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The Child Dental Health Survey Northern Territory, 1990

by

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and Research Unit

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The AIH Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU) is an external unit of the Australian Institute of Health 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 1990

Purpose of this report

This report establishes the series of annual reports providing descriptive statistics concerning child dental health in the Northern Territory, and follows the 1989 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 1990 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 1990 and 1989 data. It should be recalled that the current data relate to a full year of examinations, while the 1989 statistics were collected only during the second half of that calendar year. Hence, it is necessary to be cautious in drawing inferences concerning changes between the years. Moreover, 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 40 per cent of processed records were obtained from the Darwin area. The majority of children in the sample (80 per cent) were aged between 5 and 11 years inclusive, with approximately equivalent numbers in individual ages within this range. However, children aged twelve years or less 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 and 13 years or more results in less reliability of computed statistics for those ages, and they have been suppressed where indicated in the following tables. 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 1989

The 1990 sample contains proportionately more records from the Darwin area (40 per cent) compared with the records obtained during the period August to December 1989. As noted, however, data from both years were weighted to reflect the regional sampling scheme, and so comparisons between the years are not influenced by differences in the number of sampled records. The representation of key age groups in both years are similar, although there are proportionately fewer 12 year olds and more 4 year olds in 1990.

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 country of birth.

Changes since 1989

There were few changes in the distribution of birthplace between the two reporting periods.

Table 3: Deciduous teeth: age-specific prevalence

The mean number of decayed teeth among children aged 5 to 10 years ranges from 0.53 to 1.47 and was lower among older children. There was less variation in mean dmft (1.42 to 2.13) 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 78.1 per cent among 5-year-olds to 38.9 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 52.2 per cent among 5-year-olds to 49.9 per cent among 10-year-olds. The percentage of caries free children therefore mirrors the mean dmft prevalence.

Changes since 1989

Most changes in mean numbers of deciduous teeth with caries experience among 5- to 9-year-olds between 1989 and 1990 were small, and generally do not appear to represent clear trends. Among the key age groups (5 to 10 years) differences in age-specific mean numbers were no greater than 0.1 teeth, and the percentage of children with $dmft=0$ differed by no more than two per cent. Despite this stability, there were noticeable changes in the percentage of caries experience due to decay ($d/dmft$), although there were both increases and decreases among different age groups. These fluctuations most likely reflect the sensitivity of the ratio which is based on small values for the denominator ($dmft$), especially among the oldest ages.

Table 4: Permanent teeth: age-specific prevalence

The mean number of decayed permanent teeth was consistently smaller than the mean number of decayed deciduous teeth, and was relatively consistent across the range of 7 to 11 years. However, the mean DMFT increased quite consistently across age groups (up to 13 years), as expected. As a consequence, the percentage of DMFT due to decay (D/DMFT) and the percentage caries free (DMFT=0) declined across age groups. Age-specific D/DMFT percentages were higher than d/dmft percentages in the deciduous dentition below the age of nine. However this phenomenon is due largely to the very low DMFT values which act as the denominator in D/DMFT and drive the percentage upwards. It is noteworthy that more than 50 per cent of children aged 12 or less were caries free.

Changes since 1989

Changes in the mean number of decayed permanent teeth were inconsequential, and for most ages, the mean DMFT differed by less than 0.1 teeth. The percentage of caries free children (DMFT=0) appears to be stable across the two years. Indeed, the only notable variations were observed for the D/DMFT percentage. As discussed with regard to the deciduous teeth, this presumably can be attributed to the sensitivity of the statistic when the denominator values (mean DMFT) are small.

Table 5: All teeth: age-specific prevalence

Untreated caries in the combined deciduous and permanent dentitions existed for between 26 and 46 per cent of children in the age range 5 to 12 years. The greatest likelihood of untreated decay occurred for 6-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 10 per cent or more of children aged 8 years or less being affected to this extent. This age distribution suggests that the greatest contribution comes from the deciduous dentition.

While more than 96 per cent of children had no deciduous or permanent teeth missing due to caries, smaller percentages avoid fillings, and there is an age-associated decline. Similarly, there is a decline in the percentage of children with no caries experience in either deciduous or permanent dentition, from 52 per cent at age five to 35 per cent at age 12. Above the age of 9, the percentage is relatively constant at around 40 per cent. This serves to demonstrate that more than one third of children survive primary school with no experience of dental caries.

Changes since 1989

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 1990 data. While some individual age-specific percentages differ by more than five per cent (for example, percentage with no decayed teeth among 9- and 12-year-olds), these comprise both increases and decreases and they do not appear to reflect specific trends.

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 1989

The mean number of fissure sealants in 1990 is greater than that observed in 1989; among those aged 7 to 12 years, the mean number is at least 0.1 teeth greater. While the percentage of children with fissure sealants is greater among those with caries experience than those without, the differential between the two groups was similar during both 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 five 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 1989

The percentage of children with immediate treatment needs, and their levels of caries experience, are similar to the 1989 estimates. However there were some small increases (of two or three per cent) among 5- and 6-year-olds. These 1990 figures for 5- and 6-year-olds are probably better estimates than the earlier figures (since they are based on larger numbers of sampled children), and so it is likely that the small increase relates primarily to a slight underestimate from 1989.

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 10 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. Nearly one half of children in the key age range received examinations within 7 to 12 months of their previous examination, while approximately one third occurred within 13 to 24 months. Very few children were re-examined after two years. There was a fairly consistent pattern of shorter re-examination intervals among younger children.

Changes since 1989

There was a tendency, more noticeable among older ages, for a smaller percentage of children have had a previous examination. This small reduction, of approximately five per cent among those aged 9 years or more, is accompanied by increases in both the percentage of children with no previous examination and the percentage with an unknown status.

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 4 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 1989

There were no clear changes, either in deciduous caries experience of specific groups or differentials among non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children, between 1989 and 1990.

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

Differentials in permanent caries experience among non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children were not identical to the profile of deciduous caries experience. While Aboriginal children had a higher mean number of decayed permanent teeth, there was only minimal differentials in mean DMFT prevalence. As a consequence, Aboriginal children had a higher percentage of caries experience attributed to decay (D/DMFT), although they had generally similar percentages of children with no caries experience (DMFT=0).

Changes since 1989

There were no clear changes, either in permanent caries experience of specific groups or differentials among non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children, between 1989 and 1990.

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 was a more consistent effect, observable among all children aged 4 to 13 years, of an increase in the percentage receiving re-examinations within a 7 to 12 month period. The corresponding reductions were most apparent for re-examinations within a 0 to 6 month period, although there tended to be additional reductions for the 13 to 24 month period.

Figure 2: Time since last dental examination

This figure draws on information from table 8, and selects 6- and 12-year-olds to demonstrate the variation in time since last recall. The bars, using data from those children who received a subsequent examination by the School Dental Service during 1990, indicate that more than 50 per cent of 6-year-olds received a subsequent examination within 12 months of the previous School Dental Service examination, while for 12-year-olds, the figure was 29.4 per cent.

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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 data 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

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			
4	223	243	466	417	379	796	619	619	1239
5	313	300	613	444	444	888	765	747	1512
6	338	340	678	459	498	957	811	843	1654
7	359	343	702	496	497	993	868	846	1714
8	307	360	667	513	465	978	808	846	1654
9	344	305	649	451	509	960	814	802	1616
10	324	337	661	435	457	892	774	808	1582
11	386	371	757	425	413	838	853	824	1677
12	177	194	371	354	385	739	508	555	1064
13	31	22	53	131	115	246	140	115	255
14	3	4	7	68	80	148	54	64	119
15	4	0	4	43	33	76	37	24	62
Total	2811	2819	5630	4253	4292	8545	7068	7107	14175

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 coding scheme is described in Appendix A. 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CHILDREN		MOTHERS	
	Number ¹	%	Number	%
Australia (non-Aboriginal)	9280	65.5	7523	53.1
Australia (Aboriginal or TSI)	3843	27.1	3787	26.7
United Kingdom and Eire	83	0.6	583	4.1
Other English speaking	212	1.5	482	3.4
Southern Europe	85	0.6	239	1.7
Other Europe	48	0.3	192	1.4
Middle East	8	0.1	31	0.2
South East Asia	315	2.2	689	4.9
Other Asia	83	0.6	165	1.2
Other	55	0.4	162	1.1
Not known	163	1.1	321	2.3
Total	14175	100.0	14175	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 PREVALENCE¹

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	104	1.23	2.34	1.41	2.53	83.4	60.5
4	1110	1.16	2.36	1.31	2.54	87.4	64.6
5	1512	1.47	2.51	1.87	2.89	78.1	52.2
6	1654	1.33	2.13	2.08	2.81	65.4	45.2
7	1714	1.01	1.80	1.94	2.65	53.2	46.7
8	1654	1.01	1.76	2.13	2.59	48.5	41.1
9	1616	0.71	1.40	1.96	2.48	39.2	41.7
10	1582	0.53	1.09	1.42	1.98	38.9	49.9
11	1677	0.25	0.74	0.82	1.54	30.7	67.7
12	1064	0.12	0.44	0.38	1.05	38.8	82.3

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 PREVALENCE¹

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
6	1654	0.09	0.50	0.10	0.53	82.7	93.4
7	1714	0.10	0.40	0.18	0.59	60.8	88.9
8	1654	0.17	0.55	0.28	0.76	61.8	83.9
9	1616	0.16	0.55	0.44	0.93	39.4	76.2
10	1582	0.22	0.70	0.60	1.14	36.4	68.8
11	1677	0.25	0.72	0.90	1.42	26.7	59.4
12	1064	0.41	0.98	1.16	1.69	35.1	52.4
13	255	0.58	1.30	1.65	2.56	35.0	44.9
14	119	*	*	1.52	2.26	29.7	45.6
15	62	*	*	1.55	2.08	*	48.8

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

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	104	65.3	*	*	*	12.7	98.6	92.3	60.5
4	1110	67.6	8.9	6.8	4.7	12.1	98.3	94.7	64.6
5	1512	58.0	11.1	9.1	5.9	16.0	97.1	85.2	52.0
6	1654	53.6	14.6	9.9	7.7	14.2	97.1	72.4	43.6
7	1714	58.4	16.1	9.7	5.3	10.6	95.6	66.1	42.7
8	1654	56.0	17.6	10.2	5.5	10.7	95.4	59.7	37.4
9	1616	61.2	18.5	8.4	5.2	6.7	96.0	52.0	35.5
10	1582	64.2	18.2	7.8	5.1	4.8	96.5	52.8	36.4
11	1677	73.9	13.6	7.2	2.4	2.9	97.9	52.9	42.4
12	1064	70.7	17.0	5.9	3.6	2.8	96.6	58.0	43.4
13	255	69.4	14.2	8.0	*	*	94.9	57.3	41.2
14	119	77.1	*	*	*	*	94.4	54.4	40.7
15	62	80.9	*	*	*	*	90.4	56.0	42.8

- 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 25 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 1990

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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	1654	0.04	0.33	1545	1.5	109	10.6
7	1714	0.20	0.76	1524	6.9	190	19.1
8	1654	0.44	1.06	1388	16.2	266	25.2
9	1616	0.58	1.21	1231	21.2	385	29.1
10	1582	0.59	1.21	1088	20.6	494	31.8
11	1677	0.58	1.22	997	17.9	680	32.7
12	1064	0.79	1.68	557	21.6	507	31.9
13	255	0.68	1.62	115	16.7	141	25.8
14	119	*	*	54	*	65	*
15	62	*	*	30	*	32	*

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 25 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 1990

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CHILDREN IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE TREATMENT												
Age (years) in sample	Number of children in sample	No.	% of all children	dmft		DMFT		% with d+D=				
				mean	sd	mean	sd	0	1	2	3	4+
3	104	6	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	*	-	*
4	1110	32	2.9	5.97	4.28	-	-	-	*	*	*	57.7
5	1512	70	4.6	5.75	4.18	-	-	*	13.1	*	13.3	54.2
6	1654	77	4.6	5.06	2.84	*	*	*	20.4	12.1	12.2	52.5
7	1714	58	3.4	3.91	3.16	0.42	0.79	*	19.7	*	*	38.3
8	1654	74	4.5	4.35	2.99	0.89	1.18	*	22.9	*	14.6	44.0
9	1616	61	3.8	3.58	3.38	1.00	1.22	17.3	30.4	16.4	*	28.7
10	1582	49	3.1	2.59	2.40	1.23	1.51	*	37.9	*	*	19.4
11	1677	41	2.4	*	*	1.97	2.14	31.3	*	22.6	*	*
12	1064	43	4.0	*	*	2.18	2.46	*	51.6	*	*	*
13	255	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	*
14	119	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	*
15	62	4	*	-	-	*	*	*	*	*	-	*

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Age (years)	Number of children examined	Previous examination in School Dental Service (%)			CHILDREN WITH PREVIOUS EXAMINATION Months since last examination ² (%)			
		No	Yes	Unknown	0-6	7-12	13-24	25+
3	115	66.4	19.1	14.5	53.4	40.3	*	-
4	1186	69.6	15.0	15.4	51.5	39.1	7.3	*
5	1660	31.0	46.8	22.2	25.0	53.6	20.9	*
6	1808	12.1	72.1	15.8	19.0	48.9	29.5	2.5
7	1876	8.6	76.7	14.6	17.7	49.1	30.7	2.6
8	1782	6.8	78.6	14.7	17.4	44.3	33.5	4.8
9	1747	6.1	78.5	15.4	16.1	42.6	35.5	5.7
10	1694	5.1	80.7	14.1	15.4	43.7	36.2	4.7
11	1807	4.6	83.7	11.7	19.5	46.5	28.1	6.0
12	1300	6.1	82.3	11.6	26.2	41.2	27.5	5.1
13	320	7.2	74.1	18.7	21.8	39.6	28.4	10.2
14	124	*	62.0	27.9	*	19.8	53.5	17.1
15	65	*	67.4	27.0	*	*	71.7	*

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
3	97	1.35	2.57	1.55	2.79	82.1	61.7
4	884	1.02	2.27	1.20	2.53	84.4	67.9
5	1095	1.13	2.18	1.58	2.70	71.1	58.7
6	1197	1.05	1.81	1.89	2.73	59.0	48.8
7	1205	0.71	1.42	1.82	2.65	40.8	50.4
8	1140	0.65	1.25	1.97	2.53	35.2	44.7
9	1102	0.50	0.96	2.02	2.49	27.7	41.4
10	1068	0.37	0.85	1.47	2.06	27.7	49.9
11	1127	0.24	0.72	1.00	1.69	23.4	63.8
12	659	0.13	0.47	0.51	1.18	29.4	78.2
13	93	*	*	*	*	*	85.2
14	41	-	-	*	*	-	92.6
15	40	*	*	*	*	*	89.7

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	34	*	*	*	*	95.7	54.9
4	196	2.22	2.95	2.33	3.00	93.2	41.7
5	397	2.52	3.15	2.78	3.36	90.8	32.1
6	432	2.35	2.90	2.88	3.15	80.6	31.5
7	492	1.85	2.41	2.42	2.75	77.2	34.1
8	505	1.98	2.46	2.62	2.72	74.2	30.6
9	519	1.32	2.12	1.86	2.45	69.7	41.9
10	489	0.95	1.48	1.43	1.91	66.3	47.3
11	489	0.30	0.82	0.50	1.12	59.0	74.2
12	447	0.11	0.44	0.22	0.83	62.2	87.7

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
6	1197	0.08	0.49	0.10	0.52	80.8	93.8
7	1205	0.09	0.39	0.17	0.58	56.6	89.7
8	1140	0.12	0.44	0.25	0.75	52.3	85.6
9	1102	0.12	0.45	0.44	0.94	28.7	76.5
10	1068	0.16	0.58	0.59	1.11	28.4	68.5
11	1127	0.20	0.58	0.91	1.40	22.1	58.6
12	659	0.29	0.74	1.14	1.61	26.3	51.9
13	93	0.40	0.95	1.81	2.33	19.2	41.0
14	41	*	*	1.76	2.34	*	39.5
15	40	*	*	1.95	2.46	*	51.3

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 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
6	432	0.09	0.37	0.11	0.42	85.5	92.8
7	492	0.16	0.52	0.23	0.66	73.1	85.8
8	505	0.33	0.78	0.43	0.90	75.7	76.1
9	519	0.29	0.75	0.45	0.92	61.7	73.9
10	489	0.39	0.93	0.71	1.28	53.5	66.7
11	489	0.43	1.06	1.04	1.56	38.8	55.9
12	447	0.58	1.23	1.24	1.85	46.5	51.7
13	203	0.72	1.43	1.60	2.79	47.2	47.4
14	110	0.70	1.82	1.48	2.26	41.9	46.2
15	43	*	*	1.26	1.67	*	45.5

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.

TABLE 9: REGIONAL AGE GROUP-SPECIFIC dmf PREVALENCE¹

The Statewide data are broken down into regional estimates of the prevalence of the dmf index and its components; a State total is also provided (although not provided on this page). Indexes are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period, and information derived from subsequent examinations of a child in this period is excluded. Age group-specific indexes denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 25 per cent, and population estimates of these indexes are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

dmf: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmf		d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
Region: Darwin							
3-5	632	1.44	2.47	1.85	2.85	76.7	52.8
6-8	2099	.99	1.73	1.93	2.60	53.2	46.4
9-11	2108	.42	.96	1.33	2.03	33.4	54.8
Region: East Arnhem							
3-5	88	1.65	2.96	2.31	3.56	66.4	56.8
6-8	353	1.55	2.45	2.68	3.06	55.2	35.4
9-11	407	.69	1.44	1.60	2.21	46.0	50.1
Region: Alice Springs - Urban							
3-5	394	1.33	2.40	1.73	2.82	78.9	55.1
6-8	1127	1.12	1.96	2.26	2.86	49.8	42.2
9-11	1027	.49	1.00	1.73	2.26	31.7	45.5

(continued over)

¹ Legend: d - decayed deciduous teeth
dmf - 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.

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Age (years)	Number of children in sample ¹	decayed		dmf ²		d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
Region: Alice Springs - Rural							
3-5	120	1.55	2.08	1.68	2.41	95.5	49.2
6-8	415	1.59	2.15	1.82	2.30	87.1	39.8
9-11	380	0.85	1.39	1.08	1.57	77.6	54.7
Region: Tennant Creek - Urban							
3-5	33	*	*	*	*	*	75.8
6-8	141	0.76	1.69	1.26	2.11	57.0	63.8
9-11	124	*	*	0.69	1.23	*	71.0
Region: Tennant Creek - Rural							
3-5	21	*	*	*	*	100	66.7
6-8	103	0.63	1.36	1.09	1.91	61.2	58.3
9-11	93	*	*	0.77	1.39	47.4	61.3
Region: Katherine							
3-5	208	2.10	3.11	2.54	3.36	79.6	37.5
6-8	729	1.50	2.33	2.52	2.95	58.7	37.2
9-11	609	0.75	1.78	1.55	2.39	43.7	53.2

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.

² Legend: d - decayed deciduous teeth
dmf - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
sd - standard deviation

TABLE 10: REGIONAL AGE GROUP-SPECIFIC DMF PREVALENCE¹

The Statewide data are broken down into regional estimates of the prevalence of the DMF index and its components; a State total is also provided (although not provided on this page). Indexes are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period, and information derived from subsequent examinations of a child in this period is excluded. Age group-specific indexes denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 25 per cent, and population estimates of these indexes are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

DMF: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMF		D/DMF %	Children with DMF=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
Region: Darwin							
6-8	2872	0.10	0.47	0.16	0.60	63.2	90.1
9-11	2893	0.17	0.58	0.59	1.15	30.6	69.9
12-14	520	0.37	0.87	1.11	1.59	34.0	53.4
Region: East Arnhem							
6-8	257	0.11	0.44	0.24	0.84	56.4	86.7
9-11	297	0.25	0.76	0.80	1.28	29.3	60.2
12-14	53	*	*	1.60	1.91	42.4	43.8
Region: Alice Springs - Urban							
6-8	821	0.10	0.43	0.15	0.54	63.6	90.2
9-11	749	0.15	0.54	0.57	1.10	26.4	70.7
12-14	198	0.23	0.60	0.94	1.57	24.2	56.8

(continued over)

¹ Legend: D - decayed permanent teeth
DMF - 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.

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Age (years)	Number of children in sample ¹	DECAYED		DMF ²		D/DMF %	Children with DMF=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
Region: Alice Springs - Rural							
6-8	302	0.22	0.62	0.26	0.67	88.0	83.1
9-11	277	0.34	0.75	0.64	1.14	58.2	67.6
12-14	141	0.51	0.97	1.02	1.58	52.7	56.5
Region: Tennant Creek - Urban							
6-8	103	*	*	*	*	*	95.7
9-11	90	*	*	*	*	*	79.8
12-14	12	*	*	*	*	*	68.8
Region: Tennant Creek - Rural							
6-8	75	*	*	*	*	*	83.5
9-11	68	*	*	0.56	1.07	53.2	68.8
12-14	15	*	*	*	*	*	61.9
Region: Katherine							
6-8	531	0.21	0.62	0.34	0.84	68.0	82.7
9-11	444	0.45	1.06	1.13	1.58	37.6	54.2
12-14	112	0.69	1.58	1.91	2.20	32.1	35.7

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.

² Legend: D - decayed permanent teeth
DMF - decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth
sd - standard deviation

TABLE 11: REGIONAL AGE GROUP-SPECIFIC DMF AND dmf PREVALENCE¹

The Statewide data are broken down into regional estimates of the prevalence of the combined components of the dmf and DMF. Indexes are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period, and information derived from subsequent examinations of a child in this period are excluded. Age group-specific indexes denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 25 per cent, and population estimates of these indexes are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

DMF: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

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
Region: Darwin									
3-5	1522	64.8	9.5	8.1	4.8	12.8	97.3	89.3	59.9
6-8	2877	58.3	16.4	9.5	6.0	9.7	96.1	65.5	43.4
9-11	2898	69.2	16.8	7.1	3.5	3.4	97.0	52.1	40.4
12-14	521	70.9	18.3	5.3	2.9	2.5	96.3	57.4	44.6
Region: East Arnhem									
3-5	127	58.0	*	*	*	23.0	96.0	85.6	51.1
6-8	258	49.9	16.4	10.2	5.9	17.6	89.5	63.5	32.6
9-11	297	61.2	16.0	8.8	6.6	7.4	94.3	54.3	30.7
12-14	53	61.6	*	*	*	*	95.9	57.5	32.9

(continued over)

¹ Legend: d+D - decayed deciduous and permanent teeth
m+M - missing deciduous and permanent teeth
f+F - restored deciduous and permanent teeth
dmf+DMF - decayed, missing or filled deciduous and 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.

(continued from previous page)

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
Region: Alice Springs - Urban									
3-5	558	61.4	11.4	6.8	6.4	14.0	98.4	89.1	57.9
6-8	823	57.5	13.8	11.4	5.3	12.0	97.2	59.9	39.4
9-11	750	67.0	16.3	9.0	4.1	3.7	97.9	44.9	33.9
12-14	198	76.8	15.9	*	*	*	97.8	52.4	43.2
Region: Alice Springs - Rural									
3-5	137	58.5	11.2	*	*	14.4	98.4	97.3	56.9
6-8	303	40.0	20.5	10.8	9.2	19.5	97.3	88.4	35.4
9-11	278	49.5	20.8	10.8	9.5	9.5	96.8	75.8	37.6
12-14	141	67.4	16.6	*	*	*	96.4	73.6	52.3
Region: Tennant Creek - Urban									
3-5	29	82.5	*	*	*	*	97.5	90.0	77.5
6-8	103	73.0	*	*	*	*	96.5	80.9	62.4
9-11	91	83.9	*	*	*	*	96.0	67.7	59.7
12-14	12	68.8	*	*	-	-	93.8	68.8	*
Region: Tennant Creek - Rural									
3-5	39	64.2	*	*	*	*	98.1	94.3	62.3
6-8	75	68.0	*	*	*	*	92.2	78.6	54.4
9-11	68	67.7	*	*	*	*	94.6	66.7	47.3
12-14	15	81.0	*	*	*	*	95.2	71.4	57.1
Region: Katherine									
3-5	285	50.8	10.5	12.6	5.4	20.8	98.5	87.2	44.4
6-8	532	48.1	17.4	9.5	7.5	17.4	96.3	62.4	34.2
9-11	445	59.3	15.6	8.7	4.9	11.5	95.9	47.8	31.2
12-14	112	66.9	13.0	*	*	*	96.8	47.4	28.6

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 12: REGIONAL FISSURE SEALANT DISTRIBUTION¹

The Statewide data are broken down into regional estimates of the distribution of fissure sealants. Indexes are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period, and information derived from subsequent examinations of a child in this period are excluded. Age group-specific indexes denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds twenty five per cent, and population estimates of these indexes are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

FISSURE SEALANTS: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

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+
Region: Darwin							
6-8	2872	0.19	0.71	2586	7.0	285	19.9
9-11	2893	0.47	1.05	2022	17.1	870	29.6
12-14	520	0.65	1.52	277	19.5	242	27.5
Region: East Arnhem							
6-8	257	0.30	0.96	223	7.2	34	27.7
9-11	297	0.44	1.04	179	11.8	118	30.2
12-14	53	*	*	23	*	30	*
Region: Alice Springs - Urban							
6-8	821	0.35	0.97	741	12.2	80	28.2
9-11	749	1.14	1.64	529	34.8	219	52.2
12-14	198	1.58	2.05	112	39.0	85	63.2

(continued over)

¹ Legend: DMF - 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. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

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Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	Number of sealants mean	sd	CHILDREN WITH DMF=0 ¹ number	% with F/S=1+	CHILDREN WITH DMF=1+ number	% with F/S=1+
Region: Alice Springs - Rural							
6-8	302	*	*	251	*	51	8.6
9-11	277	0.31	0.80	187	15.2	90	18.7
12-14	141	0.45	1.18	79	12.8	61	25.0
Region: Tennant Creek - Urban							
6-8	103	*	*	98	*	4	33.3
9-11	90	0.86	1.48	72	27.3	18	40.0
12-14	12	*	*	8	*	4	*
Region: Tennant Creek - Rural							
6-8	75	*	*	63	*	12	-
9-11	68	*	*	47	*	21	*
12-14	15	*	*	9	*	6	*
Region: Katherine							
6-8	531	0.32	0.98	439	9.6	92	20.6
9-11	444	0.66	1.39	241	22.1	203	26.5
12-14	112	0.84	2.20	40	18.2	72	23.2

¹ DMF - 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. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

TABLE 13: REGIONAL IMMEDIATE TREATMENT NEEDS¹

The Statewide data are broken down into regional estimates of the need for immediate treatment. Indexes 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 group-specific indices denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 25 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 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

IMMEDIATE TREATMENT NEEDS: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

CHILDREN IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE TREATMENT												
Age (years) in sample	Number of children in sample	No.	% of all children	dmft		DMFT		% with d+D=				
				mean	sd	mean	sd	0	1	2	3	4+
Region: Darwin												
3-5	860	40	4.7	5.46	4.38	-	-	*	*	*	*	51.8
6-8	2872	116	4.0	3.98	2.84	0.45	0.87	12.0	28.7	8.4	12.6	38.3
9-11	2893	89	3.1	2.08	2.34	0.87	1.11	28.1	34.3	18.0	*	11.8
12-14	520	29	5.5	*	*	1.81	1.64	*	51.2	*	*	*
Region: East Arnhem												
3-5	64	2	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	*
6-8	257	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	*	*	*
9-11	297	3	*	*	*	*	*	-	*	*	*	*
12-14	53	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region: Alice Springs - Urban												
3-5	287	4	*	*	*	-	-	-	*	*	*	*
6-8	821	11	*	4.80	2.24	*	*	-	*	*	*	*
9-11	749	2	*	6.67	1.69	*	*	-	*	-	-	*
12-14	198	1	*	-	-	3.00	-	-	100.0	-	-	-

(continued over)

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 14: INTRASTATE COMPARISON: AGE-STANDARDIZED dmft¹

This table uses age-standardized estimates of dmft within each region. Age standardization eliminates any biases which may be introduced by variations in the age composition among different regions. Data are based on information collected during the previous twelve months, and information collected from subsequent examinations of a child in this period is eliminated.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

dmft: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

Region	Number of children in sample ²	AGE STANDARDIZED				d/dmft %	Children with dmft=0 %
		decayed mean	sd	dmft mean	sd		
Darwin	7115	0.74	1.56	1.54	2.36	48.0	54.0
East Arnhem	667	1.06	2.08	1.96	2.73	51.6	48.3
Alice Springs - Urban	2066	0.82	1.70	1.79	2.56	46.1	49.5
Alice Springs - Rural	829	1.02	1.76	1.20	1.94	84.6	56.8
Tennant Creek - Urban	226	0.46	1.38	0.96	1.83	41.4	68.6
Tennant Creek - Rural	174	0.50	1.21	0.85	1.64	59.4	63.3
Katherine	1243	1.17	2.23	1.96	2.77	56.3	47.6

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 15: INTRASTATE COMPARISON: AGE-STANDARDIZED DMF¹

This table uses age-standardized estimates of DMF within each region. Age standardization eliminates any biases which may be introduced by variations in the age composition among different regions. Data are based on information collected during the previous twelve months, and information collected from subsequent examinations of a child in this period is eliminated.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

DMF: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

Region	Number of children in sample ²	AGE STANDARDIZED				D/DMF %	Children with dmft=0 %
		DECAYED mean	sd	DMF mean	sd		
Darwin	7111	0.14	0.54	0.40	0.99	37.9	80.1
East Arnhem	667	0.21	0.74	0.59	1.23	37.5	72.3
Alice Springs - Urban	2065	0.12	0.47	0.37	0.96	33.2	80.9
Alice Springs - Rural	829	0.30	0.73	0.52	1.11	63.3	74.2
Tennant Creek - Urban	226	*	*	0.21	0.68	38.6	88.4
Tennant Creek - Rural	173	0.21	0.66	0.39	0.87	50.4	77.3
Katherine	1242	0.32	0.93	0.74	1.43	43.7	69.8

¹ Legend: D - decayed permanent teeth
DMF - 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 14S: AGE-STANDARDISED REGIONAL dmf PREVALENCE:
ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

This table uses age-standardized estimates of dmf within each region. Age standardization eliminates any biases which may be introduced by variations in the age composition among different regions. Data are based on information collected during the previous twelve months, and information collected from subsequent examinations of a child in this period is eliminated.

State/Territory: **Northern Territory**

Sampling ratio (Darwin): **1:1.9**

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

	Number of children in sample ²	decayed mean	sd	dmf mean	sd	d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
Region: Darwin							
Aboriginals	1222	1.44	2.28	1.86	2.60	76.0	47.2
Non-Aboriginals	5893	0.59	1.32	1.47	2.31	41.2	55.4
Region: East Arnhem							
Aboriginals	228	2.01	2.78	2.13	2.88	92.7	47.1
Non-Aboriginals	440	0.56	1.35	1.88	2.65	29.6	48.9
Region: Alice Springs - Urban							
Aboriginals	308	1.44	2.27	2.36	2.88	60.6	39.0
Non-Aboriginals	1758	0.71	1.56	1.68	2.49	42.9	51.4

(continued over)

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 16: ALL TEETH: AGE STANDARDIZED PREVALENCE

This table uses age-standardized estimates of dmf within each region. Age standardization eliminates any biases which may be introduced by variations in the age composition among different regions. Data are based on information collected during the previous twelve months, and information collected from subsequent examinations of a child in this period is eliminated.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

Region	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
Darwin	7111	63.8	16.0	8.2	4.8	7.3	96.5	62.0	43.6
East Arnhem	667	57.4	15.3	8.8	6.2	12.3	93.1	60.6	34.2
Alice Springs - Urban	2065	63.4	14.6	9.2	4.7	8.1	97.6	57.7	40.3
Alice Springs - Rural	829	50.0	19.1	9.9	8.5	12.5	97.0	82.3	41.3
Tennant Creek - Urban	226	77.8	9.4	*	*	*	96.1	76.0	62.5
Tennant Creek - Rural	173	69.3	14.4	*	*	*	94.3	75.4	53.3
Katherine	1242	53.8	15.6	9.9	5.8	14.8	96.5	58.5	33.0

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.

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Age (years)	Number of children in sample ¹	decayed		dmf ²		d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
Region: Alice Springs - Rural							
Aboriginals	782	1.04	1.76	1.15	1.84	87.5	57.0
Non-Aboriginals	47	*	*	1.89	3.10	41.1	52.9
Region: Tennant Creek - Urban							
Aboriginals	38	*	*	1.81	2.56	58.9	45.6
Non-Aboriginals	188	0.31	0.95	0.79	1.60	34.2	73.2
Region: Tennant Creek - Rural							
Aboriginals	145	0.52	1.25	0.80	1.56	64.6	64.0
Non-Aboriginals	29	*	*	*	*	*	59.4
Region: Katherine							
Aboriginals	582	1.72	2.75	2.30	3.04	70.5	41.4
Non-Aboriginals	660	0.68	1.48	1.66	2.46	40.6	53.1

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.

² Legend: d - decayed deciduous teeth
dmf - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
sd - standard deviation

**TABLE 15S: AGE-STANDARDISED REGIONAL DMF PREVALENCE:
ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

This table uses age-standardized estimates of DMF within each region. Age standardization eliminates any biases which may be introduced by variations in the age composition among different regions. Data are based on information collected during the previous twelve months, and information collected from subsequent examinations of a child in this period is eliminated.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

	Number of children in sample ²	decayed mean	sd	DMF mean	sd	D/DMF %	Children with DMFT=0 %
Region: Darwin							
Aboriginals	1221	0.13	0.49	0.33	0.87	38.6	83.0
Non-Aboriginals	5890	0.14	0.55	0.41	1.02	37.8	79.5
Region: East Arnhem							
Aboriginals	227	0.46	1.13	0.62	1.28	67.3	70.8
Non-Aboriginals	439	0.09	0.34	0.58	1.21	20.8	73.1
Region: Alice Springs - Urban							
Aboriginals	308	0.23	0.69	0.65	1.42	40.3	72.9
Non-Aboriginals	1757	0.10	0.41	0.32	0.85	31.3	82.3

(continued over)

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.

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Age (years)	Number of children in sample ¹	decayed		DMF ²		D/DMF %	Children with DMFT=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
Region: Alice Springs - Rural							
Aboriginals	781	0.32	0.75	0.53	1.12	65.5	73.6
Non-Aboriginals	47	-	-	*	*	-	84.3
Region: Tennant Creek - Urban							
Aboriginals	38	*	*	*	*	*	79.8
Non-Aboriginals	188	*	*	*	*	*	90.2
Region: Tennant Creek - Rural							
Aboriginals	145	0.25	0.72	0.43	0.90	52.7	74.9
Non-Aboriginals	28	*	*	*	*	*	89.4
Region: Katherine							
Aboriginals	582	0.50	1.20	0.83	1.56	59.5	66.6
Non-Aboriginals	660	0.16	0.54	0.66	1.30	26.6	72.6

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.

² Legend: d - decayed deciduous teeth
dmf - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth
sd - standard deviation

**TABLE 16S: AGE-STANDARDISED REGIONAL dmf AND DMF PREVALENCE:
ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

The Statewide data are broken down into regional estimates of the prevalence of the combined components of the dmf and DMF. Indexes are calculated from data collected over a 12 month period, and information derived from subsequent examinations of a child in this period are excluded. Age group-specific indexes denoted with an asterisk (*) are those in which the relative standard error exceeds 25 per cent, and population estimates of these indexes are statistically unreliable.

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1990

Date of report: 31st August 1991

DMF: PREVALENCE FOR AGE GROUPS

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
Region: Darwin									
Non-Aboriginals	5890	66.8	16.0	7.5	4.1	5.6	96.9	59.5	44.9
Aboriginals	1221	49.0	15.8	11.3	8.1	15.9	94.9	74.5	37.1
Region: East Arnhem									
Non-Aboriginals	439	68.7	16.4	7.2	3.7	4.0	92.2	47.1	37.0
Aboriginals	227	35.6	13.1	12.0	11.1	28.3	94.7	86.8	28.7
Region: Alice Springs - Urban									
Non-Aboriginals	1757	66.5	14.0	8.6	4.5	6.3	97.8	58.0	42.8
Aboriginals	308	45.7	17.8	12.4	5.6	18.6	96.5	55.9	26.0
Region: Tennant Creek - Urban									
Non-Aboriginals	188	82.8	*	*	*	*	96.1	77.4	67.4
Aboriginals	38	53.0	*	*	*	*	96.2	68.7	37.6
Region: Tennant Creek - Rural									
Non-Aboriginals	28	84.9	*	*	*	*	87.8	74.3	59.4
Aboriginals	145	66.2	16.7	*	*	*	95.5	75.6	52.1

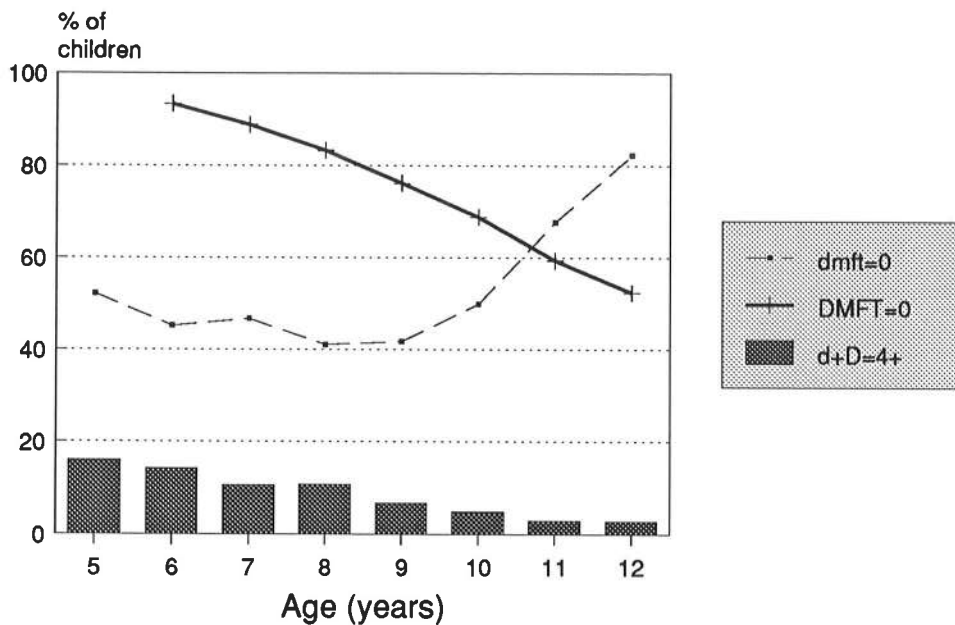
² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

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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
Region: Alice Springs - Rural									
Non-Aboriginals	47	74.2	*	*	*	*	84.7	67.7	46.6
Aboriginals	781	48.6	19.8	10.2	8.7	12.8	97.7	83.1	41.0
Region: Katherine									
Non-Aboriginals	660	64.9	14.8	8.6	5.4	6.3	97.2	52.3	39.5
Aboriginals	582	41.3	16.5	11.4	6.3	24.5	95.6	65.6	25.6

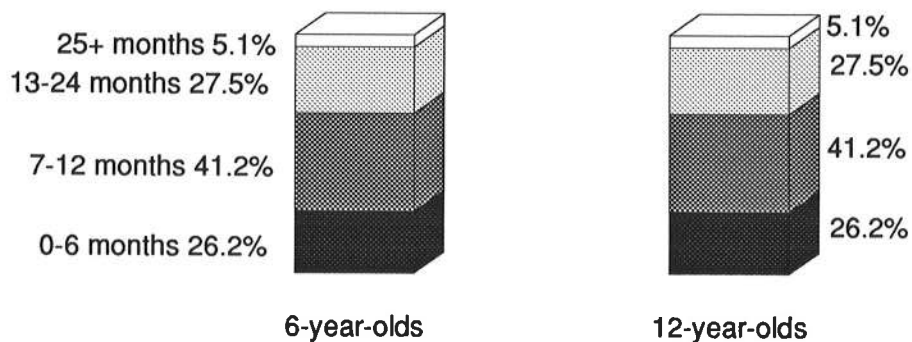
² Data are weighted to reflect the sampling scheme by correcting for the over-representation in the sample of children with an unknown date of birth and children from outside the Darwin region. Data relating to second or subsequent examinations of children within this reporting period are eliminated.

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



Based on data from 12,473 children aged 5-12 years

FIGURE 2: TIME SINCE LAST DENTAL EXAMINATION



Based on data from 15,764 children with subsequent examinations during 1990

THE CHILD DENTAL HEALTH SURVEY - NORTHERN TERRITORY 1990

Purpose of this report

This report establishes the series of annual reports providing descriptive statistics concerning child dental health in the Northern Territory, and follows the 1989 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 1990 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 1990 and 1989 data. It should be recalled that the current data relate to a full year of examinations, while the 1989 statistics were collected only during the second half of that calendar year. Hence, it is necessary to be cautious in drawing inferences concerning changes between the years. Moreover, 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 40 per cent of processed records were obtained from the Darwin area. The majority of children in the sample (80 per cent) were aged between 5 and 11 years inclusive, with approximately equivalent numbers in individual ages within this range. However, children aged twelve years or less 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 and 13 years or more results in less reliability of computed statistics for those ages, and they have been suppressed where indicated in the following tables. 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.