

The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile

A Perspective on Northwest Territories

The *Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile, 3rd Edition*, is based on a comprehensive review of national and provincial data sources and extensive consultations with experts from many fields.

The *CICH Profile* contains ten chapters and 398 charts pertaining to the health and well-being of children and youth. It provides a relevant and clear picture of where our children are today, and gives some direction for where we might assist them as they explore their futures.

The following information from the *CICH Profile* addresses the health and well-being of children and youth in Northwest Territories.

Population statistics:

- In Northwest Territories, 42% of the population live in an urban area compared to 78% of the entire Canadian population.
- 41% of the population in Northwest Territories speak a language other than English or French at home. The figure for Canada was 16% in 1996.
- 62% of people in Northwest Territories are Aboriginal, a much higher proportion than in the provinces where the composition ranges from 1% to 12%.
- 41% of Northwest Territories's residents are under the age of 20 compared with the Canadian average of 27%.
- In 1996, 20% of families in Northwest Territories were headed by a lone-parent. The figure for Canada was 20% for the same year.

Pregnancy and birth statistics:

- In 1995, there were 25 live births per 1,000 population in Northwest Territories, down from 27 in 1990. The Canadian rates for these two time periods were 15 in 1990 and 13 in 1995.
- In 1995, 8.2% of female infants and 5.7% of male infants in Northwest Territories were born weighing less than 2,500 grams. Low birth weight, particularly very low birth weight, increases the risk of both short and long term health problems.

- In 1994, the teen pregnancy rate in Northwest Territories was 137 for every 1,000 women aged between 15 and 19 years. This is the highest rate in Canada and is more than 4 times higher than the lowest rates occurring in both Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

Death rates:

- The infant death rate in Northwest Territories and the Yukon combined was 11 in every 1,000 live births in 1995. The overall Canadian rate for the same year was 6/1,000.
- Death rates for all age groups less than 20 years of age were substantially greater for the Yukon and Northwest Territories combined than for any other area in Canada in 1995.

Nunavut:

- In Nunavut, Canada's newest northern territory, 87% of the population is Inuit. 46% of Nunavut's population is under the age of 20 years.



For information about the sources of the data, please refer to *The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile, 3rd Edition*. To order your copy of the *CICH Profile*, please contact:

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Dedicated to the Health and Well-being of Children and Youth