



Reporting on

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Indicators of Young Children's Well-Being in the NWT

In 2003-2004, the GNWT is able to report on one of the five common indicators of Early Development - this indicator is Physical Health and Development.

The sample size for the National Longitudinal Survey of Child and Youth in each territory is too small to produce reliable indicators selected for the comparable reporting. Consequently, the NWT is not able to report on the full set of indicators at this time. The Departments of ECE and HSS are working together with the NWT Bureau of Statistics to address these reporting gaps.

The GNWT will endeavor to report on as many of the indicators as possible in subsequent reports.

our Children

Indicators of Physical Health NWT 2000-2002*

Physical Health and Development

Healthy Birth Weight

A key determinant of child health is a healthy birth weight. Low birth weight (<2500g) is associated with risk for developmental delays and health problems. Babies born with high birth weight (>4000g) are more likely to experience difficult births. The incidence of low birth weight in the NWT in 2001* was 4.5% and the incidence of high birth weight was 19.9%. Research suggests that First Nations and Inuit children have different growth patterns than standardized norms and are more likely to be heavier at birth.²

Birth Weights in the NWT and Canada								
Indicator	1999		2000		2001		2002	
	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada
Incidence of Low Birth Weight ¹	5.8	5.6	4.8	5.6	4.5	5.5	4.7	5.8
Incidence of High Birth Weight ²	16.7	13.1	19.5	13.8	19.9	13.6	19.7	13.2

Sources: NWT: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics: Prepared by the NWT Department of Health and Social Services
 Canada: Canadian Vital Statistics -Birth Database
 * Due to the small number of annual events, the data was aggregated into three-year periods in order to provide more stable estimates of the rates. The reference period for the NWT reflects the mid-point of the three-year period.
 1 Low Birth Weight - Live births less than 2,500 grams, expressed as a percentage of all live births (birth weight known)
 2 High Birth Weight - Live births greater than 4,000 grams, expressed as a percentage of all live births (birth weight known)

² Canadian Medical Association Journal, 1987 Jan 15; 136: 118-119.

Pre Term Births

Pre term or premature births, are those births with gestational periods of less than 37 weeks. At birth, premature infants may experience difficulties with breathing, feeding and staying warm. Children who are born premature are at greater risk for growth and developmental delays.

Pre Term Births in the NWT* and Canada								
Indicator	1999		2000		2001		2002	
	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada
Incidence of Preterm Births ¹	8.2	7.3	8.1	7.5	7.7	11.1	8.3	7.5

Sources: NWT: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics: Prepared by the NWT Department of Health and Social Services Canada: Canadian Vital Statistics-Birth Database
 * Due to the small number of annual events, the data was aggregated into three-year periods in order to provide more stable estimates of the rates. The reference period for the NWT reflects the mid-point of the three-year period.
 1 Proportion of live births with gestational period under 37 weeks expressed as a percentage of all live births.

Immunization (Occurrence of three Vaccine Preventable Diseases)

Immunization is an effective way to give children protection against a number of potentially serious diseases. Immunization during childhood helps the immune system to build up resistance to disease. The NWT immunization programs include vaccines to prevent the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rubella (German measles), measles (red measles), mumps, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis, and Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) disease. The NLSCY reports on the incidence of measles, Hib and meningococcal Group C Disease.

Occurrence of three Vaccine Preventable Diseases in NWT and Canada 2000 -2003																
Disease ¹	2000				2001				2002				2003			
	NWT		Canada		NWT		Canada		NWT		Canada		NWT		Canada	
	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
Measles	0	0	80	3.7	0	0	7	0.3	0	0	7	0.3	0	0	6	0.3
Meningococcal Group C	0	0	15	0.7	0	0	27	1.3	0	0	27	1.3	0	0	5	0.2
Hib	0	0	7	0.4	0	0	16	0.9	0	0	16	0.9	0	0	9	0.5

Source: Immunization and Respiratory Infection Division, Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, PPHB Health Canada
 1 For Measles and Meningococcal Group C Disease, rates include children 0 to 5 years of age; For Hib, rates include children 0 to 4 years of age
 Rate per 100,000 population

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate is a recognized measure in the determination of the status of child and maternal health.

Infant Mortality in the NWT* and Canada 1999-2002								
Indicator	1999		2000		2001		2002	
	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada
Infant Mortality Rate ¹	8.7	5.3	8.3	5.3	8.3	5.3	7.2	Not available

Source: NWT: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics: Prepared by the NWT Department of Health and Social Services Canada: Canadian Vital Statistics - Mortality, Summary List of Causes
 * Due to the small number of annual events, the data was aggregated into three-year periods in order to provide more stable estimates of the rates.
 1 Rate per 1,000 livebirths

Safety and Security

Injury mortality and injury hospitalization rates are public health measures of reported hospitalization or death due to injury.

Rate ¹ of Hospitalizations per 100,000 due to Injury, Children Less than Six Years of Age								
Indicator	1999		2000		2001		2002	
	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada
All Injuries	632.9	453.6	590.6	429.08	551.8	Not Available		

Source: NWT:
Canada: Canadian Vital Statistics - Mortality, Summary of Causes

1 a) Province/Territory of hospitalization used
b) Figures based on the number of patients (0-5 years) who were admitted -for at least overnight - to an acute-care facility in Canada and subsequently discharged (alive or dead) from that facility.Out-patient and Emergency Department visits excluded.
c) Causes of injury are based on the first reported external cause of injury code
d) Stillborns are excluded.
e) The year represents the fiscal year of discharge.
f) Population denominators are < 6 years of age by fiscal year midpoint (October 1) and are specific to gender, province and fiscal year.

*Injury hospitalization data for the Northwest Territories should be treated with caution. Cases where the child was transported for treatment to a hospital in Edmonton or Northern British Columbia may not be included.

Injury Mortality Rates ¹ in Canada and the NWT* (per 100,000 population aged 0-5)								
Indicator	1999		2000		2001		2002	
	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada	NWT*	Canada
Injury Mortality Rate ² (0 to 5 years of Age)	45.8	9.3	31.5	7.9	24.3	Not available	8.2	Not available

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics - Mortality, Summary List of Causes, 1998, 1999, 2000
Mid-year (July 1) population estimates were used to calculate the rates.
NWT: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics: Prepared by the NWT Department of Health and Social Services

1 Province/Territory of residence used.
2 Rate per 100,000 person-years due to the very small number of events, these rates should be interpreted with extreme caution
· Due to the small number of annual events, the data was aggregated into three-year periods in order to provide more stable estimates of the rates.