

NWT Social Indicators - Consultation Report -

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Background

In 2002 the Social Agenda Working Group released their report outlining a series of ten recommendations. One of the recommendations related to the need to use the social indicator approach to monitor social conditions. In the GNWT response to the social agenda a commitment was made to advance this work, in part, by the establishment of a working group to identify and report on social indicators. This group is to also work with NGO's and other levels of government to further refine and advance the use of social indicators.

This report represents the results of the working group to identify a set of social indicators that could be used to describe and monitor social conditions in the Northwest Territories. The next step will be to use this report to consult with NGO's and other levels of government to further refine these indicators.

Upon the final identification of NWT Social indicators, community profiles will be developed and maintained to allow monitoring of these indicators, where possible, at the community level.

Preliminary List of Social Indicators

The following is a list of 20 indicators that the working group has identified. In the section that follows this list is a description of the approach and principles used in selecting these indicators. Finally, a description of four other indicators is presented that the working group would like to include in the list of social indicators although no data is currently available for these indicators.

1. Incidence of Heavy Alcohol Use
2. Death Rate from Accidents, Suicides and Homicides
3. Sexually Transmitted Disease Rate
4. Percent of Population with at Least High School
5. High School Graduation Rate

6. Violent Crime Rate
7. Rate of Juvenile Crime
8. Shelter Admissions
9. Percent of Households in Core Housing Need
10. Percent of Households with 6 or more Persons

11. Percentage Lone Parent Families
12. Children Living in Low Income
13. Child Protection Investigations
14. Population Dependency Ratios
15. Population Mobility

16. Average Employment Income
17. Employment Rate by Community Type
18. Income Disparity
19. Percent of Aboriginal People Able to Speak an Aboriginal Language
20. Use of Harvested Meat & Fish

As noted above, the purpose of the social indicators are to describe and monitor social conditions in the Northwest Territories. As such, the working group identified eight general areas that it was felt from which at least some indicators should be included. These general area were:

- Population Health
- Education
- Crime & Safety
- Housing
- Families & Children
- Income & Employment
- Aboriginal Culture
- Social Participation

Further it was concluded that there should not be an attempt to include every indicator related to each subject area, but rather choose a few that would provide the best overall description of social conditions in the Northwest Territories. Because of the large amount of indicators that could have been selected a series of filters were identified to help in the process of selecting specific indicators.

In reviewing possible indicators the following filters were considered:

1. Availability – is it currently available or does the data need to be collected;
2. Frequency – how often is the indicator currently collected;
3. Time Series – is there historical information to show change over time;
4. Geographic detail – is it available at a territorial level or at a community level;
5. Responsiveness – will the indicator change over time;
6. Variability – is there extreme variation in the indicator from period to period that makes trend identification difficult;
7. Outcomes Indicator – outcome indicators are preferred over output, input or other indicators
8. Relevance – is the indicator relevant to social conditions
9. Understandability – is there a reasonable expectation of most being able to understand the indicator
10. Reliability – is the data source reliable, on-going and free from bias
11. Comparability – is there comparable data for other jurisdictions

In addition to the twenty social indicators identified above, there were four additional areas where the Working Group felt it was important to try to obtain data. In each of these areas further investigation will be required to determine possible data sources and timeframes for producing information.

The first additional indicator related to results of early childhood testing. Specifically, it was felt that if information could be compiled on the pre-school testing done at public health offices across the Northwest Territories it would provide a useful indicator of early childhood development. Currently, this information is not summarized for statistical purposes.

A second indicator requiring further investigation was school attendance. Given the importance of education, the working group felt it would be informative to have an indicator on school attendance in addition to other indicators on education levels.

One of the general areas of interest identified for developing the social indicators was social participation. Social participation could include activities such as volunteerism, participation in community governance like voter turnout, or other measures of participation in the community. The working group felt that none of the data currently available would adequately reflect this area. Further work is required to develop indicators to reflect social participation.

The final indicator identified by the working group that requires further investigation is self-reported feelings of satisfaction with their community by residents. This indicator was considered to be an important reflection of residents perception of their communities. There is no data currently available on this indicator and a significant issue is a possible data source for the measure.

Consultation Approach

The purpose of this report is to advance the work on social indicators and to seek input from other stakeholders such as NGO's and other governments to further refine the list of social indicators as required. As such, in the pages that follow each indicator is presented along with a description of the indicator and results for the Northwest Territories, compared with Canada when available.

Comments on the list of social indicators that have been developed by the working group will be sought from stakeholders. Some direct consultation with stakeholders will also take place in order to obtain further comment on these indicators, as well as requests for written comments.

Following the consultation, the social indicators will be maintained and published on an annual basis. Community profiles will be developed and maintained based on the territorial indicators where possible. This information will be available to all users groups to monitor and use in developing and delivering social programs throughout the Northwest Territories.

1. Incidence of Heavy Alcohol Use

Indicator:

Percentage of persons 12 years of age and over who consume alcohol that drink 5 or more drinks per occasion more than once a month.

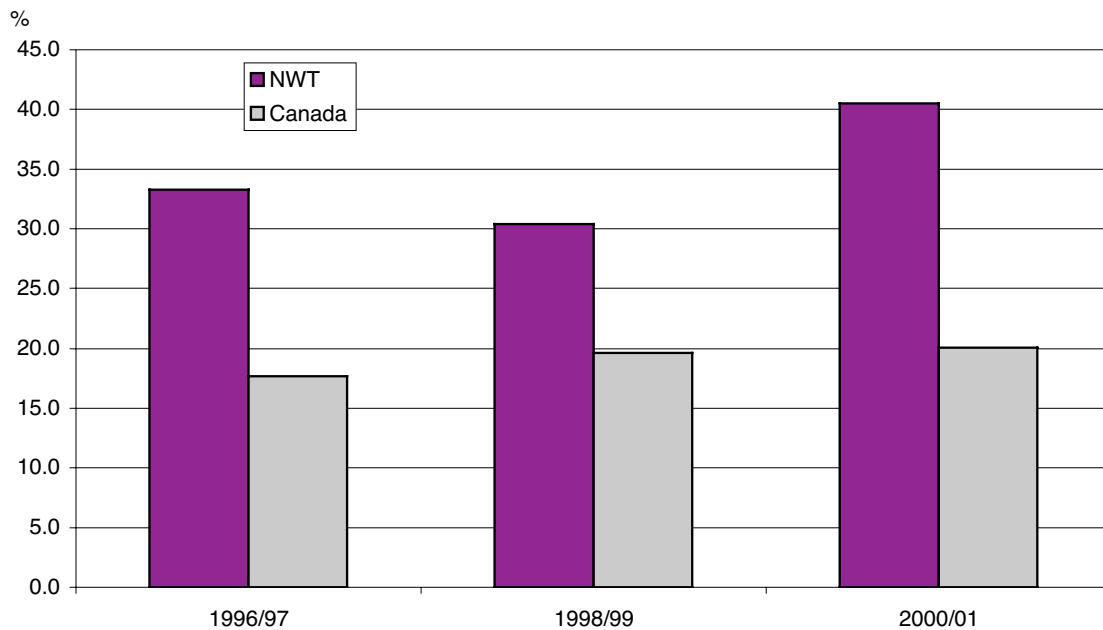
Indicator Attributes:

On-going information on alcohol consumption in the Northwest Territories is collected as part of the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). This survey is done every two years and provides data at the territorial level. Information for this indicator has been available since 1996/97, with the most recent data for 2000/01.

This indicator is not available at the community level. Data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percent Heavy Drinkers
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1996/97 to 2000/01



2. Death Rate from Accidents, Suicides and Homicides

Indicator:

Deaths per 10,000 population from accidents, suicides and homicides.

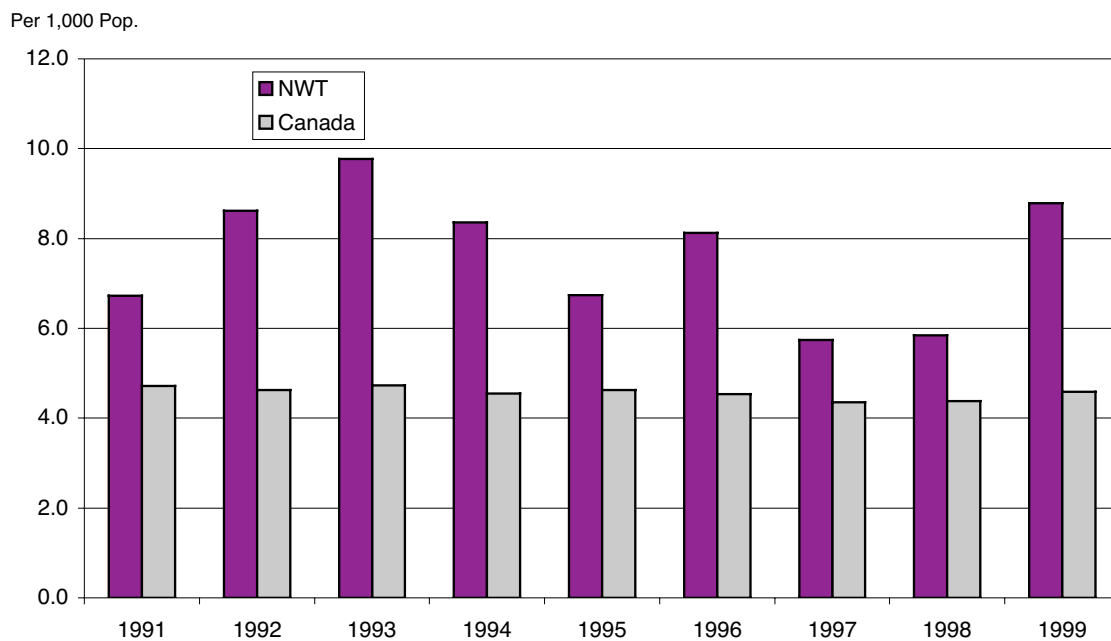
Indicator Attributes:

Information on cause of death is available from vital statistics registries on an annual basis. Data is readily available since 1991 and 1999 is the most recent period for which data is available.

This indicator is available at the community level and is also available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Deaths from Accidents, Suicides and Homicides per 10,000 Population
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1991 - 1999



3. Sexually Transmitted Disease Rate

Indicator:

Reported sexually transmitted diseases per 1,000 persons.

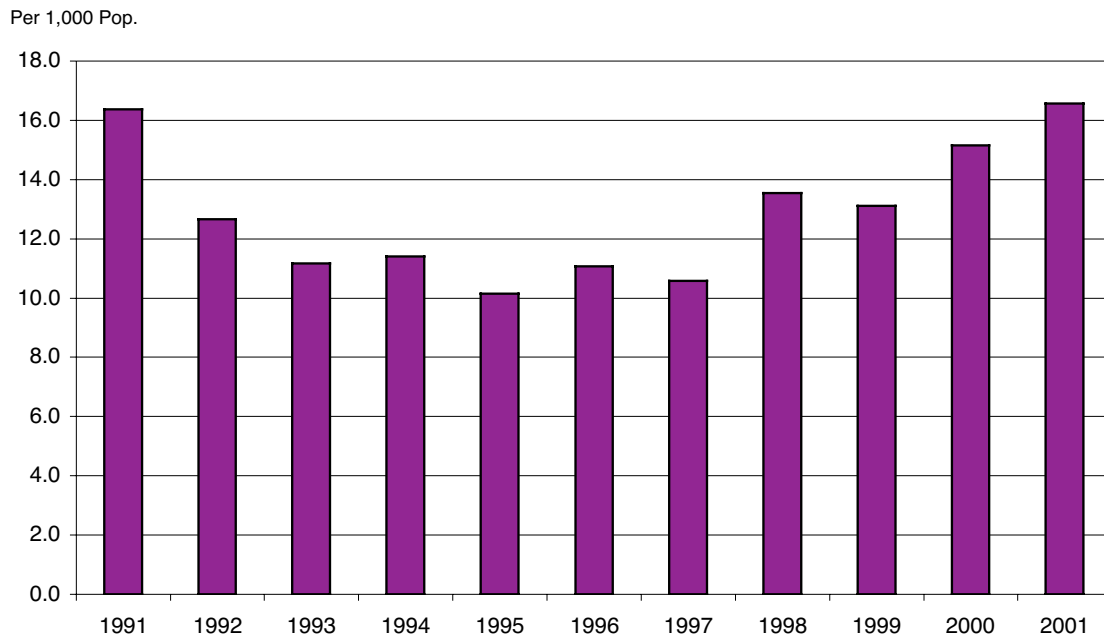
Indicator Attributes:

Information on reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea in the Northwest Territories is available from the Department of Health & Social Services. This data is available on an annual basis and is presented since 1991 as a rate per 1,000 population.

This information is available at a community level, subject to suppression for confidentiality, although comparable information is not available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Reported Cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea per 1,000 Population
Northwest Territories, 1991 - 2001



4. Percent of Population with at Least High School

Indicator:

Percentage of population 15 years of age and over that have a high school diploma or more as their highest level of education.

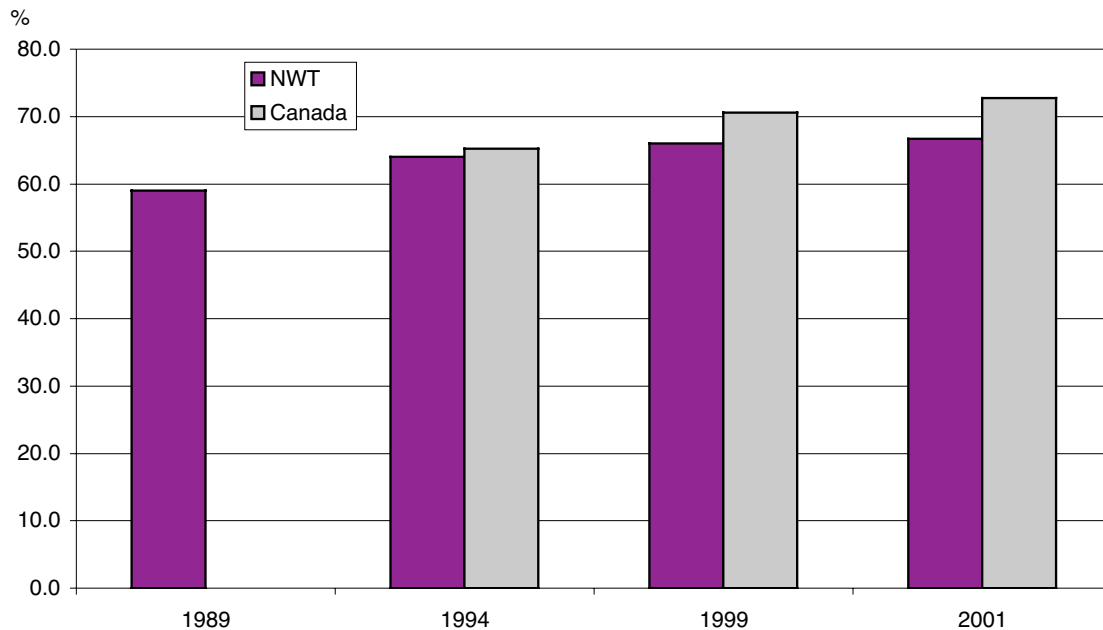
Indicator Attributes:

Information on the highest level of schooling on NWT residents is now available from the labour force survey done by Statistics Canada. Prior to 2001 this information was available from the national census and from community labour force surveys completed by the NWT Bureau of Statistics.

Comparable information is available for Canada and other provinces and territories. This indicator is available at the community level.

Result:

Percent of Persons 15 Years of Age and Over with at Least a High School Diploma
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1989 - 2001



5. High School Graduation Rate

Indicator:

High school graduates as a percentage of persons 18 years of age.

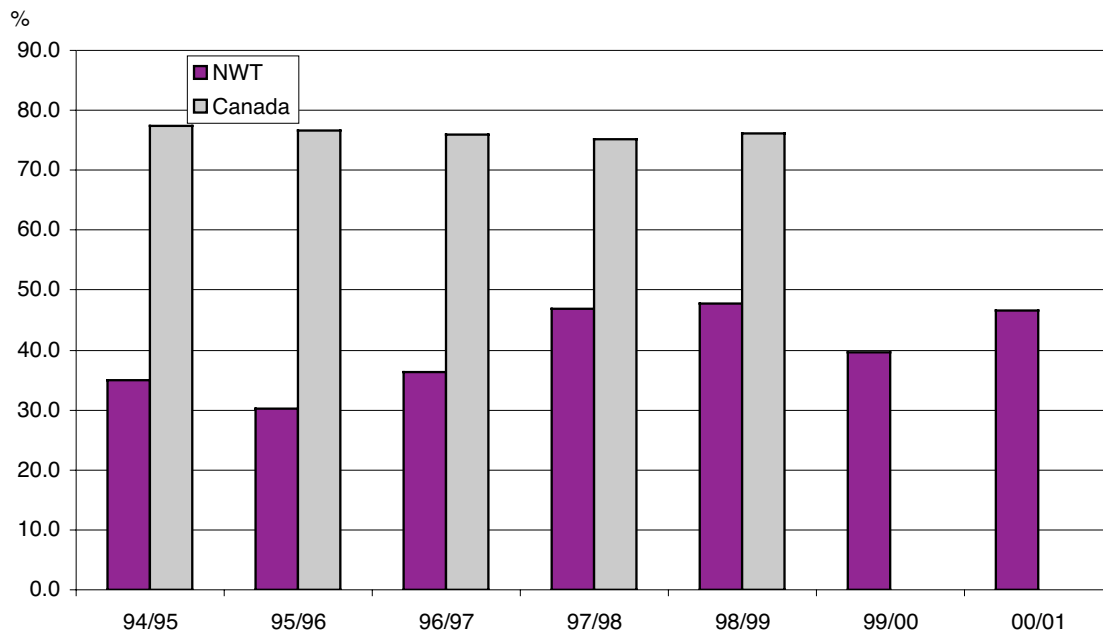
Indicator Attributes:

The high school graduation rate is available on an annual basis from data on the number of graduates from Education, Culture & Employment and from current population estimates.

This indicator is not produced at the community level as students from a community may attend school in other communities. Data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

High School Graduation Rate
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1994/95 to 2000/01



Note: 1998/99 last data available for Canada.

6. Violent Crime Rate

Indicator:

Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons.

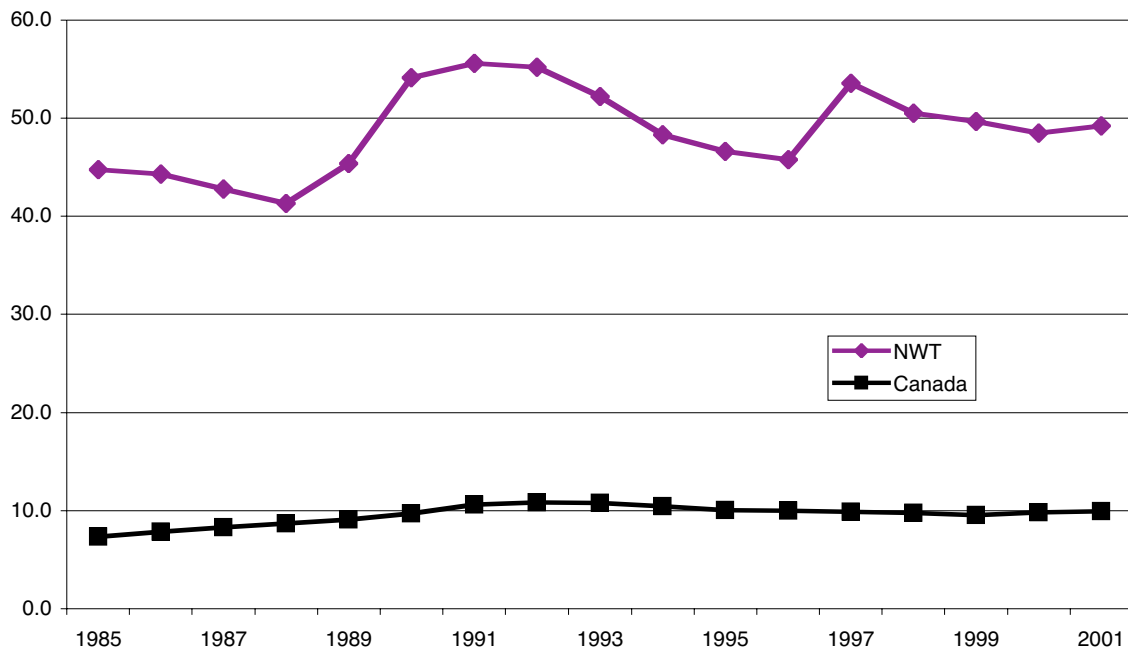
Indicator Attributes:

Information on violent crime is available from the Canadian Center for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada. Violent crimes includes homicides; attempted murders; assaults, including sexual assaults and other assaults; other sexual offences; abductions; and robbery.

This indicator is available at the community level. Data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Number of Reported Violent Crimes per 1,000 Population
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1985 - 2001



7. Rate of Juvenile Crime

Indicator:

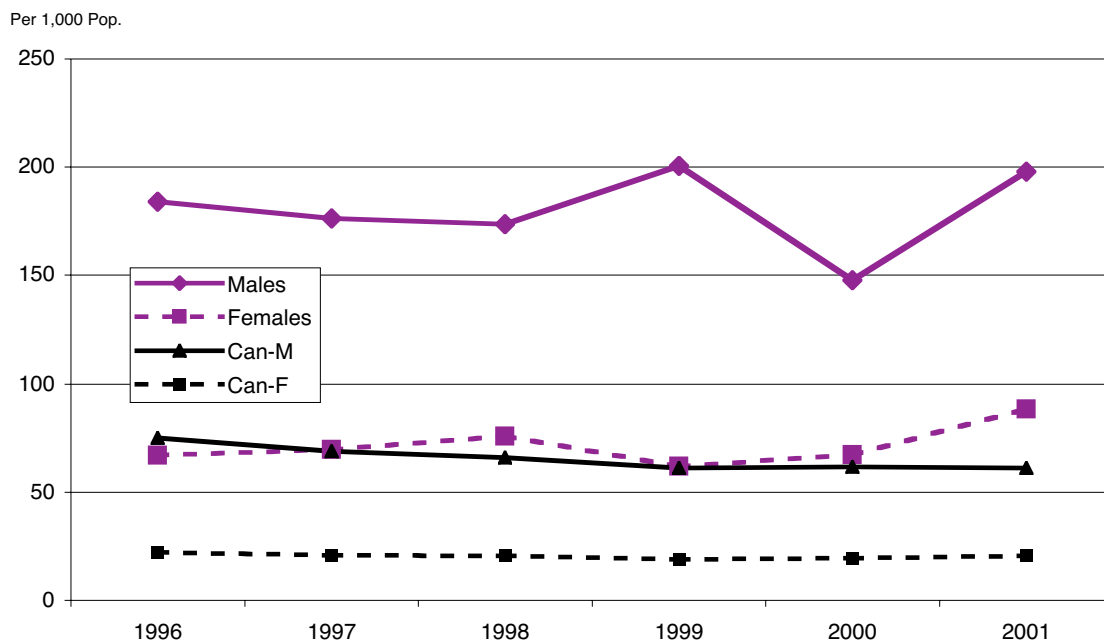
The number of youth charged with a crime per 1,000 persons between 12 and 17 years of age.

Indicator Attributes:

Information on youths charged with a crime is available from the Canadian Center for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada. This indicator is available at the community level. Data is also available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Number of Youth Charged with a Crime per 1,000 12 – 17 Year Olds, by Gender
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1996 - 2001



8. Shelter Admissions

Indicator:

Number of women and children admitted to shelters.

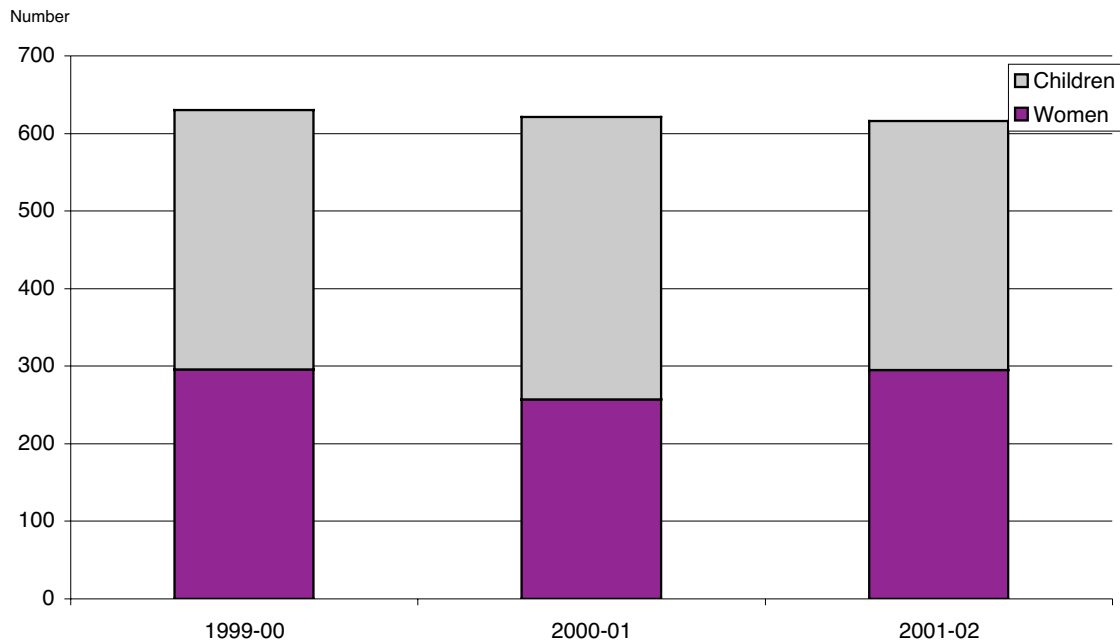
Indicator Attributes:

Information on the number of women and children admitted to shelters in the Northwest Territories is available from the Department of Health & Social Services. This data is available on an annual basis and is presented since 1999/00.

This information is not available at a community level or for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Number of Women & Children Admitted to a Shelter
Northwest Territories, 1999/00 to 2001/02



9. Percent of Households in Core Housing Need

Indicator:

Percentage of households in core housing need.

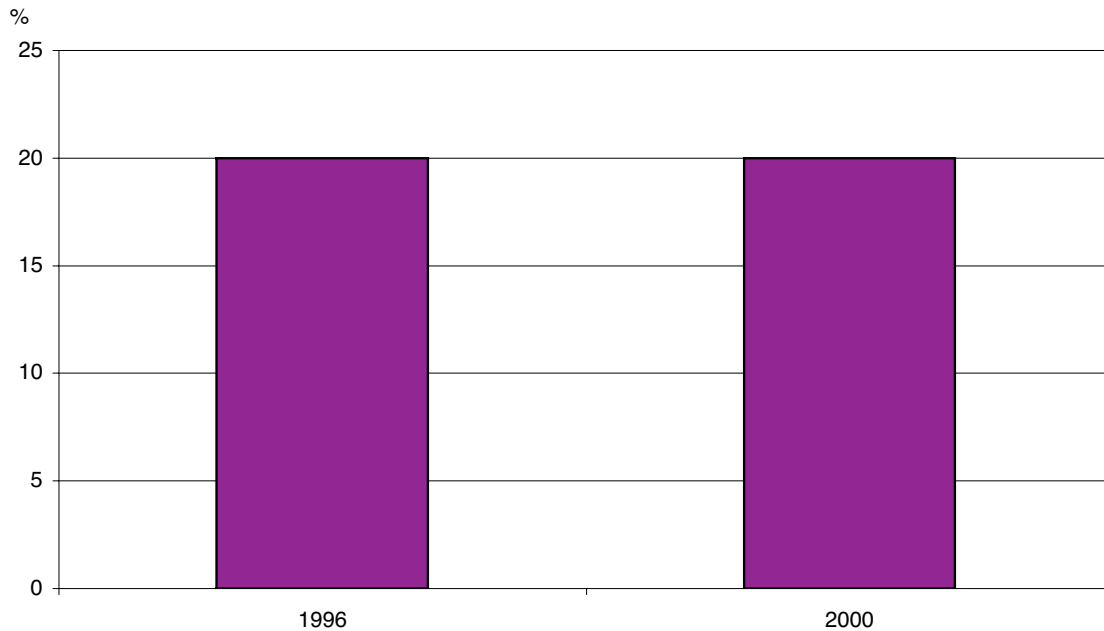
Indicator Attributes:

Core housing need refers to a household that has a housing problem of suitability, adequacy or affordability and does not have the income necessary to correct the problem. This measure is a central measure used by the NWT Housing Corporation to identify levels of housing need.

Comparable housing needs surveys have been completed in the Northwest Territories in 1996 and 2000. This indicator is available at the community level. Comparable data is not available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percent of Households in Core Housing Need
Northwest Territories, 1996 - 2000



10. Percent of Households with 6 or more Persons

Indicator:

Percentage of households with 6 or more persons.

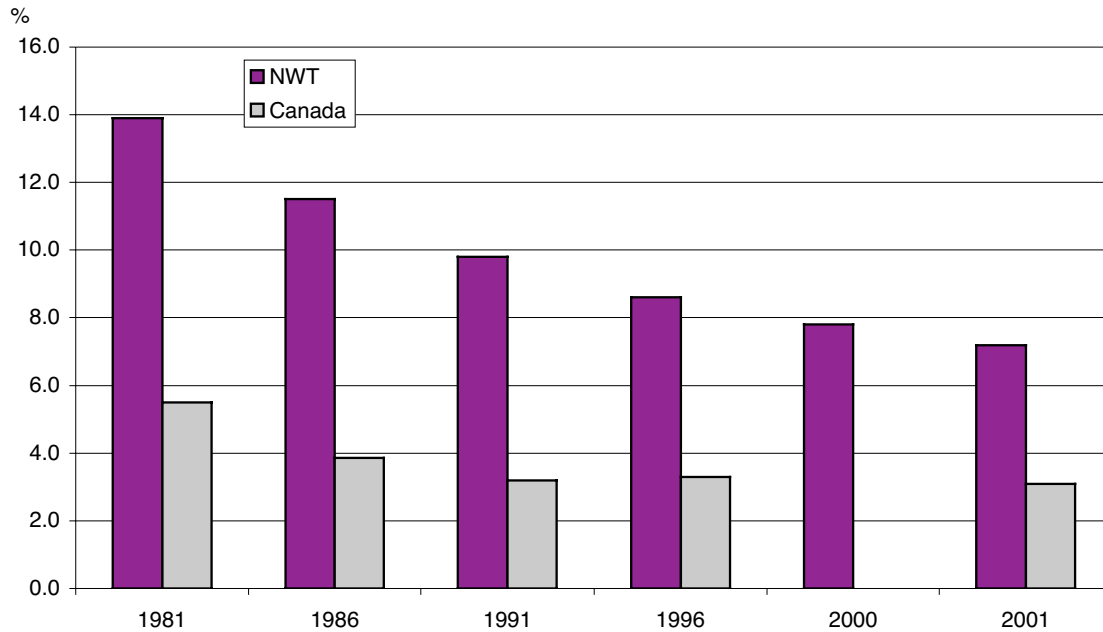
Indicator Attributes:

Households with more than six persons is a proxy for crowding in NWT households. This information is available from the Housing Needs Surveys and the census approximately every two years.

This indicator is available at the community level. Data is also available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percentage of Households with 6 or More Persons
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1981 - 2001



Note: Data for 2000 is not available for Canada

11. Percentage Lone Parent Families

Indicator:

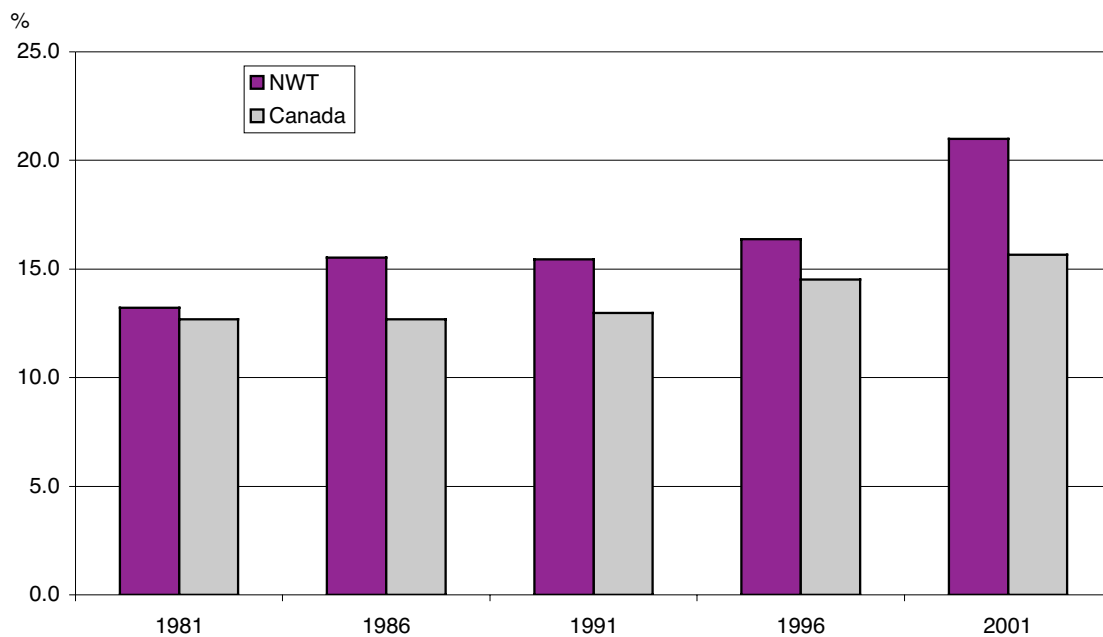
Percentage of all families which are lone parent families.

Indicator Attributes:

Information on the percentage of all families that are lone parent families is available from the national census every five years. This indicator is available at the community level and data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percentage of Families that are Lone Parent Families
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1981 - 2001



12. Children Living in Low Income

Indicator:

Percentage of children that live in low income.

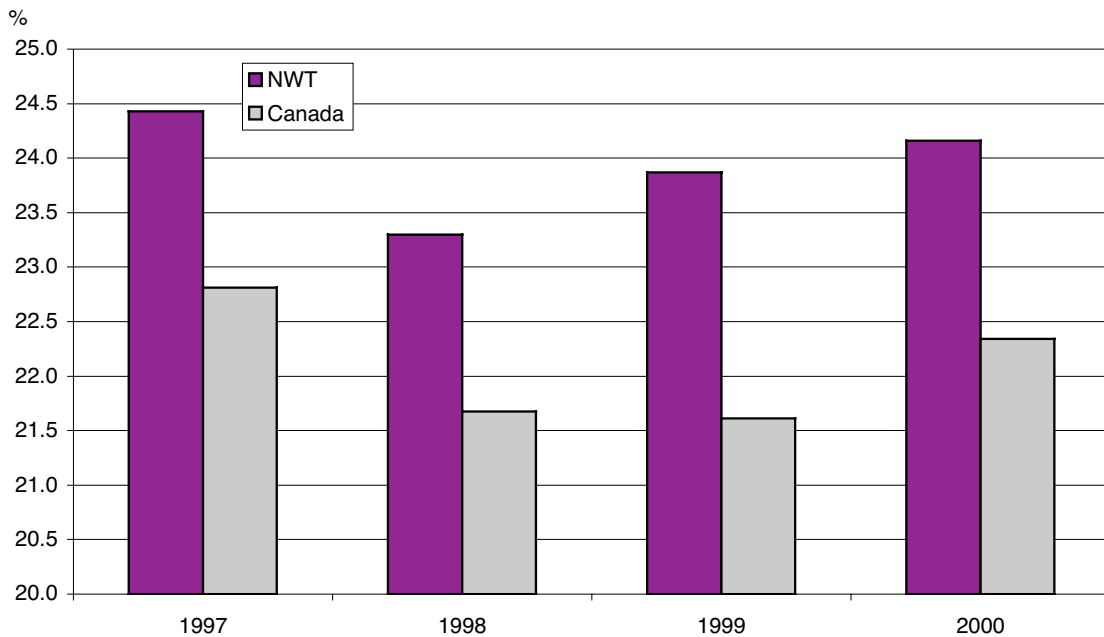
Indicator Attributes:

This measure indicates the percentage of children living in families with income below the after-tax low income measure (LIM). The LIM is a measure of relative income, that is 50% of the adjusted median family income, and is re-calculated annually at a national level. The measure is adjusted for different family sizes. For 2000, the after-tax low income measure for a family of two adults and two children was \$23,400.

This indicator is available at the community level. Data is also available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percentage of Children Living in Low Income
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1997 - 2000



13. Child Protection Investigations

Indicator:

Number of child investigations.

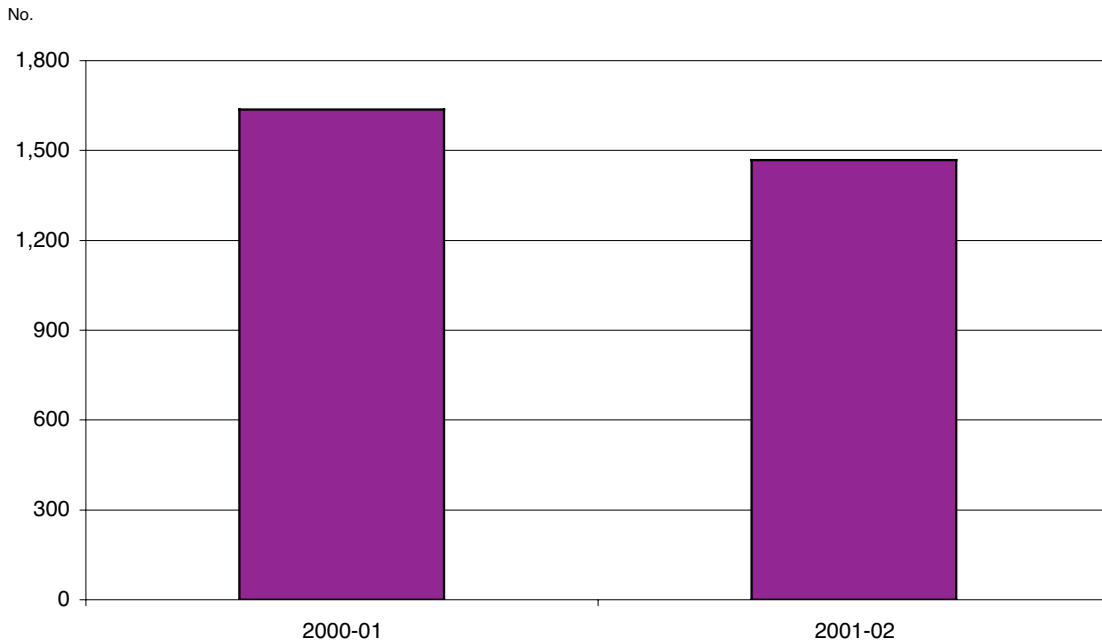
Indicator Attributes:

Information on reported child investigations in the Northwest Territories is available from the Department of Health & Social Services. This data is available on an annual basis and is presented since 2000/01.

This information is not available at a community level or comparable information for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Number of Child Investigations
Northwest Territories, 2000/01 to 2001/02



14. Population Dependency Ratios

Indicator:

Population dependency ratio. This is the number of persons less than 15 years of age and 60 years of age or older per 100 persons 15 to 59 years of age.

Indicator Attributes:

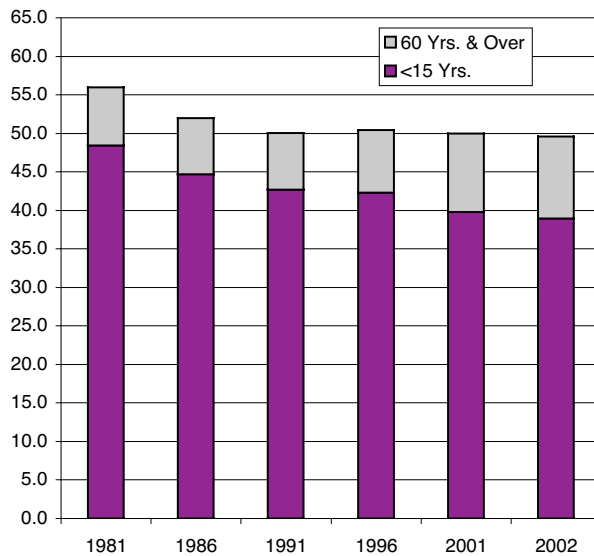
Dependency ratios provide a description of the demographic structure of the population. The overall level of dependency is comprised of both persons under the age of 15 years of age and of seniors over 60 years of age.

This data is available on an annual basis and is available at the community level. Data is also available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

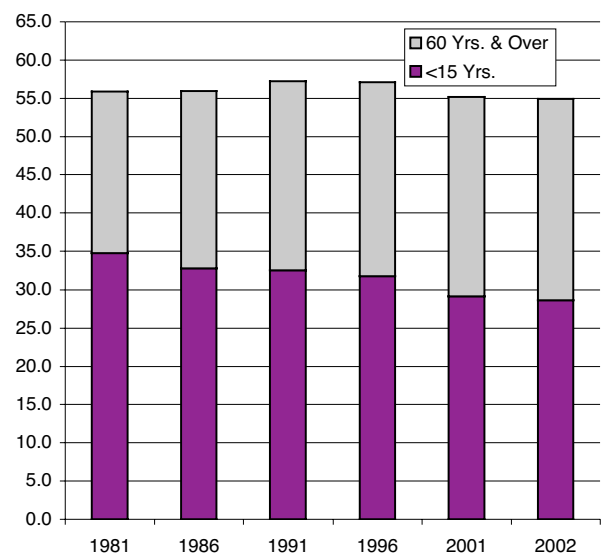
Result:

Population Dependency Ratios
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1981 to 2002

NWT



Canada



15. Population Mobility

Indicator:

Destination of intra-territorial and inter-provincial migrants.

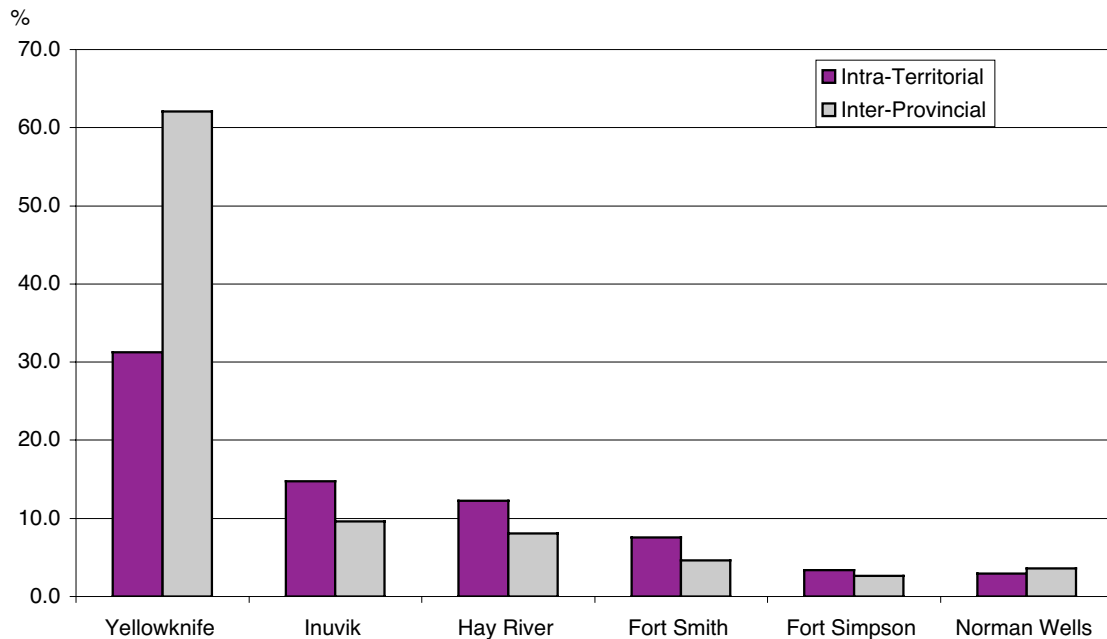
Indicator Attributes:

Information presented is from the census and indicated the destination of territorial residents who did not live in their current community in 1996. Person that moved from other communities in the Northwest Territories are referred to as intra-territorial migrants. Persons that moved from other parts of Canada are inter-provincial migrants.

This information is the distribution for the top six communities where people move. The information is from the 2001 census.

Result:

Percent Distribution of Destination for Intra-Territorial & Inter-Provincial Migrants
Selected Communities, 1996-2001



16. Average Employment Income

Indicator:

Average employment income.

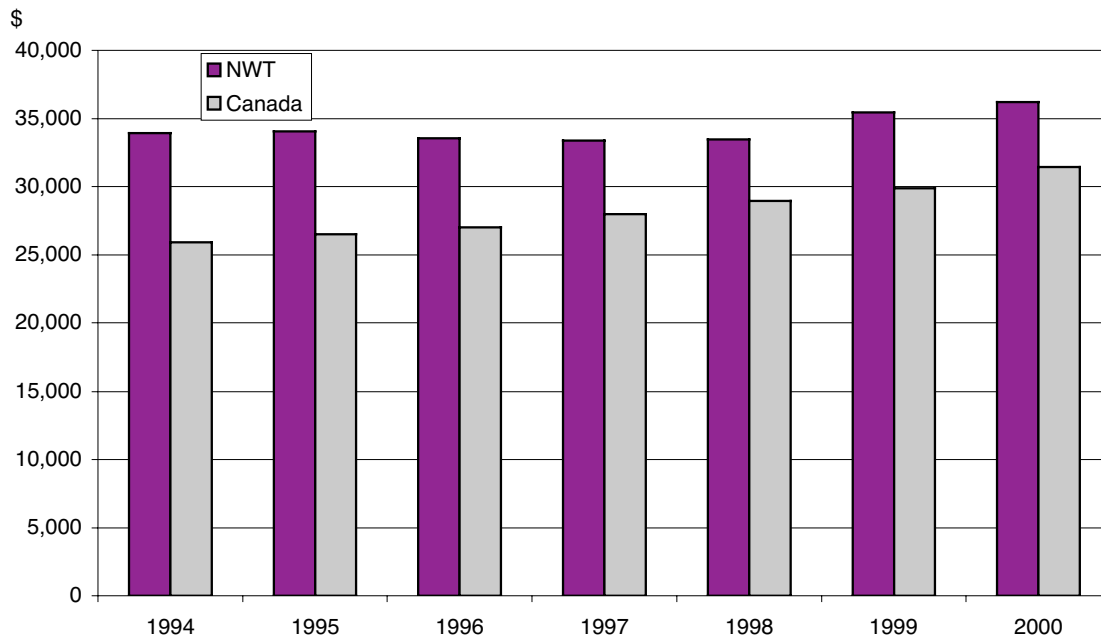
Indicator Attributes:

Employment income information is obtained on an annual basis from Statistics Canada. This information is derived from taxfiler information and is available for the Northwest Territories since 1994.

This indicator is available at the community level and data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Average Employment Income
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1994 - 2000



17. Employment Rate by Community Type

Indicator:

Percentage of persons 15 years of age and over that are employed at a job or business.

Indicator Attributes:

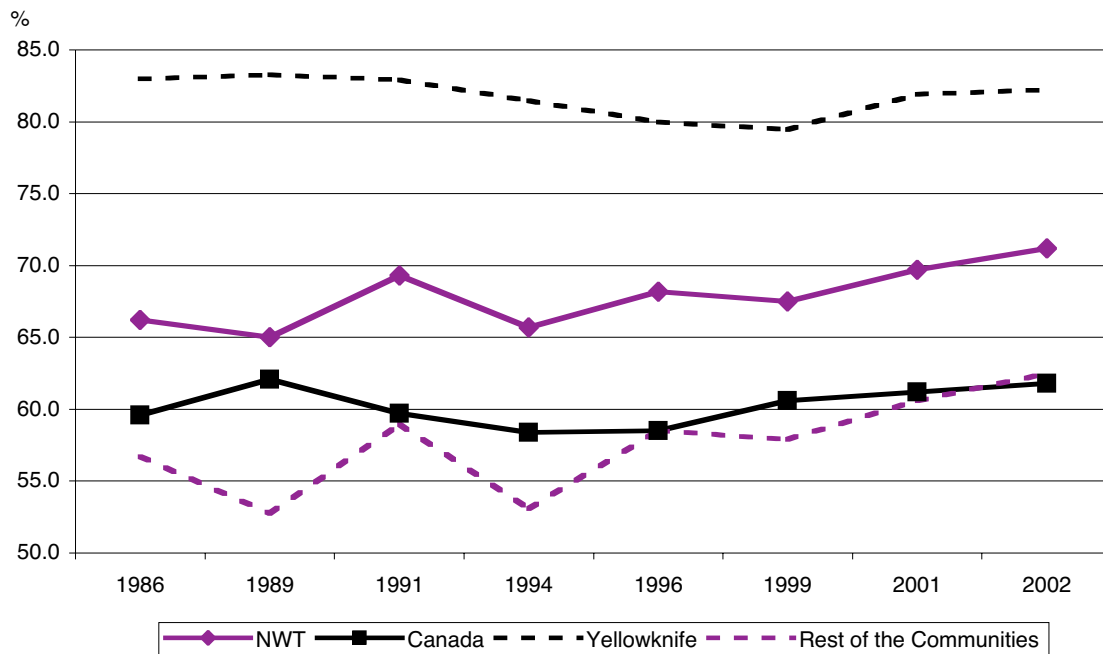
Annual information on employment rates is available from the labour force survey completed by Statistics Canada. Information at a community level is available approximately every two years from the national census and the community labour force surveys completed by the NWT Bureau of Statistics.

Data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Employment Rate

Community Type, Northwest Territories and Canada, 1986 - 2002



18. Income Disparity

Indicator:

Percentage of families having less than \$30,000 income and percentage of families having more than \$80,000 income.

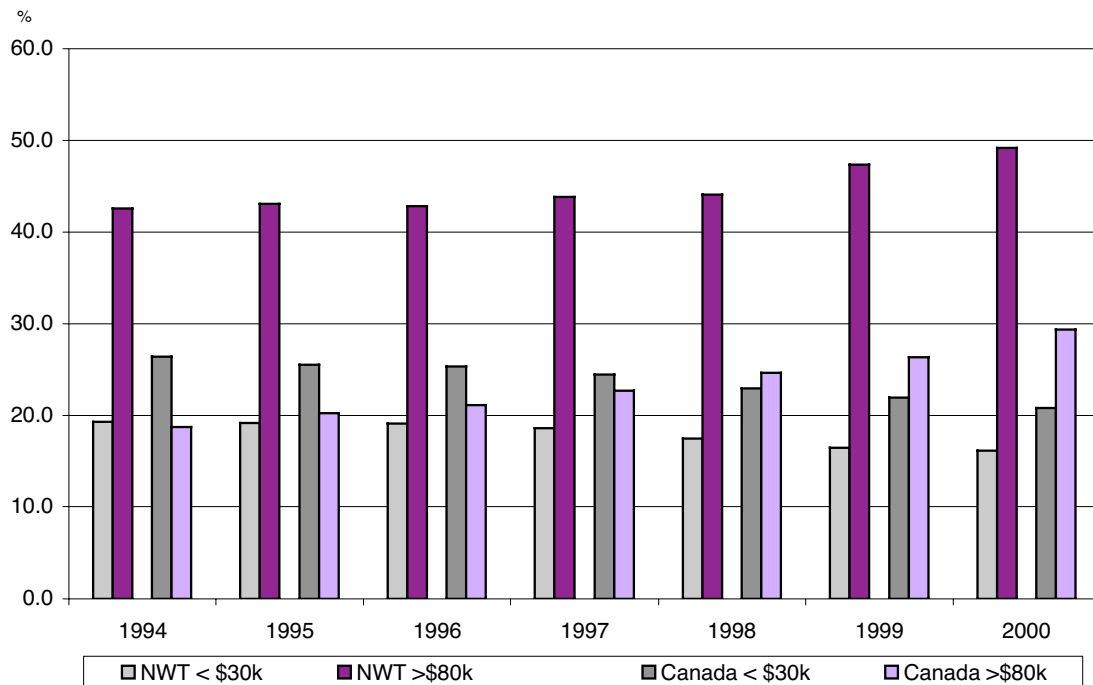
Indicator Attributes:

Family income information is obtained on an annual basis from Statistics Canada. This information is derived from taxfiler information and is available for the Northwest Territories since 1994.

This indicator is available at the community level and data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percentage of Families with Less than \$30,000 and more than \$80,000 Income
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1994 - 2000



19. Percent of Aboriginal People Able to Speak an Aboriginal Language

Indicator:

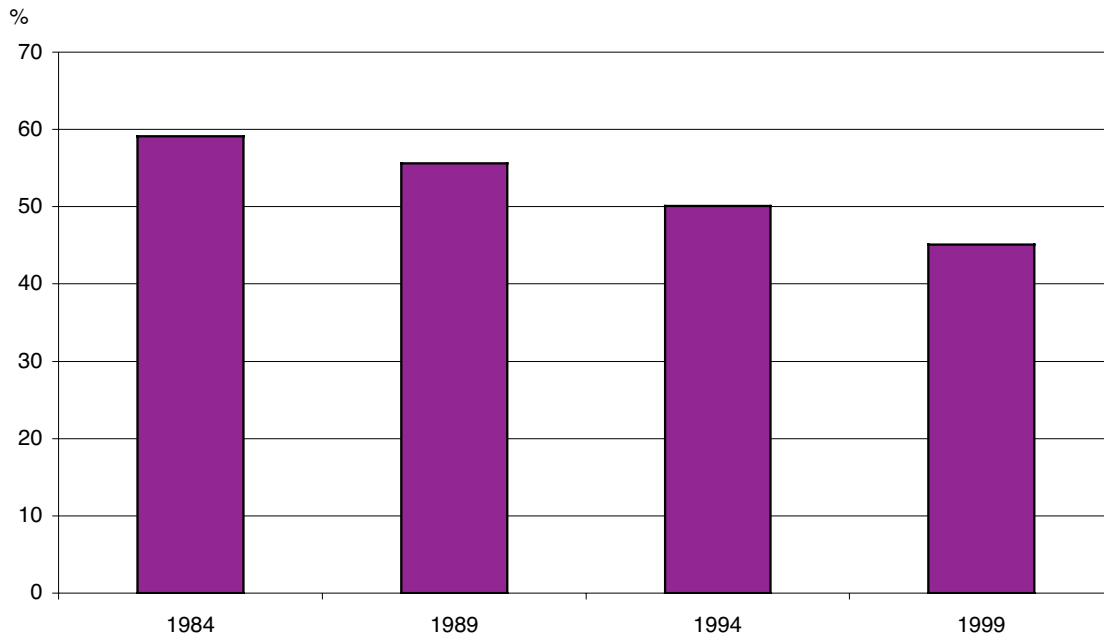
Percentage of aboriginal persons 15 years of age and over that are able to conduct a conversation in an aboriginal language.

Indicator Attributes:

Information on aboriginal language use by aboriginal persons is available every 5 years from the community labour force survey completed by the NWT Bureau of Statistics. This information is available at a community level, although no comparable data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percent of Aboriginal Persons Able to Speak an Aboriginal Language
Northwest Territories and Canada, 1984 to 1999



20. Use of Harvested Meat & Fish

Indicator:

Percentage of households that reported most or all of their meat or fish is harvested in the Northwest Territories.

Indicator Attributes:

Information on the use of harvested meat and fish is available every 5 years from the community labour force survey completed by the NWT Bureau of Statistics. This information is available at a community level, although no comparable data is available for Canada and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Result:

Percent of Households That Report That Most or All of Meat or Fish is Harvested in the NWT Northwest Territories, 1994 and 1999

