
The Child Dental Health Survey Northern Territory, 1992

by

The AIHW Dental Statistics
and Research Unit

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.

DSRU Staff:

	Head:	Professor John Spencer
	Research Officers:	Mr Fearnley Szuster Mr Michael Davies Mr David Brennan
Consultant Oral Epidemiologist:		Dr Gary Slade
Technical Assistant:		Ms Judy Stewart

THE CHILD DENTAL HEALTH SURVEY - NORTHERN TERRITORY 1992

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 1991 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 1992 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 1992 and 1991 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 38 per cent of processed records were obtained from the Darwin area. The majority of children in the sample (79 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 12 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 1991

There were no substantial changes in the sampling procedures between the reporting periods.

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 1991

There were no substantial 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 0.46 to 1.25 and was lower among older children. There was less variation in mean dmft (1.35 to 2.08) 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 76.1 per cent among 5-year-olds to 36.4 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 57.9 per cent among 5-year-olds to 51.3 per cent among 10-year-olds. The percentage of caries free children therefore mirrors the mean dmft prevalence.

Changes since 1991

Most changes in mean numbers of deciduous teeth with caries experience among 5- to 9-year-olds between 1990 and 1991 were small. There was no consistent difference in the prevalence of d, and slight but consistent increases in dmft to age 9 years. There was no consistent difference in the d/dmft ratios, or in the percentages of children with dmft=0.

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 1991

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 variation was the DMFT for children aged 12 years, which appears substantially lower, by 0.35 teeth.

Table 5: All teeth: age-specific prevalence

Untreated caries in the combined deciduous and permanent dentitions existed for between 24 and 43 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 7 years or less being affected to this extent. This age distribution suggests that the greatest contribution comes from the deciduous dentition.

While more than 95 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 57 per cent at age five to 50 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 1991

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 1991 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 60 per cent more likely to have fissure sealants as children with DMFT equal to zero.

Changes since 1991

The mean number of fissure sealants in 1991 is greater than that observed in 1990; 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 1991

The percentage of children with immediate treatment needs, and their levels of caries experience, are similar to the 1990 estimates.

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. Over 40 per cent of children in the key age range received examinations within 7 to 12 months of their previous examination, while approximately one quarter 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 1991

There was a tendency for a lower percentage of children to have a repeat exam within 12 months, and a higher percentage to have a lower 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 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 1991

There were no clear changes, either in deciduous caries experience of specific groups or differentials among non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children, between 1991 and 1992.

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 1991

There was a significant improvement in the DMFT scores for non-Aboriginal children, which resulted in there now being a significant DMFT disadvantage for Aboriginal children.

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 1991, 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.

For further information contact:

Mr Michael Davies or Dr Gary Slade
AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Unit
The University of Adelaide Ph: (08) 303-5027
ADELAIDE SA 5005 Fax: (08) 232 4062

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

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	0	0	0	40	33	73	30	24	54
3	9	11	20	82	95	177	73	86	159
4	242	230	472	373	318	691	618	560	1178
5	291	300	591	465	406	871	755	724	1479
6	339	335	674	447	432	879	809	793	1602
7	303	315	618	477	485	962	781	804	1585
8	330	344	674	492	478	970	830	839	1670
9	308	342	650	464	475	939	778	834	1613
10	328	310	638	501	460	961	834	778	1612
11	312	288	600	432	455	887	760	743	1504
12	207	201	408	326	342	668	534	537	1071
13	42	31	73	113	127	240	143	138	281
14	9	3	12	69	79	148	64	63	127
15	4	1	5	46	41	87	40	32	72
16	1	0	1	35	18	53	27	13	41
17	1	0	1	2	6	8	3	4	7
18	1	0	1	4	2	6	4	1	6
19	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1
22	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1
Total	2727	2711	5438	4371	4253	8624	7086	6976	14062

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CHILDREN		MOTHERS	
	Number ¹	%	Number	%
Australia (non-Aboriginal)	8923	63.5	7157	50.9
Australia (Aboriginal or TSI)	4265	30.3	4120	29.3
United Kingdom and Eire	75	0.5	657	4.7
Other English speaking	165	1.2	452	3.2
Southern Europe	43	0.3	173	1.2
Other Europe	27	0.2	166	1.2
Middle East	8	0.1	22	0.2
South East Asia	316	2.2	826	5.9
Other Asia	63	0.4	138	1.0
Other	55	0.4	156	1.1
Not known	88	0.6	154	1.1
Blank	35	0.2	41	0.3
Total	14061	100.0	14061	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 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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	159	1.60	2.69	1.82	3.08	88.9	58.7
4	1178	1.15	2.23	1.35	2.52	89.0	65.1
5	1479	1.25	2.34	1.68	2.92	76.1	57.9
6	1602	1.23	2.09	1.99	2.82	61.9	47.8
7	1585	1.05	1.82	2.08	2.68	51.4	43.8
8	1670	0.88	1.61	2.13	2.56	42.0	41.0
9	1613	0.63	1.23	1.81	2.33	37.5	43.8
10	1612	0.46	1.04	1.35	1.93	36.4	51.4

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 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 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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
5	1479	0.01	0.13	0.02	0.21	63.7	99.1
6	1602	0.06	0.35	0.08	0.41	84.4	95.6
7	1585	0.11	0.44	0.17	0.58	69.0	89.7
8	1670	0.16	0.58	0.35	0.89	47.2	81.3
9	1613	0.15	0.55	0.39	0.89	37.2	77.4
10	1612	0.19	0.65	0.49	1.02	36.2	73.6
11	1504	0.21	0.64	0.71	1.24	30.6	64.7
12	1071	0.34	1.00	0.91	1.53	33.5	58.9
13	281	0.56	1.23	1.39	1.87	40.4	46.5
14	127	0.87	1.92	1.66	2.52	43.0	42.3
15	72	1.44	2.58	2.58	3.03	50.5	32.0

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 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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

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	159	61.0	5.1	10.2	4.7	19.0	97.2	95.3	58.7
4	1178	67.0	7.2	7.2	6.4	12.2	98.6	93.8	64.9
5	1479	62.9	10.6	8.3	4.6	13.5	98.0	85.7	57.5
6	1602	57.1	12.7	11.6	5.7	13.0	96.9	71.9	46.6
7	1585	57.2	16.1	10.3	5.2	11.2	96.1	63.1	40.6
8	1668	58.7	17.3	9.9	4.7	9.3	95.2	54.7	36.3
9	1613	63.7	17.6	9.0	4.3	5.3	96.7	51.9	35.7
10	1612	68.6	16.1	7.4	3.4	4.5	97.0	54.9	39.6
11	1504	75.0	15.5	4.8	2.2	2.5	97.6	56.7	45.5
12	1071	76.3	14.1	5.1	2.2	2.4	98.2	62.9	49.8
13	281	71.7	14.0	6.7	3.4	4.2	97.9	63.0	44.5
14	127	68.1	9.9	12.8	*	6.9	94.8	62.1	41.2
15	72	51.7	21.6	8.2	*	14.5	87.6	60.9	28.9

- 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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

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	1602	0.05	0.42	1531	1.5	71	11.1
7	1585	0.30	0.95	1421	9.1	163	23.8
8	1668	0.62	1.25	1357	20.5	311	37.9
9	1612	0.85	1.43	1247	27.7	365	43.6
10	1612	0.98	1.50	1186	32.7	426	45.1
11	1504	1.06	1.58	973	34.2	531	51.9
12	1071	1.07	1.71	630	29.0	440	50.0
13	281	0.82	1.76	131	18.5	150	36.3
14	127	0.59	1.37	54	20.6	73	23.3
15	72	*	*	23	16.2	49	18.3

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

CHILDREN IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE TREATMENT												
Age (years)	Number of children in sample	No.	% of all children	dmft		DMFT		% with d+D=				
				mean	sd	mean	sd	0	1	2	3	4+
3	159	10	6.0	5.80	4.15	*	*	0.0	*	*	*	61.2
4	1178	25	2.1	5.15	3.68	-	-	*	*	*	20.5	53.0
5	1479	37	2.5	5.26	3.69	*	*	11.8	11.9	*	*	62.6
6	1602	57	3.5	4.83	3.74	0.41	1.05	7.7	18.0	11.7	10.2	52.4
7	1585	72	4.5	3.90	3.00	0.66	1.11	18.3	15.1	23.1	10.1	33.4
8	1670	62	3.7	4.19	3.20	1.11	1.84	16.5	17.6	14.3	15.3	36.2
9	1613	61	3.8	2.86	2.87	1.06	1.15	19.1	16.7	27.1	8.4	28.6
10	1612	61	3.8	2.07	2.58	1.30	1.28	24.9	20.4	20.0	14.3	20.4
11	1504	47	3.1	1.32	1.84	1.47	1.57	38.2	9.3	24.7	*	21.5
12	1071	45	4.2	*	*	2.61	2.54	11.5	33.7	20.9	13.1	20.8
13	281	14	5.1	-	-	2.62	2.39	30.3	24.6	*	*	*
14	127	13	10.3	*	*	4.70	3.98	*	*	*	*	33.0
15	72	9	13.3	-	-	4.71	3.44	*	*	*	*	*

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

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	172	69.0	27.1	3.9	32.5	50.3	14.2	*
4	1281	68.9	19.7	11.4	55.7	36.8	5.2	2.3
5	1624	30.2	55.5	14.3	24.2	50.9	24.9	*
6	1778	12.1	76.2	11.7	15.9	49.8	32.9	1.4
7	1768	8.6	81.1	10.3	16.8	47.3	33.7	2.3
8	1786	5.9	81.8	12.3	11.7	49.6	34.7	4.0
9	1758	5.3	84.2	10.4	13.8	46.0	36.4	3.9
10	1728	5.1	84.4	10.5	13.5	47.7	35.2	3.5
11	1633	3.6	85.7	10.7	14.3	45.8	35.4	4.6
12	1196	3.9	85.3	10.9	15.6	44.2	32.9	7.3
13	323	7.2	78.5	14.2	18.8	43.9	24.8	12.4
14	131	6.7	65.3	28.0	13.8	33.4	39.2	13.6
15	73	*	57.1	38.9	12.3	37.0	31.3	19.4

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	144	1.30	2.36	1.53	2.82	85.6	60.7
4	892	0.95	2.03	1.17	2.42	86.6	68.7
5	1085	0.88	1.82	1.39	2.62	68.9	62.5
6	1101	0.83	1.59	1.64	2.66	53.4	54.7
7	1059	0.76	1.48	1.88	2.65	42.2	49.5
8	1108	0.56	1.09	1.95	2.51	30.6	45.5
9	1066	0.43	0.89	1.81	2.40	27.1	46.2
10	1077	0.35	0.84	1.35	1.94	27.1	51.9

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	47	3.15	3.50	3.49	3.85	93.6	38.0
4	262	2.17	2.85	2.27	2.94	95.4	46.8
5	370	2.64	3.44	2.88	3.67	92.1	40.0
6	451	2.46	2.87	3.11	3.18	79.3	27.3
7	520	1.73	2.30	2.56	2.79	67.1	29.7
8	541	1.69	2.26	2.68	2.72	62.9	28.8
9	548	1.07	1.66	1.92	2.24	56.9	36.3
10	534	0.77	1.42	1.40	2.00	58.0	49.9

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
5	1085	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.23	47.0	99.0
6	1101	0.05	0.30	0.07	0.38	75.4	96.0
7	1059	0.08	0.37	0.15	0.57	60.4	90.8
8	1108	0.11	0.45	0.30	0.80	35.9	82.8
9	1066	0.09	0.41	0.35	0.83	25.0	78.8
10	1077	0.11	0.45	0.43	0.92	26.3	75.5
11	989	0.12	0.42	0.64	1.17	20.7	66.4
12	642	0.17	0.54	0.79	1.28	21.4	60.0
13	80	0.27	0.90	1.49	2.04	14.5	46.8
14	14	*	*	1.64	1.15	*	*
15	15	*	*	3.13	3.16	*	*

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 1992

Date of report: 23rd February 1993

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
5	370	*	*	*	*	100	99.1
6	451	0.10	0.49	0.11	0.50	97.8	94.3
7	520	0.17	0.55	0.22	0.65	78.8	86.7
8	541	0.29	0.78	0.49	1.11	62.0	76.2
9	548	0.29	0.81	0.50	1.03	55.4	72.0
10	534	0.38	0.94	0.68	1.22	52.7	67.4
11	504	0.40	0.94	0.88	1.40	47.1	60.7
12	427	0.61	1.40	1.15	1.86	50.2	55.6
13	231	0.70	1.39	1.46	1.90	48.6	43.7
14	140	0.93	2.01	1.72	2.66	43.3	41.6
15	70	1.58	2.86	2.57	3.13	51.4	33.4

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+

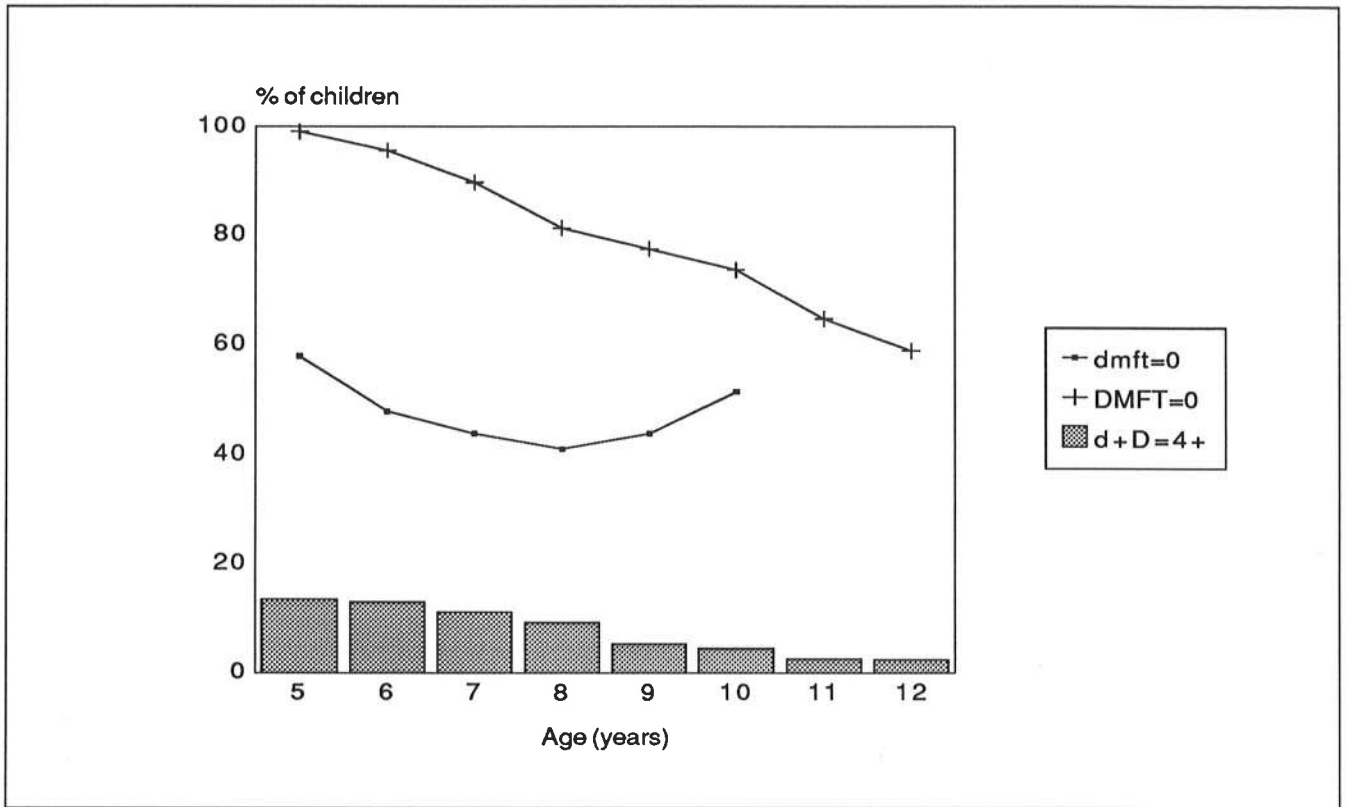


FIGURE 2: TIME SINCE LAST DENTAL EXAMINATION

