

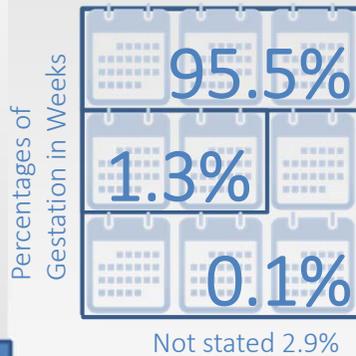
# facts about Surgical Termination of Pregnancy in the Northern Territory 2006-2011



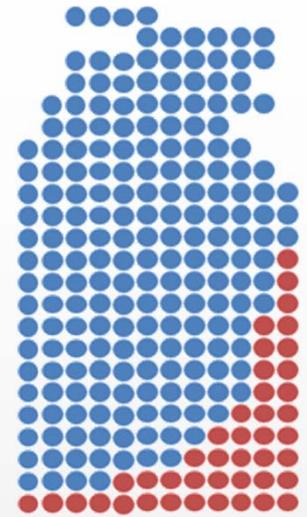
Surgical terminations by age within the NT are:

- Decreasing for Non-Indigenous women
- Increasing for Indigenous women

? Numbers are not maintained for women seeking terminations interstate



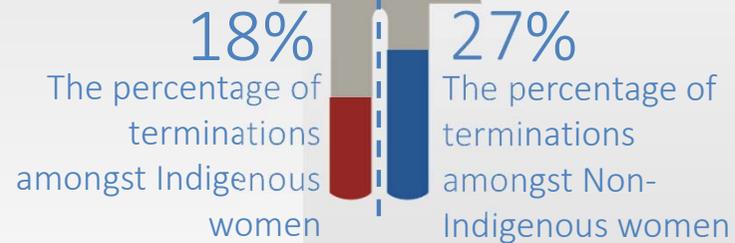
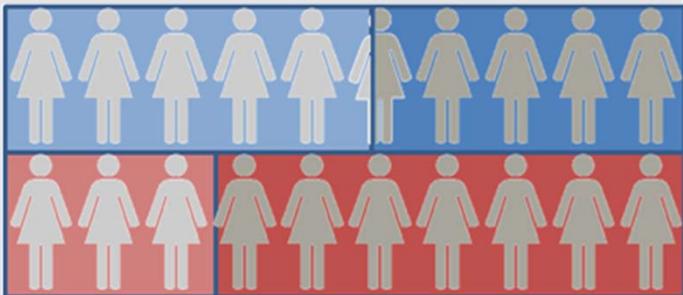
Lawful terminations have been available in the NT since 1974



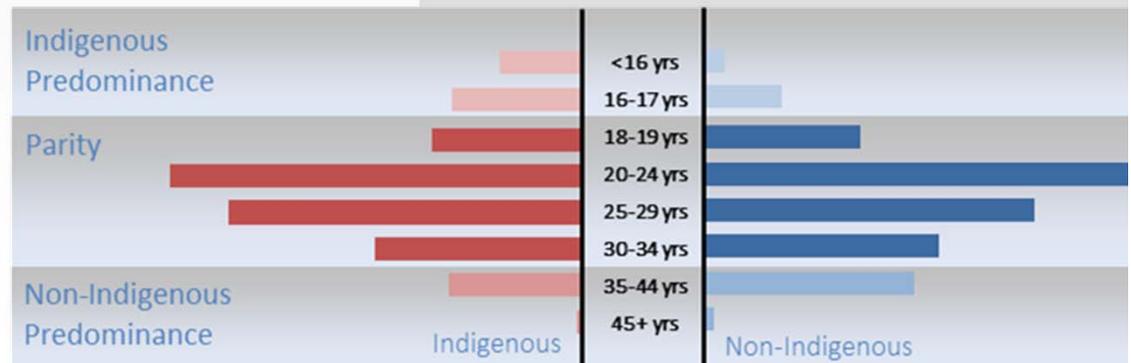
1 in 5 pregnancies in the NT are surgically terminated

93% of NT terminations occur in public hospitals

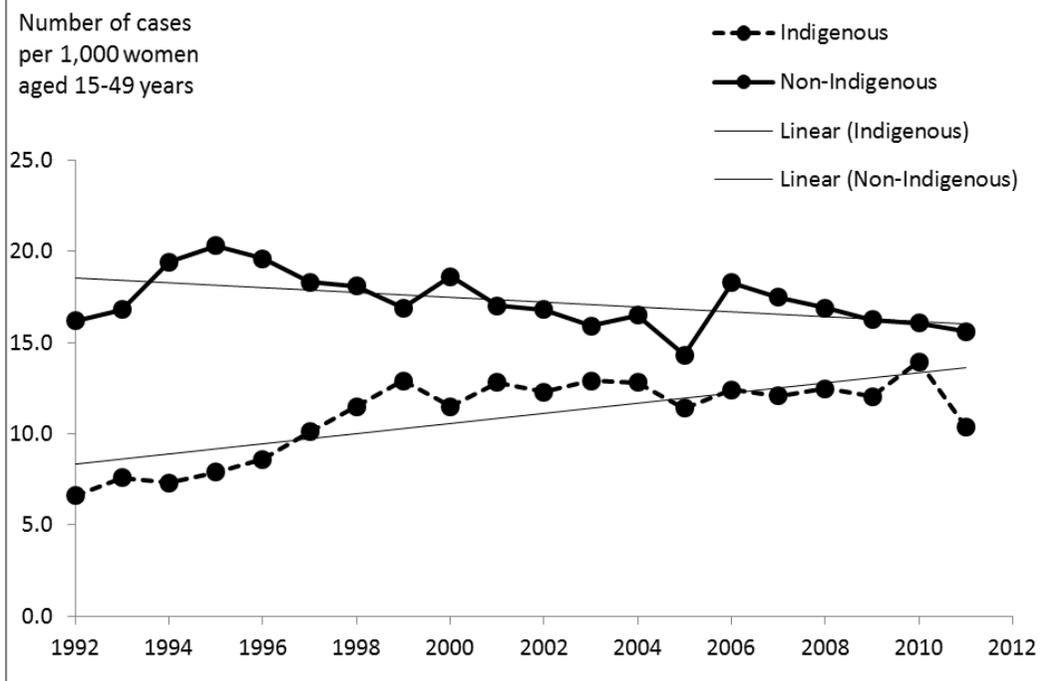
12 Females as young as years old have sought terminations



Percentage distribution of surgical termination by age group and indigenous status, 2006 - 2011



For those under 16 years, the termination rate for Indigenous teens is nearly HALF that for Non-Indigenous teens



## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

*Good sexual and reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system. It implies that people are able to have a satisfying sex life, the capability to reproduce, and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so.*

Age-specific rate of surgical terminations expressed as number of cases per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years by Indigenous status, 1992-2011, Northern Territory

- ✓ Northern Territory termination of pregnancy data is imperfect and difficult to access therefore its usefulness to public health planners is limited.
- ✓ Numbers of terminations of pregnancy are underestimates as women travel interstate for care and previously private patients' data was not collected.
- ✓ The patterns of termination of pregnancy and birth reflect a combination of natural female fertility with socio-cultural reproductive imperatives that are not well explained
- ✓ Early medical abortion is restricted by law and practice despite its low risk and potential cost-saving to the health system
- ✓ Indigenous women and non-Indigenous women have different patterns of termination of pregnancy which have implications for public health planning. Rising rates of termination of pregnancy merit further data release, analysis and consultation with Indigenous leaders.
- ✓ Migrant and refugee women need culturally specific fertility management health promotion activity
- ✓ Young girls and women are at risk of unwanted and mistimed pregnancy and youth need sexuality education and reproductive health promotion measures.

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