

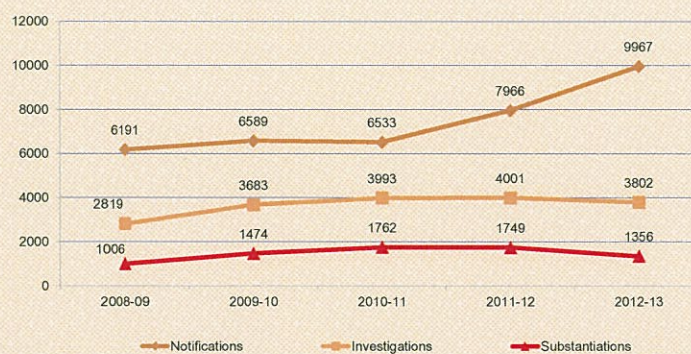


## Strategic Review of Child and Family Wellbeing in the Northern Territory

Howard Bath

21 August, 2014

### Number of Notifications, Investigations and Substantiations of Abuse/Neglect, 2008-09 to 2012-13

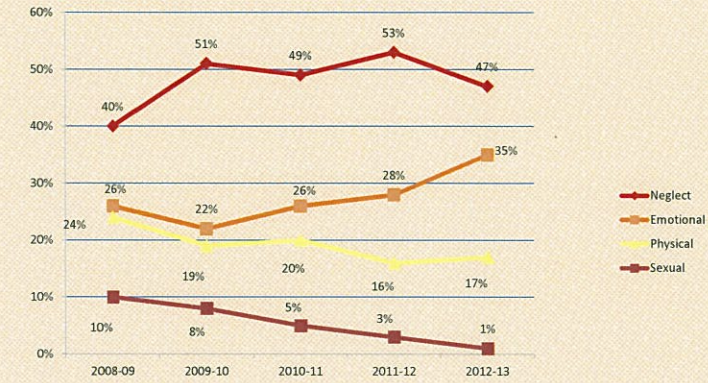


Source: DCF 2013

Note: Caution should be used when analysing figures from the most recent year displayed as some child protection investigations from that year have not concluded and therefore are not represented in the figure.



## Substantiations by Type of Abuse/Neglect, 2008-09 to 2012-13 (percentages)



Source: DCF 2013

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## NT Sexual Abuse Notifications and Substantiations 2008-09 to 2012-13

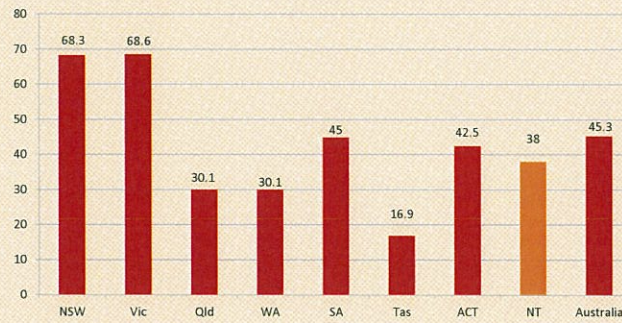


Source: DCF 2013

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## National Comparison Aboriginal Children Substantiation rates during 2012–13 (number per 1,000 children)



Source: AIHW 2014 (adapted from table 3.5)  
Note: AIHW Caveats apply.



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## Number of Children in Care by Aboriginality, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013

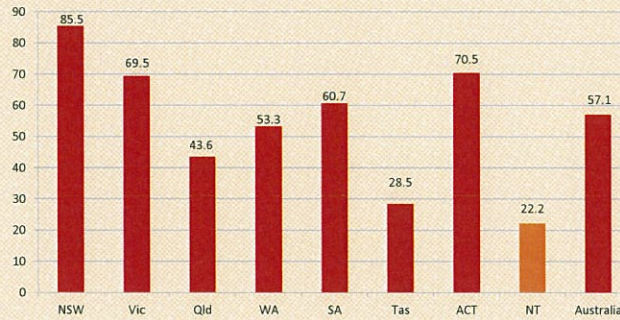


Source: DCF 2013



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## National Comparison of Aboriginal Children in care rates at 30 June 2013 (number per 1,000 children)



Source: AIHW 2014 (adapted from table 5.4)  
Note: AIHW Caveats apply.



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## Number of Repeat Substantiations within a 12 Month Period



	Number	Percentage
Children with a substantiation in 2011-12	1585	100.0%
Children re-substantiated within 12 months	321	20.3%

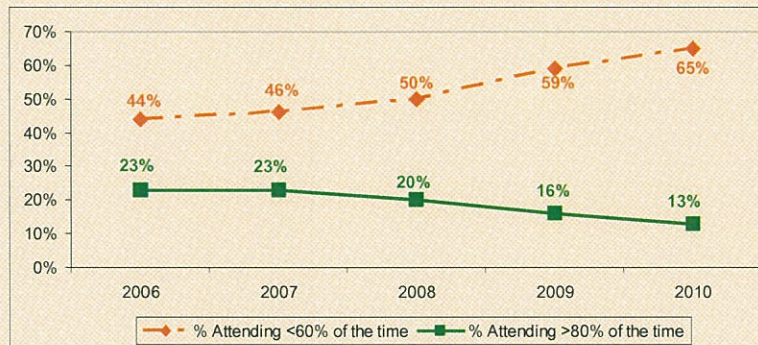
Source: DCF 2013



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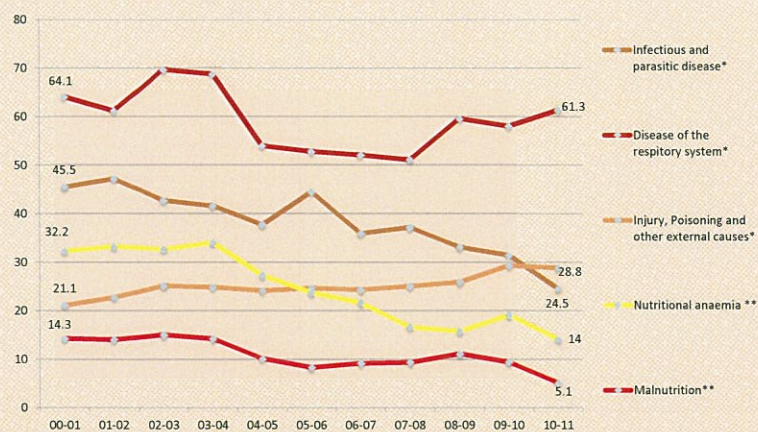


## School attendance of very remote Aboriginal children in the NT by year



Source: NT Department of Education and Training

## Hospitalisation rates for Indigenous children by condition 2000-01 to 2010-11 (per 1,000)



Source: CTG NT Monitoring Report (2013)

\* Children aged 0-14

\*\* Children aged 0-15

## Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

### Household Dysfunction

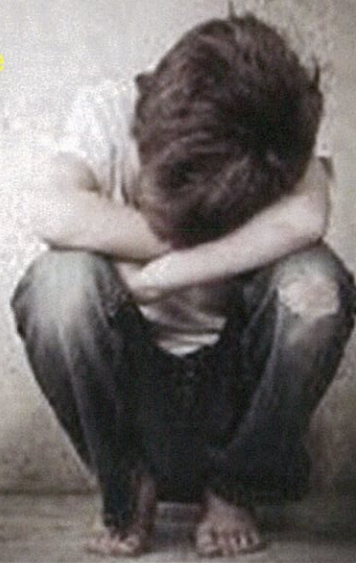
- Substance abuse
- Parental separation/divorce
- Mental illness
- Domestic violence
- Criminal Behavior

### Abuse

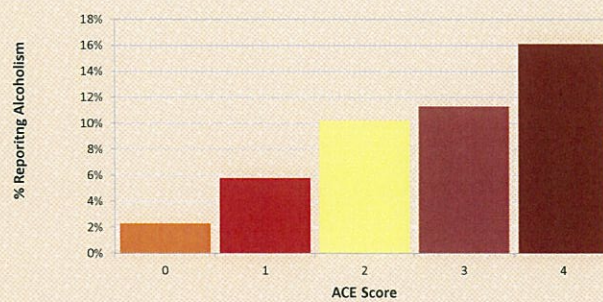
- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual

### Neglect

- Emotional
- Physical



## Ace Study and alcoholism

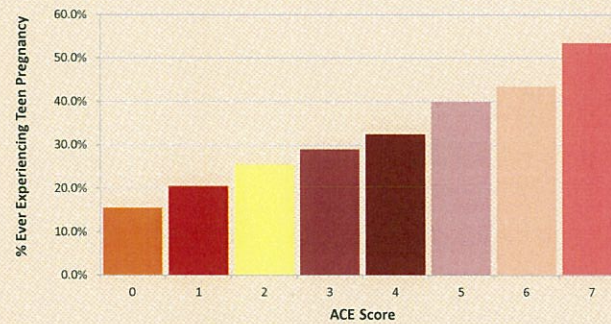


Adapted from Felitti, VJ, Anda, RF et al (1998)





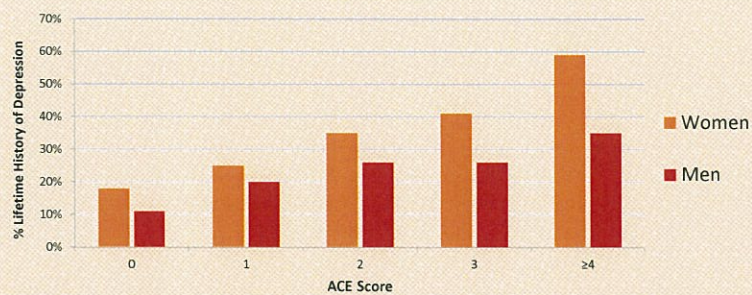
## ACES and teen pregnancy



Source: Felitti, VJ, Anda, RF et al (2010)

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## Aces and depression

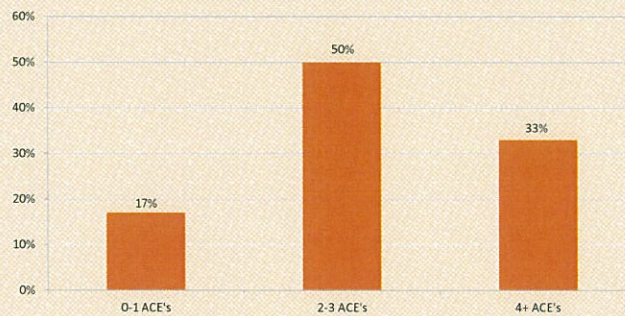


Source: Felitti, VJ, Anda, RF et al (2010)

The population attributable (to ACEs) risk is 54% for depression and 58% for female suicide attempts

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## Prevalence of ACES amongst court-involved youth



Adapted from Family Policy Council (2007) Pierce County, Washington State ACE Study



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## ACES and risk of adolescent violence perpetration



*For boys the risk for violence perpetration was increased 35% to 144% with each increase in the adverse childhood events score.*

Duke, Pettingel, McMorris & Borowsky, 2013



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## **The four key risk factors for Indigenous youth crime, from 'Arresting Incarceration' 2014**



- Poor parenting – especially abuse and neglect
- Poor school performance
- Unemployment
- Drug and alcohol use

Weatherburn, 2014

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## **Risk factors for youth justice involvement in the NT**



- Highest rates of abuse and neglect
- Lowest school attendance and performance
- One of the highest youth unemployment rates (Outback NT)
- Highest rates of alcohol consumption



*Children exposed to repeated episodes of overwhelming arousal ...may never develop their capacity to self-regulate...*

*they may be chronically irritable, angry, unable to manage aggression, impulsive, anxious or depressed.*

Bloom & Farragher 2011



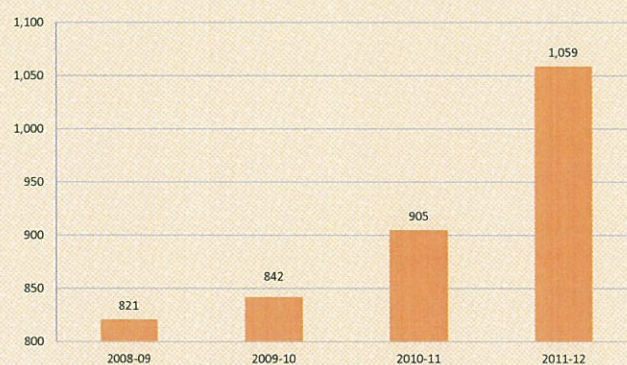
## Violence in the Northern Territory

- Aboriginal people in the NT are twice as likely to be hospitalised for assault as are Aboriginal people in the rest of Australia (AIHW).
- The latest *Closing the Gap* report revealed that the night patrols which were set up as a first response to violence or potential violence, dealt with over 84,700 incidents in the last 6 month reporting period, or 160,000 incidents p.a. – that is in a target area of around 30,000 adults.





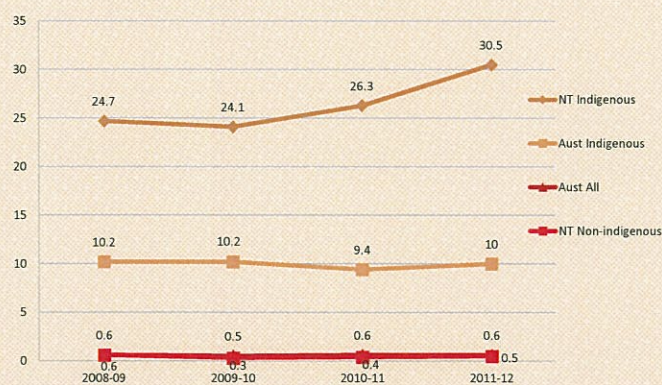
## Hospitalisation of NT Indigenous women due to assault, 2008-09 – 2011-12



Source: Adapted from AIHW Analysis of the National Hospital Morbidity Database\*

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## Hospitalisation rates of NT Indigenous women due to assault, 2008-9 - 2011-12



Source: Adapted from AIHW Analysis of the National Hospital Morbidity Database\*

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## Violence in the Northern Territory



- Aboriginal women in the NT make up only 0.3% of all Australian women, but **they account for 16% of the hospitalisations for assault.**
- In 2011-12, 34 non-Indigenous women had assault related admissions to hospital in the NT. In the same period 1,059 Aboriginal women were admitted.

Source: AIHW Analysis of the National Hospital Morbidity Database\*



## Other outcomes faced by Aboriginal children in the NT

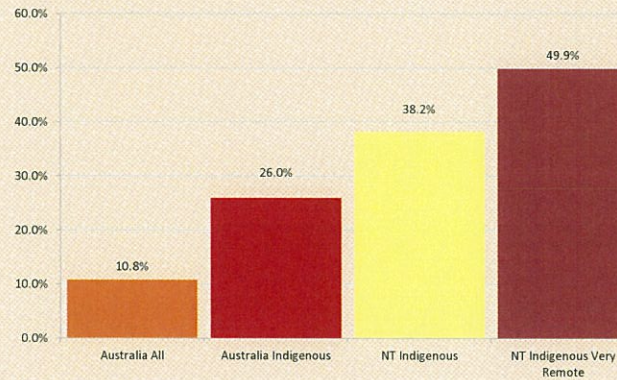


- **Infant mortality** rates 3 times those of other Australian infants
- Highest **child death rates** due to injury and accident
- Highest rate of **youth justice incarceration**
- Highest **child and youth suicide rates**





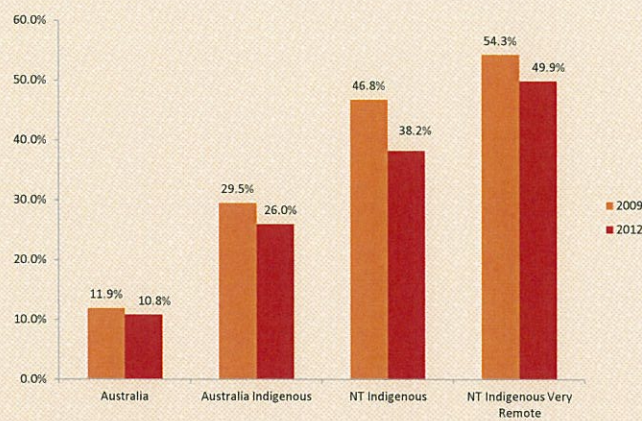
## Children who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDI 2012 (percentages)



Source: AEDI (2013)

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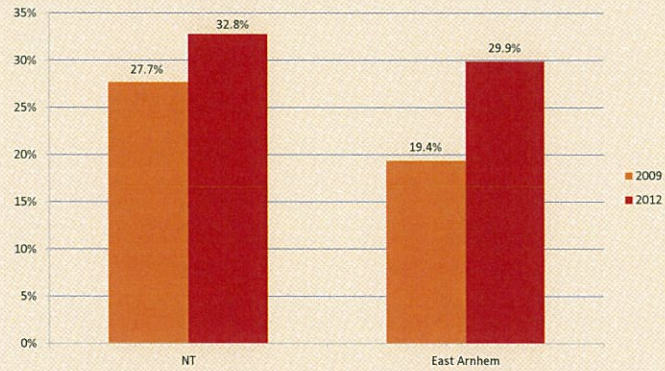
## Children who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDI, 2009 and 2012 (percentages)



Source: AEDI (2010 & 2013)

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**Indigenous Children who are developmentally on track in 4 or more domains of the AEDI, 2009 and 2012 (percentages)**



Source: AEDI (2010 & 2013)

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*In my beginning is my end*

T.S. Eliot

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