

A ppendix 1

Department of Health
& Community Services

MEMORANDUM

Date: 9 October 1990
Reference: 87/1306
To: Maggie Brady, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies
From: EPI
Subject: **National Youth Affairs Research Scheme Study (NYARS)/Northern Territory Youths: Hospital Morbidity Data 1986-88**

Find attached Morbidity tables constructed in answer to your request covering the following categories:

- infectious & parasitic diseases
- diabetes mellitus
- otitis media
- circulatory disease
- rheumatic fever
- digestive tract disease
- external causes (injury & poisonings)
- all separation (all causes)

The tables are constructed utilising the principal diagnosis for the patient's hospital episode. The number of patients treated is given in each category along with a computed WSR – World Standardised Rate which assumes a population of 9000 each for the two age groups 10-14 and 15-19 and a population of 8000 each for the age group 20-24. Thus these age specific rates can be compared to rates published in professional journals. Similarly, the rates for any group in a given age bracket, say 10-14, can be compared directly since in the calculations the effect of differing population sizes has been eliminated. The one caution, is the effect of small populations which leads to greater variability which can not be eliminated although it is minimised to some degree by the grouping of three years of data.

Dr. Gypsy Durling,
Director, Statistical Services

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World Standardised Rates for Northern Territory Youths 1986-88 (ages 10-24)

| Infectious & Parasitic Diseases | | | | | ICD Codes 001-139 | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|-------------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Age Group | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | | no. | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| | no. | WSR | no. | WSR | | no. | WSR | no. | WSR |
| 10-14 | 23 | 29.3 | 23 | 31.1 | 41 | 25.2 | 34 | 22.6 | |
| 15-19 | 11 | 15.4 | 47 | 61.8 | 31 | 19.9 | 65 | 47.6 | |
| 20-24 | 26 | 38.6 | 53 | 71.5 | 68 | 27.4 | 71 | 32.9 | |

| Diabetes Mellitus | | | | | ICD Code 250 | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|--------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Age Group | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | | no. | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| | no. | WSR | no. | WSR | | no. | WSR | no. | WSR |
| 10-14 | 1 | 1.3 | 2 | 2.7 | 13 | 8.0 | 5 | 3.3 | |
| 15-19 | 0 | .0 | 6 | 7.9 | 14 | 9.0 | 2 | 1.5 | |
| 20-24 | 1 | 1.5 | 5 | 6.7 | 6 | 2.4 | 11 | 5.1 | |

| Otitis Media | | | | | ICD Code 382 | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|--------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Age Group | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | | no. | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| | no. | WSR | no. | WSR | | no. | WSR | no. | WSR |
| 10-14 | 3 | 3.8 | 8 | 10.8 | 6 | 3.7 | 5 | 3.3 | |
| 15-19 | 3 | 4.2 | 6 | 7.9 | 5 | 3.2 | 3 | 2.2 | |
| 20-24 | 1 | 1.5 | 7 | 9.4 | 9 | 3.6 | 4 | 1.9 | |

| Circulatory Disease | | | | | ICD Codes 390-459 | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|-------------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Age Group | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | | no. | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| | no. | WSR | no. | WSR | | no. | WSR | no. | WSR |
| 10-14 | 19 | 24.2 | 37 | 50.0 | 6 | 3.7 | 4 | 2.7 | |
| 15-19 | 26 | 36.4 | 21 | 27.6 | 9 | 5.8 | 6 | 4.4 | |
| 20-24 | 36 | 53.4 | 30 | 40.5 | 20 | 8.0 | 19 | 8.8 | |

| Rheumatic Fever | | | | | ICD Codes 390-398 | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Age Group | Male no. | Aboriginal | | Female WSR | no. | Non-Aboriginal | | Female WSR | |
| | | WSR | no. | | | Male WSR | no. | | |
| 10-14 | 16 | 20.4 | 31 | 41.9 | 2 | 1.2 | 3 | 2.0 | |
| 15-19 | 19 | 26.6 | 12 | 15.8 | 2 | 1.3 | 1 | .7 | |
| 20-24 | 14 | 20.8 | 21 | 28.3 | 0 | .0 | 0 | .0 | |

| Digestive Disease | | | | | ICD Codes 520-579 | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Age Group | Male no. | Aboriginal | | Female WSR | no. | Non-Aboriginal | | Female WSR | |
| | | WSR | no. | | | Male WSR | no. | | |
| 10-14 | 18 | 22.9 | 13 | 17.6 | 108 | 66.4 | 90 | 59.9 | |
| 15-19 | 15 | 21.0 | 25 | 32.9 | 146 | 93.9 | 142 | 103.9 | |
| 20-24 | 51 | 75.6 | 40 | 54.0 | 189 | 76.0 | 227 | 105.3 | |

| Urinary Tract Disease | | | | | ICD Codes 580-599 | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Age Group | Male no. | Aboriginal | | Female WSR | no. | Non-Aboriginal | | Female WSR | |
| | | WSR | no. | | | Male WSR | no. | | |
| 10-14 | 29 | 36.9 | 26 | 35.1 | 5 | 3.1 | 7 | 4.7 | |
| 15-19 | 13 | 18.2 | 40 | 52.6 | 8 | 5.1 | 34 | 24.9 | |
| 20-24 | 15 | 22.2 | 57 | 76.9 | 30 | 12.1 | 46 | 21.3 | |

| External Classifications (Injury and Poisonings) | | | | | ICD Codes E800-E999 | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Age Group | Male no. | Aboriginal | | Female WSR | no. | Non-Aboriginal | | Female WSR | |
| | | WSR | no. | | | Male WSR | no. | | |
| 10-14 | 155 | 197.3 | 71 | 96.0 | 350 | 215.0 | 171 | 113.7 | |
| 15-19 | 204 | 285.3 | 156 | 205.1 | 651 | 418.5 | 239 | 174.9 | |
| 20-24 | 358 | 530.9 | 257 | 346.7 | 908 | 365.3 | 280 | 129.9 | |

| All Separations | | | | | All ICD Codes | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Age Group | Male no. | Aboriginal | | Female WSR | no. | Non-Aboriginal | | Female WSR | |
| | | WSR | no. | | | Male WSR | no. | | |
| 10-14 | 548 | 697.6 | 563 | 761.0 | 985 | 605.2 | 765 | 508.9 | |
| 15-19 | 597 | 834.8 | 2351 | 3091.6 | 1440 | 925.7 | 2580 | 1888.1 | |
| 20-24 | 887 | 1315.3 | 2689 | 3628.1 | 2225 | 895.2 | 4688 | 2174.4 | |

A ppendix 2

Table of births by maternal age and race Western Australia 1983

| Maternal age | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Under 16 | 98 | 8.8 | 120 | 0.6 |
| 17-19 | 298 | 26.7 | 1040 | 4.9 |
| 20-24 | 381 | 34.1 | 6272 | 29.5 |
| 25-29 | 237 | 21.2 | 8341 | 39.2 |
| 30-34 | 79 | 7.1 | 4271 | 20.1 |
| 35-39 | 17 | 1.5 | 1084 | 5.1 |
| 40-44 | 7 | 0.6 | 144 | 0.7 |
| Over 45 | 1 | 0.1 | 11 | 0.1 |
| Total | 1118 | 100.1 | 21283 | 100.2 |

Source: Fifth Annual Report of Perinatal and Infant Mortality Committee of Western Australia, March 1986, Health Department of Western Australia.

Births to teenage mothers accounted for 35.4% of total among Aboriginal women and only 5.5% among non-Aboriginal women. Aboriginal babies averaged 200g lighter than non-Aboriginal babies. Thirteen per cent, as opposed to 6.0%, are less than 2500g birthweight.