
The Child Dental Health Survey Northern Territory, 1993

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.

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THE CHILD DENTAL HEALTH SURVEY - NORTHERN TERRITORY 1993

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 1992 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 1993 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 1993 and 1992 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 42 per cent of processed records were obtained from the Darwin area. The majority of children in the sample (78 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 1992

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 1992

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

Table 3: Deciduous teeth: age-specific prevalence

The mean number of decayed teeth among children aged 5 to 10 years ranges from 0.41 to 1.26 and was lower among older children. There was less variation in mean dmft (1.33 to 2.00) 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 73.4 per cent among 5-year-olds to 35.0 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 54.9 per cent among 5-year-olds to 52.4 per cent among 10-year-olds. The percentage of caries free children therefore mirrors the mean dmft prevalence.

Changes since 1992

Most changes in mean numbers of deciduous teeth with caries experience among 5- to 9-year-olds between 1992 and 1993 were small. There were small but consistent reductions in the prevalence of d, dmft, and in the d/dmft ratios, and small increases 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 increased slightly across the range of 7 to 10 years from 0.11 to 0.18. In addition, the mean DMFT increased quite consistently across age groups (up to 13 years), as expected. Related to these changes, the percentage of DMFT due to decay (D/DMFT) and the percentage caries free (DMFT=0) declined across age groups. It is noteworthy that more than 60 per cent of children aged 12 or less were caries free.

Changes since 1992

Changes in the mean number of decayed permanent teeth were inconsequential, and for most ages, the mean DMFT declined although the mean levels differed by less than 0.1 teeth. The percentage of caries free children (DMFT=0) appears to have generally increased across the two years, particularly for the older age groups aged 11 years and over.

Table 5: All teeth: age-specific prevalence

Untreated caries in the combined deciduous and permanent dentitions existed for between 23 and 39 per cent of children in the age range 5 to 12 years. The greatest likelihood of untreated decay occurred for 8-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 between 4 and 6 years being affected to this extent.

While more than 94 per cent of children had no deciduous or permanent teeth missing due to caries, smaller percentages avoid fillings indicated by over 46 per cent of children aged 6 and over having at least one filling. Similarly, there is a decline in the percentage of children with no caries experience in either deciduous or permanent dentition, from 55 per cent at age five to 52 per cent at age 12. Above the age of 9, the percentage is relatively constant at around 50 per cent. This serves to demonstrate that more than one third of children survive primary school with no experience of dental caries.

Changes since 1992

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 1992 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 substantial and 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 1992

The mean number of fissure sealants in 1993 has not changed appreciably from 1992 among those aged 7 to 12 years, as has the differential between those with and without caries experience in the presence of fissure sealants.

Table 7: Immediate treatment needs

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

Changes since 1992

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 45 per cent 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.

Changes since 1992

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

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

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

Changes since 1992

There were improvements in the pattern of deciduous caries experience of Aboriginal children, indicated by slightly lower d (on average approximately 0.1 teeth), and correspondingly lower dmft, d/dmft and higher percentages with no caries experience (up to 10 per cent).

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 1992

There was some indication of improvement in the DMFT scores for Aboriginal children in the older ages, which was reflected also in slightly lower D/DMFT scores from 1992 to 1993.

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

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

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 1993, indicate that more than 60 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 59.6 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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

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	1	0	1	27	27	54	21	19	40
3	12	27	39	42	56	98	47	77	124
4	229	222	451	377	361	738	586	565	1152
5	373	297	670	414	400	814	811	696	1507
6	366	330	696	481	481	962	849	800	1650
7	358	364	722	480	449	929	838	824	1661
8	350	325	675	462	492	954	814	801	1615
9	365	370	735	430	429	859	811	817	1629
10	319	335	654	442	424	866	757	766	1523
11	315	369	684	432	394	826	744	791	1535
12	276	235	511	288	278	566	587	523	1110
13	67	44	111	103	105	208	166	136	302
14	28	15	43	45	48	93	71	55	126
15	18	8	26	35	27	62	50	30	80
16	11	2	13	19	13	32	29	12	41
17	4	2	6	4	8	12	8	9	17
18	0	0	0	4	1	5	3	1	4
19	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1
20	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Total	3092	2945	6037	4087	3994	8081	7193	6925	14118

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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CHILDREN		MOTHERS	
	Number ¹	%	Number	%
Australia (non-Aboriginal)	9037	64.0	7301	51.7
Australia (Aboriginal or TSI)	4306	30.5	4163	29.5
United Kingdom and Eire	85	0.6	677	4.8
Other English speaking	153	1.1	463	3.3
Southern Europe	36	0.3	165	1.2
Other Europe	19	0.1	125	0.9
Middle East	6	0.0	18	0.1
South East Asia	275	1.9	784	5.6
Other Asia	63	0.4	128	0.9
Other	49	0.3	136	1.0
Not known	58	0.4	126	0.9
Blank	31	0.2	34	0.2
Total	14118	100.0	14118	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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf %	Children with dmft=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
2	40	1.22	2.53	1.27	2.55	91.7	67.8
3	124	0.86	1.87	1.05	2.10	86.3	69.5
4	1152	1.15	2.28	1.38	2.55	84.5	63.7
5	1507	1.26	2.32	1.73	2.79	73.4	54.9
6	1650	1.09	2.11	1.81	2.82	60.0	53.0
7	1661	0.86	1.63	1.93	2.65	48.0	46.5
8	1615	0.77	1.45	2.00	2.49	41.1	41.8
9	1629	0.60	1.20	1.81	2.28	35.6	44.3
10	1523	0.41	0.88	1.33	1.95	35.0	52.4

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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with DMFT=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
5	1507	*	*	0.01	0.13	46.1	99.3
6	1650	0.06	0.41	0.10	0.50	64.8	94.8
7	1661	0.11	0.46	0.19	0.64	56.6	88.6
8	1615	0.15	0.59	0.29	0.80	53.0	83.4
9	1629	0.15	0.52	0.41	0.94	38.3	78.3
10	1523	0.18	0.54	0.53	1.00	33.6	70.8
11	1535	0.21	0.67	0.63	1.19	34.2	68.4
12	1110	0.31	0.89	0.85	1.45	33.7	62.1
13	302	0.53	1.11	1.08	1.76	54.6	59.0
14	126	0.71	1.38	1.29	1.87	49.1	52.1
15	80	0.98	1.83	1.74	2.20	46.4	41.4

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.

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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

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
2	40	69.6	*	*	*	14.3	96.4	100.0	67.8
3	124	71.8	8.0	7.5	5.2	7.5	98.8	94.2	69.5
4	1152	67.2	7.3	8.8	4.5	12.2	97.8	93.4	63.7
5	1507	62.0	11.4	8.6	4.4	13.5	96.8	84.7	54.8
6	1650	62.8	12.8	8.1	4.7	11.5	96.3	75.1	51.9
7	1661	61.0	16.0	10.1	5.2	7.6	95.0	64.3	44.5
8	1615	60.6	16.8	10.8	4.6	7.3	94.5	56.4	37.3
9	1629	63.8	17.6	9.7	3.7	5.3	94.4	53.3	37.5
10	1523	67.0	18.5	8.5	3.6	2.5	95.7	53.8	39.3
11	1535	76.7	14.3	5.4	1.7	1.9	97.6	62.2	50.1
12	1110	76.2	13.5	6.2	2.3	1.8	97.2	64.0	52.0
13	302	69.4	16.4	7.0	2.8	4.4	96.3	75.2	54.8
14	126	71.3	11.6	5.5	*	10.0	89.5	76.2	51.1
15	80	67.0	9.6	7.0	*	13.7	91.2	62.2	40.5

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

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

TABLE 6: FISSURE SEALANTS: AGE-SPECIFIC PREVALENCE¹

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

State/Territory: Northern Territory

Sampling ratio (Darwin): 1:1.9

Data for period January-December 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

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	1650	0.05	0.40	1563	1.7	86	10.5
7	1661	0.30	0.93	1473	8.8	189	27.2
8	1615	0.63	1.31	1346	19.8	269	33.5
9	1629	0.90	1.47	1276	29.5	353	41.4
10	1523	1.02	1.53	1079	33.4	444	47.7
11	1535	1.13	1.66	1049	34.8	486	48.2
12	1110	1.16	1.89	689	32.6	421	52.2
13	302	0.93	1.97	178	21.3	124	36.0
14	126	0.43	1.38	66	7.7	60	21.5
15	80	0.50	1.33	33	15.2	47	18.4

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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

CHILDREN IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE TREATMENT												
Age (years)	Number of children in sample		% of all children	dmft		DMFT		% with d+D=				
	No.			mean	sd	mean	sd	0	1	2	3	4+
3	124	6	5.1	*	*	-	-	*	*	*	0.0	*
4	1152	43	3.7	4.19	3.55	-	-	*	20.9	17.8	16.0	38.7
5	1507	52	3.5	4.52	4.00	*	*	*	31.9	11.9	14.7	37.5
6	1650	66	4.0	4.41	3.63	0.25	0.56	7.4	21.9	10.6	12.5	47.6
7	1661	87	5.2	3.04	2.38	0.74	1.33	*	36.6	17.5	8.0	33.7
8	1615	78	4.9	3.54	2.80	0.98	1.50	*	46.6	15.9	8.9	24.9
9	1629	64	3.9	2.53	2.37	1.08	1.41	7.7	34.6	26.0	8.7	23.0
10	1523	69	4.6	1.62	1.75	1.38	1.44	13.0	43.0	26.9	12.0	*
11	1535	53	3.5	1.31	2.05	1.47	1.31	13.1	37.4	23.2	11.6	14.6
12	1110	39	3.5	0.41	0.95	2.60	2.04	*	23.4	37.4	14.1	17.8
13	302	21	6.9	*	*	2.95	2.13	*	19.7	26.6	*	26.3
14	126	19	14.8	-	-	2.51	2.06	*	47.9	*	*	22.0
15	80	17	21.5	*	*	3.76	2.26	0.0	28.0	*	*	43.9

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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

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	138	50.0	28.3	21.7	41.7	43.5	14.8	0.0
4	1290	62.0	24.8	13.2	57.4	30.5	8.5	3.6
5	1662	30.3	52.9	16.8	20.5	54.3	24.4	0.7
6	1796	12.1	72.3	15.6	12.8	50.3	35.3	1.6
7	1807	8.4	79.7	11.9	11.8	53.1	32.4	2.7
8	1740	7.3	78.3	14.5	11.8	53.2	32.7	2.3
9	1732	6.5	81.3	12.2	10.3	51.3	34.6	3.9
10	1618	5.7	82.1	12.2	9.5	50.1	36.5	3.9
11	1613	5.3	84.3	10.4	7.7	48.4	40.0	4.0
12	1209	4.0	82.6	13.3	8.9	50.7	36.5	4.0
13	334	3.5	79.9	16.6	12.5	38.3	35.5	13.7
14	133	*	70.0	29.0	10.5	19.9	38.8	30.9
15	82	*	67.4	31.7	*	27.1	41.0	28.0

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.

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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	110	0.74	1.80	0.96	2.02	81.8	71.4
4	928	0.87	1.93	1.11	2.28	80.9	68.7
5	1035	0.92	1.93	1.47	2.61	65.2	59.3
6	1114	0.69	1.45	1.48	2.48	50.4	57.8
7	1126	0.63	1.25	1.81	2.64	39.7	50.5
8	1065	0.51	1.02	1.88	2.45	30.0	46.2
9	1089	0.48	0.96	1.86	2.32	28.0	44.0
10	990	0.38	0.82	1.50	2.09	29.0	49.8

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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	decayed		dmft		d/dmf	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
3	30	2.00	2.26	2.21	2.61	96.1	39.3
4	258	2.41	3.21	2.68	3.34	90.9	41.3
5	430	2.30	3.00	2.58	3.18	89.4	41.7
6	520	2.09	2.92	2.66	3.36	78.3	38.9
7	519	1.55	2.25	2.42	2.89	65.7	35.6
8	549	1.31	1.94	2.25	2.58	59.6	33.3
9	518	0.94	1.66	1.89	2.31	50.6	40.5
10	536	0.51	1.02	1.10	1.70	50.4	55.2

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

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

**TABLE 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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT %	Children with DMFT=0 %
		mean	sd	mean	sd		
5	1035	*	*	0.01	0.16	42.0	99.1
6	1114	0.04	0.31	0.08	0.43	53.2	95.8
7	1126	0.09	0.39	0.17	0.58	49.3	89.2
8	1065	0.09	0.39	0.24	0.70	39.9	85.8
9	1089	0.09	0.39	0.37	0.86	26.8	79.5
10	990	0.12	0.44	0.46	0.93	26.7	73.7
11	1017	0.14	0.46	0.56	1.08	28.8	70.6
12	667	0.22	0.63	0.81	1.38	26.0	62.7

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

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

**TABLE 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 1993

Date of report: 24th May 1994

Age (years)	Number of children in sample ²	DECAYED		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	DMFT=0 %
5	430	*	*	*	*	*	99.4
6	520	0.10	0.51	0.13	0.57	73.2	92.5
7	519	0.13	0.51	0.22	0.75	63.5	88.2
8	549	0.26	0.81	0.40	0.96	66.5	78.7
9	518	0.26	0.70	0.53	1.08	52.2	72.6
10	536	0.30	0.71	0.68	1.12	44.5	64.5
11	520	0.38	1.01	0.78	1.42	44.0	64.3
12	414	0.50	1.22	0.96	1.65	47.9	60.7

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

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

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

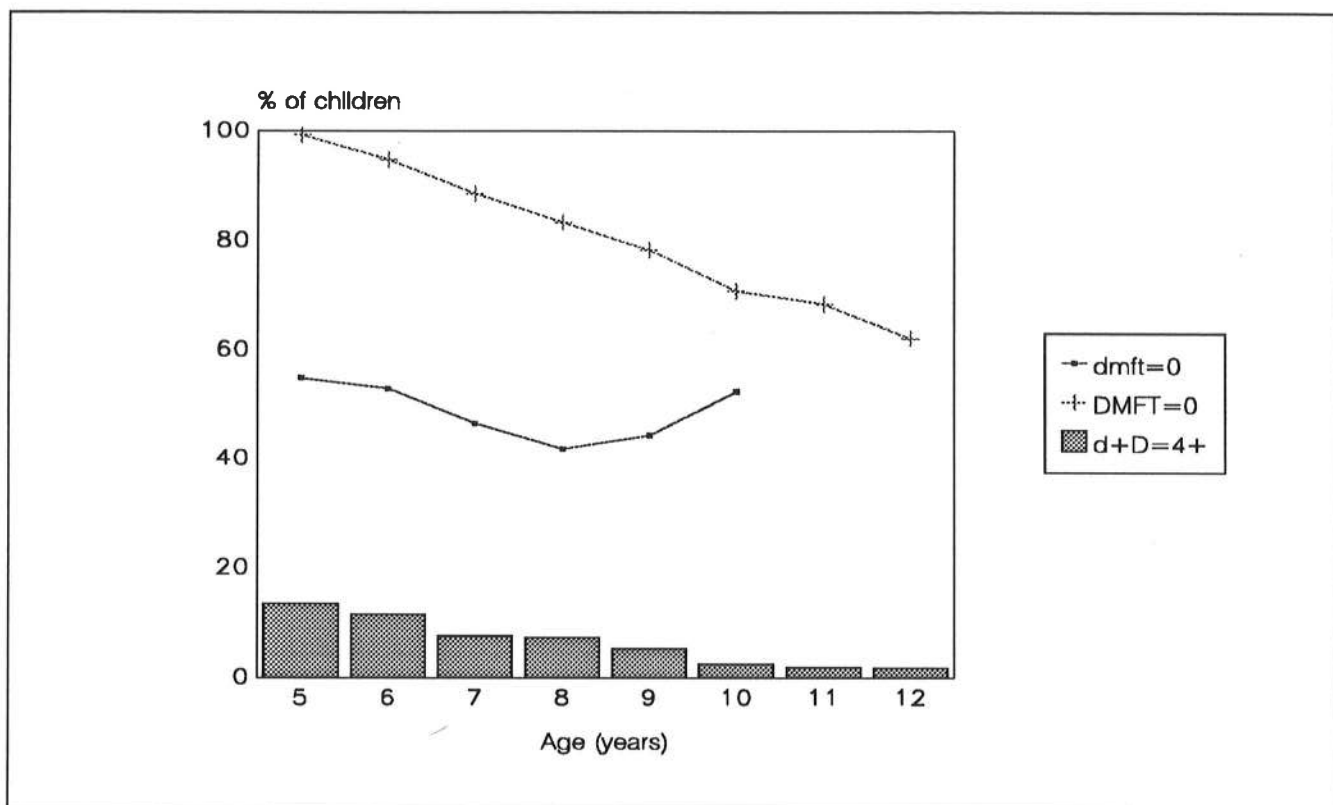


FIGURE 2: TIME SINCE LAST DENTAL EXAMINATION

