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# **The Child Dental Health Survey Northern Territory 1996**

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**AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Unit  
The University of Adelaide**

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## **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 1995 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 1996 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 1996 and 1995 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.*

## **Demographic composition of the sample**

Approximately 46 per cent of processed records were obtained from the Darwin area (see Table 1). The majority of children in the sample (95 per cent) were aged between 4 and 12 years inclusive, with approximately equivalent numbers in individual ages within this range. However, children aged thirteen years or more and less than four years were also represented in substantial numbers. Females and males were represented in similar proportions across all ages, although more males than females were sampled overall.

The distribution of the sample was 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 was representative of primary school aged children, rather than all children in the NT. The small numbers of children aged 13 years or more resulted in less reliability of computed statistics for those ages. It should be noted that those children who are outside the main school dental service target groups may differ on key characteristics and may be less representative of their respective age groups in the NT population.

## **Changes since 1995**

There were no substantial changes in the sampling procedures between the reporting periods. The slight increase in the number of sampled cases was predominantly due to an increase in the number of children sampled from Darwin.

## **Birthplace of children and mothers**

The birthplace of both the sampled child and child's mother is presented in Table 2. The majority of children (94.7 per cent) and mothers (80.9 per cent) were born in Australia. Very small percentages of children were born elsewhere. Almost 6.5 per cent of mothers were born in SE Asia and a further 7.4 per cent were born in the United Kingdom, Ireland, or another English speaking country.

## **Indigenous status of children and mothers**

A substantial percentage of children and mothers are of Indigenous origin, accounting for 28.9 per cent and 28.1 per cent of the sample respectively (see Table 3).

## **Deciduous teeth: age-specific caries experience**

The mean number of clinically decayed teeth among children aged 5 to 10 years ranges from 1.19 to 0.44 and was lower among older children (see Table 4). There is a consistent decline in clinically detectable new decay with age. In contrast, dmft scores increased from 1.09 among children up to four years of age to 2.07 for eight year olds, before declining. This decline among older children should be interpreted in view of the exfoliation of deciduous teeth as children grow older.

The percentage of caries experience due to decay (d/dmft) showed a strong and consistent age-associated decline from 89.5 per cent among children up to four years old to 33.5 per cent among 10 year-olds. By comparison, the percentage of caries-free children (% dmft=0) showed a more modest reduction from 70.1 per cent among children up to four years of age to 43.6 per cent among eight year-olds, before increasing to 51.6 per cent for 10 year olds.

## **Changes since 1995**

There were consistent reductions in the mean number of deciduous teeth with clinical caries experience among children aged up to 7 years of age between 1995 and 1996. There were also reductions in dmft scores for children up to six years of age between 1995 and 1996.

## **Permanent teeth: age-specific caries experience**

As shown in Table 5, the mean number of clinically decayed permanent teeth was consistently smaller than the mean number of decayed deciduous teeth, and generally increased across the range of 6 to 14 years from 0.04 to 0.60. In addition, as expected, the mean DMFT increased quite consistently across age groups. The percentage of DMFT due to decay (D/DMFT) and the percentage caries free (DMFT=0) declined across age groups. The mean DMFT score for 12 year-old children was 0.71. It is noteworthy that for children aged 12 or less more than 66 per cent of children in any age group were caries free.

## **Changes since 1995**

Changes in the mean number of clinically decayed permanent teeth and DMFT were minimal. In addition, the percentage of caries free children (DMFT=0) is relatively stable across the two years. There was some decrease in D/DMFT for children aged between six years and eight years of age.

## **All teeth: age-specific experience**

Untreated clinically detectable caries in the combined deciduous and permanent dentitions (see Table 6) existed for between 21.1 and 42.0 per cent of children in all age groups. 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 approximately 10 per cent of children aged between up to eight years of age being affected to this extent.

More than 95 per cent of children aged 5 to 12 years had no deciduous or permanent teeth missing due to caries. However, smaller percentages avoided fillings with between 31.8 and 44.8 per cent of children aged 7 to 12 years old having at least one filling. There is a decline in the percentage of children with no clinical caries experience in either deciduous or permanent dentition, from 70.1 per cent up to age four to 38.8 per cent at age eight. Above the age of eight, the percentage increases to 55.8 per cent for 12 year-olds.

## **Changes since 1995**

There are minimal and non-systematic changes in the combined deciduous and permanent caries experience between 1995 and 1996.

## **Fissure sealants: age-specific experience**

Fissure sealants increase in prevalence for children up to 12 years of age, before decreasing (see Table 7). There is clear evidence of preferential use of fissure sealants among those with caries experience: children aged up to 12 years old with some caries experience (DMFT=1+) were between 32 and 470 per cent more likely to have fissure sealants as children with DMFT=0.

## **Changes since 1995**

The mean number of fissure sealants in 1996 did not change substantially from 1995.

## **Immediate treatment needs**

Details of immediate treatment needs are shown in Table 8. Immediate treatment needs for existing or imminent pain or infection were infrequent in the key age groups (5 to 12 years). Fewer than 6 per cent of children in this age range required immediate treatment, with the percentages across age groups being similar. The small group of children with immediate treatment needs had a high mean dmft experience. This was

highest in younger children indicating that much of the need for immediate treatment is due to disease in deciduous teeth.

### **Changes since 1995**

Across most age groups, the percentage of children with immediate treatment needs reduced, although the levels of caries experience in these children (expressed as mean dmft) do not vary systematically from the 1995 estimates. The percentage of children with d+D=0 has increased for a number of age groups since 1995, with the percentage of children with d+D=1 decreasing.

## **School Dental Service examinations**

Table 9 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 12 per cent of those aged 7 to 12 years 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 9 refers to children with previous examinations, and indicates their distribution according to time since last dental examination. Approximately 42 per cent of children in the key age range received examinations 13 to 24 months since their previous examination, while similar percentages of children had been examined within a 7 to 12 month period.

Time since last dental exam for both 6 and 12-year-old children is shown in Figure 1.

### **Changes since 1995**

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

## **Deciduous teeth of non-Indigenous and Indigenous children**

Supplementary Tables S1 and S2 describe the age-specific indices of deciduous caries experience for non-Indigenous and Indigenous children. For those aged 3 to 10 years, Indigenous children had three to four times more clinically detectable decay and dmft scores approximately twice as high as non-Indigenous children. Fewer Indigenous children were found to have had no caries experience. In addition, the percentage of the dmft index attributed to decay (d/dmft) was substantially higher among Indigenous children.

## **Permanent teeth of non-Indigenous and Indigenous children**

Differences in permanent caries experience among non-Indigenous and Indigenous children are comparable to the profile of deciduous caries experience (see Tables S3 and S4). Indigenous children had a higher mean number of clinically decayed permanent teeth, and a higher mean DMFT score. Indigenous 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).



## **Percentage of children with dmft=0, DMFT=0 and d+D=4+**

Figure 2 presents a summary of data contained in Tables 3, 4 and 5 showing 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 0, and in the percentage of children with dmft+DMFT scores of 4 or more. These reductions probably indicate the progressive accumulation of disease and treatment and the treatment of active decay within the school dental service.

# TABLES

**Table 1: Demographic composition of 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.

Age (years)	Number of records processed						No. of children in sample <sup>1</sup>		
	Darwin region, known date of birth			Non-Darwin or age only known					
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1	1	0	1	18	21	39	15	16	30
2	7	0	7	35	42	77	35	31	67
3	22	18	40	89	89	178	90	90	180
4	354	330	684	315	332	647	714	692	1406
5	393	356	749	418	398	816	835	770	1604
6	384	404	788	450	461	911	828	872	1700
7	377	370	747	444	407	851	826	789	1614
8	360	370	730	425	444	869	782	802	1584
9	373	345	718	454	445	899	820	772	1592
10	385	378	763	421	408	829	818	793	1610
11	375	347	722	357	400	757	752	745	1497
12	306	299	605	293	267	560	619	584	1203
13	67	44	111	140	115	255	184	135	319
14	12	9	21	5	57	112	55	51	105
15	7	4	11	29	35	64	27	30	57
16	2	0	2	6	9	15	7	7	13
17	3	1	4	4	8	12	5	7	13
18	0	0	0	4	2	6	3	1	4
19	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
20	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
26	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3428</b>	<b>3276</b>	<b>6704</b>	<b>3958</b>	<b>3942</b>	<b>7900</b>	<b>7414</b>	<b>7190</b>	<b>14604</b>

<sup>1</sup> The number of children include 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: Birthplace of children and mothers

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.

	Children		Mothers	
	Number <sup>1</sup>	%	Number	%
Australia	13833	94.7	11818	80.9
UK and Ireland	66	0.5	607	4.2
Other English speaking	166	1.1	472	3.2
Southern European	53	0.4	180	1.2
Other European	31	0.2	152	1.0
Middle East	5	0.0	15	0.1
South East Asia	271	1.9	930	6.4
Other Asia	63	0.4	177	1.2
Other	55	0.4	148	1.0

## Table 3: Indigenous status of children and mothers

	Children		Mothers	
	Number	%	Number	%
Non-Indigenous	9606	70.7	7714	71.1
Indigenous	4227	28.9	4104	28.1

<sup>1</sup> 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: Deciduous teeth: age-specific caries experience<sup>1</sup>**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the dmft index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages. Where children received more than one examination, 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.

Age (years)	No. of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	Decayed		dmft		d/dmft	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
≤4	1683	0.96	2.10	1.09	2.32	89.5	70.1
5	1604	1.19	2.22	1.71	2.82	71.4	57.4
6	1700	1.10	2.12	1.79	2.79	61.3	53.0
7	1614	1.03	1.98	2.02	2.82	51.3	46.2
8	1584	0.93	1.71	2.07	2.57	45.8	43.6
9	1592	0.64	1.26	1.73	2.55	41.0	46.2
10	1610	0.44	1.04	1.36	1.97	33.5	51.6

<sup>1</sup> Legend d - decayed deciduous teeth  
dmft - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth  
sd - standard deviation

<sup>2</sup> 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: Permanent teeth: age-specific experience<sup>1</sup>**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the DMFT index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages. Where children received more than one examination, 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.

Age (years)	No. of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	Decayed		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with DMFT=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
5	1604	0.01	0.09	0.01	0.10	91.5	99.5
6	1700	0.04	0.26	0.05	0.35	87.8	97.3
7	1614	0.10	0.39	0.14	0.47	70.2	90.3
8	1584	0.17	0.56	0.27	0.71	61.3	82.9
9	1592	0.15	0.52	0.32	0.79	47.8	80.3
10	1610	0.18	0.57	0.46	0.98	40.8	75.7
11	1497	0.22	0.75	0.55	1.14	38.5	72.2
12	1203	0.25	0.78	0.71	1.34	35.2	66.5
13	319	0.50	1.21	1.04	1.70	42.8	57.7
14	105	0.60	1.35	1.18	1.89	50.4	58.3
15	57	0.47	1.09	1.22	1.70	32.3	54.4
16+	34	0.44*	1.00*	1.38	2.11	29.0	54.3

<sup>1</sup> Legend d - decayed deciduous teeth  
dmft - decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth  
sd - standard deviation

<sup>2</sup> 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: All teeth: age-specific experience<sup>1</sup>**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the combined dmft and DMFT indices and their components for individual (year of birth) ages. Where children received more than one examination, 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.

Age (years)	No. of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	% of children with d+D=					% of children with		
		0	1	2	3	≥4	m+M=0	f+F=0	dmf+DMF=0
≤4	1683	72.0	7.4	6.4	4.0	10.1	98.7	96.0	70.1
5	1604	63.7	10.3	8.2	4.9	12.9	97.4	83.4	57.3
6	1700	62.8	11.4	10.3	4.6	10.9	97.0	75.6	52.2
7	1614	59.5	15.4	9.9	5.4	9.7	95.7	66.0	43.6
8	1584	58.0	16.8	10.9	4.3	9.9	96.0	59.7	38.8
9	1592	62.4	18.8	9.0	4.7	5.2	96.8	57.8	39.6
10	1610	68.8	15.4	8.8	2.9	4.0	97.5	55.2	41.2
11	1497	75.5	13.0	5.8	3.0	2.7	97.5	63.5	51.1
12	1203	78.9	12.3	4.8	2.6	1.4	97.4	68.2	55.8
13	319	74.1	10.8	8.0	2.8	4.3	92.9	71.1	53.6
14	105	70.4	10.6	9.2	4.9*	5.0*	91.5	74.1	50.7
15	57	72.8	10.4	9.0*	3.9*	3.9*	88.3	67.6	48.0
16+	34	76.1	11.0*	6.6*	2.2*	4.4*	91.2	67.4	50.1

<sup>1</sup> Legend d - deciduous decayed teeth  
D - permanent decayed 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

<sup>2</sup> 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 7: Fissure sealants: age-specific experience<sup>1</sup>**

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. Where children received more than one examination, 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.

Age (years)	No. of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	No. of sealants		Children with DMFT=0		Children with DMFT=1+	
		mean	sd	number	% with F/S=1+	number	% with F/S=1+
5	1604	0.04	0.35	1596	1.2	9	0.0
6	1700	0.16	0.72	1653	5.2	47	29.6
7	1614	0.49	1.20	1457	14.5	157	37.0
8	1584	0.76	1.39	1314	24.1	270	39.0
9	1592	0.90	1.53	1278	26.3	314	42.5
10	1610	1.09	1.64	1220	33.7	391	45.7
11	1497	1.16	1.71	1081	36.2	416	48.2
12	1203	1.20	1.81	800	36.5	403	48.4
13	319	0.93	1.82	184	27.3	135	36.6
14	105	0.72	1.38	61	29.7	44	23.6
15	57	0.60	1.52	31	12.0	26	31.4
16+	34	0.94	1.69	18	20.2	16	42.6

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 8: Immediate treatment needs: age-specific experience<sup>1</sup>**

This table, based on Territory-wide 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. Where children received more than one examination 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.

Age (years)	No. of children in sample	Children in need of immediate treatment										
		No.	% of all children	dmft		DMFT		% with d+D=				
				mean	sd	mean	sd	0	1	2	3	4+
≤4	1683	40	2.4	4.32	3.49	–	–	9.3*	22.3	11.0*	11.0*	46.4
5	1604	52	3.2	5.16	4.01	0.03*	0.17*	7.2*	15.7	21.3	7.2*	48.6
6	1700	53	3.1	2.98	2.83	0.24*	1.20*	26.5	23.6	13.8	12.6	23.6
7	1614	85	5.3	4.89	4.14	0.22	0.58	14.8	23.4	17.4	13.0	31.4
8	1584	92	5.8	3.74	2.96	0.53	1.07	21.7	25.0	16.3	7.2	29.8
9	1592	84	5.3	3.02	2.63	0.45	0.85	18.6	22.7	27.2	12.2	19.3
10	1610	67	4.1	1.80	2.00	0.91	1.21	46.9	17.8	19.8	6.6*	8.9
11	1497	83	5.5	1.17	2.02	1.25	1.78	46.5	27.7	9.8	7.0	8.9
12	1203	53	4.4	0.31	0.69	1.65	2.40	47.4	26.2	8.4*	8.4*	9.6
13	319	33	10.5	0.31*	1.20*	2.42	2.58	40.1	17.8	20.0	4.5*	17.6
14	105	16	14.8	0.60*	1.50*	1.91	1.94	24.0*	19.0*	19.0*	23.0*	14.0*
15	57	6	10.4	0.25*	0.73*	2.25	1.88	50.0	13.0*	25.0*	13.0*	0.0*
16+	34	4	11.0*	0.39*	0.57*	2.20*	2.40*	0.0*	39.0*	41.0*	0.0*	20.0*

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



**Table 9: School dental service examinations: age-specific distribution<sup>1</sup>**

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.

Age (years)	No. of children examined	Previous examination in School Dental Service (%)			Children with previous examination Months since last examination (%) <sup>2</sup>			
		No	Yes	Unknown	0-6	7-12	13-24	25+
≤4	1755	66.2	13.7	20.1	34.7	49.9	13.8	1.6*
5	1715	29.7	50.1	20.2	15.1	51.8	32.2	0.9
6	1818	14.4	70.4	15.2	9.9	47.3	41.7	1.1
7	1681	12.0	72.5	15.5	9.6	45.8	41.0	3.7
8	1665	11.0	74.9	14.1	9.9	43.7	41.7	4.7
9	1670	9.1	76.2	14.6	10.0	41.5	43.6	4.9
10	1693	9.3	76.3	14.4	9.1	41.7	44.1	5.1
11	1553	7.7	80.1	12.2	7.2	44.2	43.9	4.7
12	1256	8.9	77.6	13.4	7.2	46.7	41.5	4.6
13	333	13.1	62.4	24.5	11.4	46.4	34.7	7.5
14	107	22.0	54.4	23.6	13.8	45.6	19.0	21.6
15	58	10.3	46.0	43.7	11.0*	55.6	24.9	8.4*
16+	35	14.8	59.7	25.5	7.2*	43.0	18.0*	32.3

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes those with no previous examination and where the date of previous examination is unknown.

**Table S1: Deciduous teeth: age-specific experience – non-Indigenous children<sup>1</sup>**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the dmft index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among non-Indigenous children. Where children received more than one examination, 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.

Age (years)	No of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	Decayed		dmft		d/dmft	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
≤4	1269	.65	1.61	0.79	1.88	86.5	75.1
5	1115	.81	1.72	1.31	2.45	64.9	64.0
6	1137	.73	1.63	1.41	2.50	52.4	60.6
7	1058	.61	1.19	1.65	2.44	41.4	51.2
8	1022	.60	1.21	1.91	2.48	34.8	46.1
9	1030	.45	0.94	1.68	2.22	31.2	47.8
10	1063	.34	0.80	1.38	1.97	26.9	51.7

<sup>1</sup> Legend d - number of decayed deciduous teeth  
dmft - number of decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth  
sd - standard deviation

<sup>2</sup> 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 experience – Indigenous children<sup>1</sup>**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the dmft index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among Indigenous children. Where children received more than one examination, 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.

Age (years)	No of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	Decayed		dmft		d/dmft	Children with dmft=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
≤4	362	2.35	3.20	2.48	3.38	95.9	47.0
5	469	2.36	3.05	2.94	3.47	82.8	37.1
6	555	2.10	2.84	2.80	3.23	75.2	32.9
7	555	2.06	2.93	2.95	3.43	69.6	33.8
8	566	1.69	2.35	2.43	2.75	68.2	37.7
9	565	1.11	1.73	1.85	2.33	62.3	42.4
10	544	0.70	1.45	1.31	1.97	50.4	51.6

<sup>1</sup> Legend d - number of decayed deciduous teeth  
dmft - number of decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth  
sd - standard deviation

<sup>2</sup> 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 experience – non-Indigenous children<sup>1</sup>**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the dmft index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among non-Indigenous children. Where children received more than one examination 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.

Age (years)	No of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	Decayed		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with DMFT=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
5	1115	0.00*	0.06*	0.00*	0.06*	100.0	99.6
6	1137	0.03	0.20	0.03	0.20	97.1	97.9
7	1058	0.07	0.34	0.11	0.43	62.9	91.5
8	1022	0.11	0.46	0.23	0.63	49.0	85.2
9	1030	0.11	0.42	0.30	0.75	40.7	81.8
10	1063	0.13	0.46	0.42	0.95	34.5	76.8
11	977	0.13	0.45	0.46	0.97	31.0	74.5
12	729	0.18	0.56	0.63	1.21	30.9	68.1
13	107	0.46	1.01	1.06	1.56	39.6	56.1
14	17	0.25*	0.68*	0.62*	1.70*	42.0*	83.5
15	6	–	–	1.00*	1.80*	–	65.9
16+	5	–	–	0.28*	0.51*	–	71.6

<sup>1</sup> Legend d - number of decayed deciduous teeth  
dmft - number of decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth  
sd - standard deviation

<sup>2</sup> 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 experience – Indigenous children<sup>1</sup>**

This table uses Territory-wide data to describe the DMFT index and its components for individual (year of birth) ages among Indigenous children. Where children received more than one examination 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.

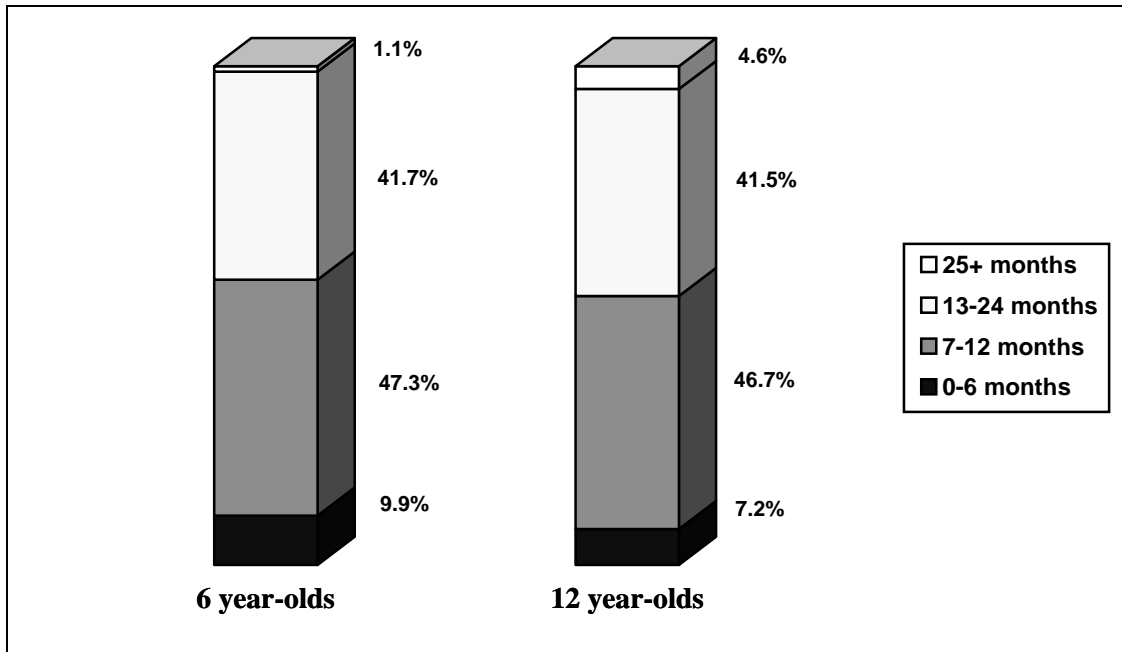
Age (years)	No of children in sample <sup>2</sup>	Decayed		DMFT		D/DMFT	Children with DMFT=0
		mean	sd	mean	sd	%	%
5	469	0.01*	0.15*	0.01*	0.16*	80.0	99.0
6	555	0.06	0.38	0.09	0.59	76.0	95.5
7	555	0.16	0.51	0.19	0.56	83.2	87.1
8	566	0.30	0.73	0.38	0.86	80.5	77.8
9	565	0.24	0.70	0.39	0.89	61.2	76.8
10	544	0.30	0.76	0.55	1.06	54.5	72.9
11	520	0.45	1.16	0.77	1.46	52.6	66.5
12	491	0.40	1.08	0.85	1.56	42.5	63.4
13	243	0.52	1.31	1.03	1.77	44.8	58.7
14	105	0.68	1.44	1.30	1.91	51.1	53.0
15	61	0.53	1.14	1.25	1.71	35.5	52.9
16+	35	0.51	1.10	1.56	2.23	31.9	51.3

<sup>1</sup> Legend d - number of decayed deciduous teeth  
dmft - number of decayed, missing or filled deciduous teeth  
sd - standard deviation

<sup>2</sup> 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.

# FIGURES

Figure 1: Time since last dental examination



**Figure 2: Percentage of children with dmft=0, DMFT=0 and d+D=4+**

