmft - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
sd - standard deviation

² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

**TABLE S2: DECIDUOUS TEETH: AGE-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE¹
ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the dmft index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among Aboriginal children. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 6 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
3	35	3.71	2.94	3.97	3.30	96.6	18.6
4	246	2.40	3.17	2.59	3.36	94.9	41.3
5	364	2.43	3.09	2.91	3.40	85.9	33.5
6	415	2.28	2.99	3.11	3.48	72.9	31.9
7	453	1.74	2.49	2.60	2.98	65.7	35.8
8	461	1.31	2.02	2.37	2.70	58.0	34.4
9	480	1.07	1.68	1.90	2.30	58.1	40.5
10	421	0.62	1.23	1.27	1.98	52.4	56.4

¹ Legend: d - decayed deciduous teeth
dmft - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
sd - standard deviation

² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

**TABLE S3: PERMANENT TEETH: AGE-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE¹
NON-ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the DMFT index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among non-Aboriginal children. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
5	985	*	*	*	*	*	99.5
6	1006	0.06	0.34	0.09	0.48	73.8	95.2
7	1031	0.11	0.42	0.16	0.55	73.2	90.0
8	984	0.10	0.42	0.20	0.59	45.9	86.7
9	935	0.10	0.41	0.29	0.74	33.5	82.4
10	978	0.14	0.48	0.42	0.95	34.5	77.8
11	903	0.14	0.57	0.53	1.10	26.4	72.2
12	592	0.24	0.65	0.71	1.26	34.9	64.6
13	107	0.36	0.81	1.02	1.57	34.3	53.2
14	19	*	*	2.21	2.55	31.4	46.0

¹ Legend: D - decayed permanent teeth
DMFT - decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth
sd - standard deviation

² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

**TABLE S4: PERMANENT TEETH: AGE-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE¹
ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the DMFT index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among Aboriginal children. Indices are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period. Where children received more than one examination during this period, the information derived from examinations other than the first is excluded. Age-specific indices denoted with an asterisk*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 40 per cent, and population estimates of these indices are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1994

Date of report: 8th November 1995

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
5	364	*	*	*	*	75.0	98.8
6	415	0.10	0.46	0.13	0.51	80.3	91.9
7	453	0.16	0.54	0.22	0.66	72.0	87.3
8	461	0.26	0.75	0.38	0.90	69.7	79.3
9	480	0.28	0.75	0.50	1.00	56.3	72.0
10	421	0.34	0.87	0.65	1.21	50.7	67.0
11	470	0.43	1.07	0.81	1.42	52.8	62.6
12	324	0.66	1.31	1.13	1.65	59.3	53.6
13	152	0.52	1.18	0.99	1.64	55.5	59.5
14	71	1.18	1.76	1.89	2.36	62.9	39.8
15	31	0.73	1.52	1.94	2.64	37.9	33.5

¹ Legend: D - decayed permanent teeth
DMFT - decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth
sd - standard deviation

² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH dmft=0, DMFT=0 and d+D=4+

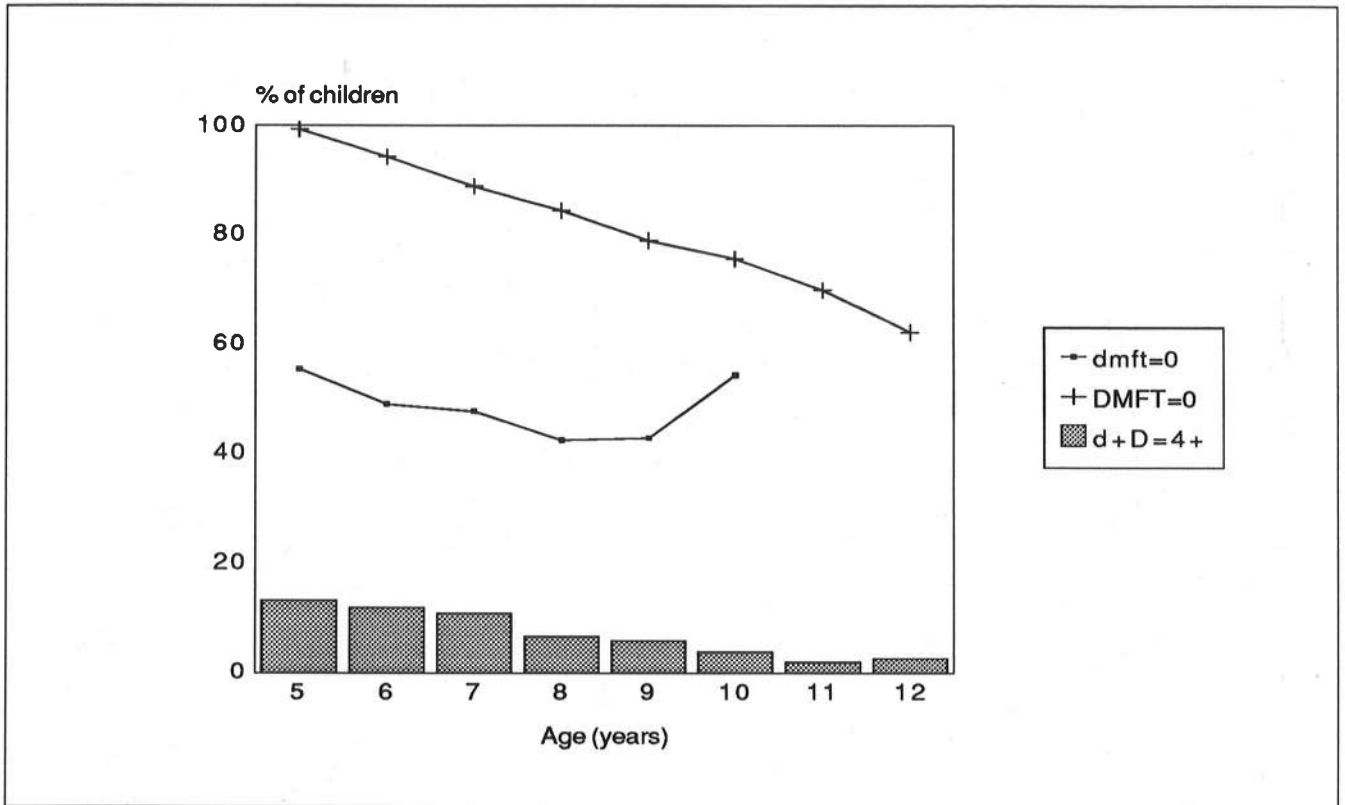


FIGURE 2: TIME SINCE LAST DENTAL EXAMINATION

