



2024 SOCIAL DATA REPORT

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENT

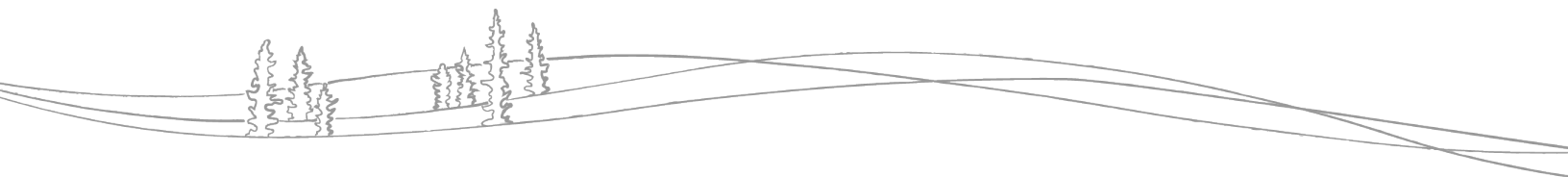
DONNÉES SOCIALES

RAPPORT DE 2024 SUR LES ACCORDS SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES

Le présent document contient
la traduction française du sommaire.

*Supplementary Information and Summary Data
Renseignements supplémentaires et données récapitulatives*

Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest



K'áshshó got'jne xadā k'é hederi ɛdɛjhtl'é yeriniwę ni dé dúle.
Dene Kadá

Dëne Sųłı́né

Edı gondı dehgáh got'je zhatıé k'éé edat'éh enahddhe nıde naxets'é edahlı.
Dene Zhatıé

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yinohtan ji', diits'at ginohkhii.
Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaq'luta.
Inuvialuktun

ᑕᑦᑭᑦ ᑎᑎᑦᑭᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦᐱᑦ, ᐅᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦ ᐅᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ.
Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.
nēhīyawēwin

Tɪjɕɔ yati k'èè. Dɪ wegodi newɔ dè, gots'o goneɗe.
Tɪjɕɔ

Indigenous Languages
request_Indigenous_languages@gov.nt.ca

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Introduction

Major resource development projects affect the Northwest Territories (NWT) in many ways. New people come to the territory. Projects create jobs and economic opportunities. The effects from projects bring changes to individuals and families in nearby communities. For example, taking a job at a mine can introduce new and unique benefits and challenges to families. Job conditions like rotational fly-in shift work can mean employees leave home regularly for weeks at a time. Sudden, significant increases in income can affect household spending behaviors.

To monitor any potential effects, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) signs agreements with the companies that own and manage large mineral resource projects. These agreements are known as Socio-Economic Agreements (SEAs). SEAs formalize commitments for local hiring and spending by the companies. They include ways to measure potential impacts that projects will have on communities, regions, and the entire territory. Both the GNWT and companies have responsibilities to maintain the commitments made in SEAs.

SEA commitments often include:

- Employment and business opportunities,
- Cultural well-being and traditional economy activities,
- Monitoring of indicators related to community, family, and individual well-being programs,
- Net effects on government, and
- Sustainable development initiatives.

SEAs also include commitments by the GNWT to sustain a healthy, educated workforce. The GNWT identifies and understands changes and socio-economic trends around mining. This report shows data collected by the GNWT as part of the government's role in SEAs. It looks at indicators of the potential effects of mining on NWT residents and communities. The indicators include data about education, health, employment, and crime in the NWT.¹

2024 Socio-Economic Agreement Social Data Report

The GNWT's ability to collect and publicly report on certain data is limited and influenced by many factors.^{2,3} This report does not conclusively link the impact of mining to the measured socio-economic indicators.

Three SEAs for producing diamond mines were active in the NWT in 2024:

¹ The indicators included in this document were negotiated into SEAs, although specific datasets have been added, removed, or modified over the years.

² Some indicator data has not been updated from last year's report, due to schedules that Statistics Canada and/or the NWT Bureau of Statistics use to collect their data. For instance, the most recent data for some indicators comes from 2021 Census data. The NWT Bureau of Statistics completed its most recent NWT Community Survey in 2024, which means that much of the indicator data will next be updated in next year's report.

³ In 2018, Fort Resolution was added as an SLC, which means SEA reports published prior to 2018 will feature historical SLC data that differs from data included in this year's report. Historical SLC data, going back as far as 1989, has been calculated in this report with Fort Resolution included, unless otherwise noted. Data for the community of Ndilo is included as part of Yellowknife in the report, unless otherwise noted.

- Ekati (Burgundy Diamond Mines)
- Diavik (DDMI) and
- Gahcho Kué (De Beers Canada)

The concentration of mining activity over the last 25 years has been on diamonds in the NWT's North Slave region. The GNWT reports socio-economic indicators for communities located near these mines, as identified in the commitments in the SEAs, in its annual reporting.

This Social Data Report presents statistics and data in four categories:

- The NWT
- Yellowknife and Ndıłq
- Small Local Communities (SLC)
 - Behchokò
 - Dettah
 - Fort Resolution
 - Gamètì
 - Łutselk'e
 - Wekweètì
 - Whatì
- Remaining NWT Communities⁴

Following the release of this report in 2025, the GNWT will release a companion report, *the SEA Report on Mines Operating in the NWT*. That report will present the economic benefits of mining in the NWT. It looks at employment, procurement, and training from the current producing mines.

⁴ Remaining communities includes all NWT communities, except those previously listed (Yellowknife, Ndıłq, and SLCs: Behchokò, Dettah, Fort Resolution, Gamètì, Łutselk'e, Wekweètì and Whatì).

Introduction

Les grands projets d'exploitation des ressources ont de multiples répercussions sur les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. De nouvelles personnes viennent s'installer sur le territoire, et les projets créent des emplois et des débouchés économiques. Les retombées des projets changent immanquablement la vie des personnes et des familles des collectivités environnantes. Ainsi, si un travailleur accepte un poste dans l'une des mines, sa famille sera confrontée à des difficultés nouvelles et bien particulières, tout comme elle profitera de nouveaux avantages. Les conditions d'emploi, comme les quarts de rotation, peuvent obliger les travailleurs à quitter régulièrement leur domicile pendant plusieurs semaines consécutives. Des augmentations soudaines et importantes de revenus peuvent modifier le comportement des ménages en ce qui a trait aux dépenses.

Afin de surveiller tout effet potentiel, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) signe des accords avec les entreprises qui possèdent et gèrent les grands projets de ressources minérales : des « accords socio-économiques » (ASE). Les ASE formalisent les engagements pris par les entreprises en matière d'embauche et de dépenses au niveau local. Ils prévoient des moyens de mesurer les effets potentiels des projets sur les collectivités, les régions et l'ensemble du territoire. Le GTNO et les entreprises ont la responsabilité d'honorer les engagements pris en vertu des ASE.

Les ASE comprennent souvent les engagements suivants :

- Possibilités d'emploi et d'affaires;
- Bien-être culturel et activités économiques traditionnelles;
- Suivi des indicateurs liés aux programmes de bien-être de la collectivité, des familles et des personnes;
- Effets nets sur le gouvernement;
- Initiatives de développement durable.

Les ASE comprennent également des engagements pris par le GTNO en vue de maintenir une main-d'œuvre en bonne santé et adéquatement formée. Le GTNO détermine et analyse les changements et les tendances socio-économiques liés à l'exploitation minière. Le présent rapport présente les données collectées par le GTNO dans le cadre du rôle incombant au gouvernement comme prévu par les ASE. Il examine les indicateurs des effets potentiels de l'exploitation minière sur les résidents et les collectivités des TNO. Les indicateurs comprennent des données sur l'éducation, la santé, l'emploi et la criminalité aux TNO.⁵

⁵ Les indicateurs du rapport ont été déterminés dans le cadre des ASE, mais certaines données ont pu être ajoutées, retirées ou modifiées au fil des années.

Rapport de 2024 sur les données sociales des accords socio-économiques

La capacité du GTNO à recueillir certaines données et à en rendre compte publiquement est limitée et tributaire de nombreux facteurs. Le présent rapport ne permet pas d'établir un lien concluant entre les effets de l'exploitation minière et les indicateurs socio-économiques mesurés.^{6,7}

En 2024, on a recensé trois ASE en lien avec des mines de diamants en exploitation aux TNO :

- Ekati (Burgundy Diamond Mines)
- Diavik (DDMI)
- Gahcho Kué (De Beers Canada)

Au cours des 25 dernières années, l'activité minière s'est concentrée sur les diamants dans la région du Slave Nord aux TNO. Le GTNO présente dans son rapport annuel des indicateurs socio-économiques pour les collectivités situées à proximité de ces mines, conformément aux engagements pris en vertu des ASE.

Le présent rapport sur les données sociales fournit des statistiques et des informations regroupées sous quatre catégories :

- Les TNO
- Yellowknife et Ndilq
- Les petites collectivités locales
 - Behchokq
 - Dettah
 - Fort Resolution
 - Gamètì
 - Łutselk'e
 - Wekweètì
 - Whatì
- Les autres collectivités des TNO⁸

Après la publication du présent rapport en 2025, le GTNO publiera un rapport complémentaire, le Rapport sur les accords socio-économiques concernant les mines exploitées aux TNO. Ce rapport présentera les avantages économiques de l'exploitation minière aux TNO. Il examinera les indicateurs liés à l'emploi, à l'approvisionnement et à la formation dans les mines actuellement en exploitation.

⁶ Certaines données issues d'indicateurs n'ont pas été mises à jour depuis l'année dernière, en raison des calendriers que Statistique Canada ou le Bureau de la statistique des TNO utilisent pour collecter leurs données. Par exemple, les données les plus récentes pour certains indicateurs proviennent des données du recensement de 2021. Le Bureau de la statistique des TNO a réalisé sa plus récente enquête sur les collectivités des TNO en 2024, ainsi, une grande partie des données issues des indicateurs seront mises à jour dans le rapport de l'année prochaine.

⁷ Fort Resolution ayant été ajoutée à la liste des petites collectivités locales en 2018, les rapports antérieurs à cette date présentent des données historiques qui diffèrent de celles incluses dans le rapport de cette année. Dans le rapport de cette année, les données historiques sur les petites collectivités locales remontent jusqu'à 1989 et sont établies, sauf indication contraire, en tenant compte de Fort Resolution. La collectivité de Ndilq est comprise dans les données de Yellowknife (sauf indication contraire).

⁸ Le reste des collectivités des TNO inclut l'ensemble des collectivités du territoire, à l'exception de celles indiquées précédemment (Yellowknife, Ndilq et les petites collectivités locales : Behchokq, Dettah, Fort Resolution, Gamètì, Łutselk'e, Wekweètì et Whatì).

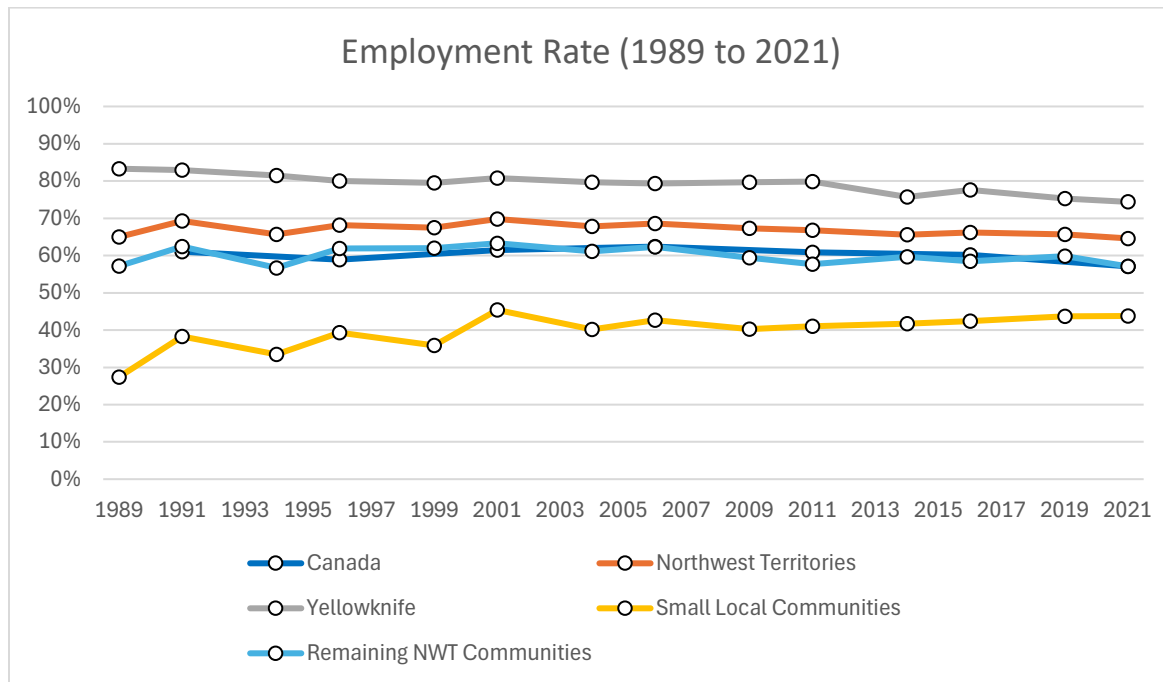
Labour and Income

Employment Rates

The employment rate in SLCs saw a notable increase from 1989 to 2001. There was a significant jump between 1999 and 2001. This follows the opening of Ekati (1998) and the start of construction at Diavik (2001), after which it levelled out once more.

Rates have been relatively stable since 2004. This indicates that employment rates have not seen substantial benefits correlated with project expansions and new mines.

In Yellowknife, the employment rate was decreasing prior to the mine start-ups. The rate remained relatively stable from 1996 to 2011 and has been in slight decline since 2011.



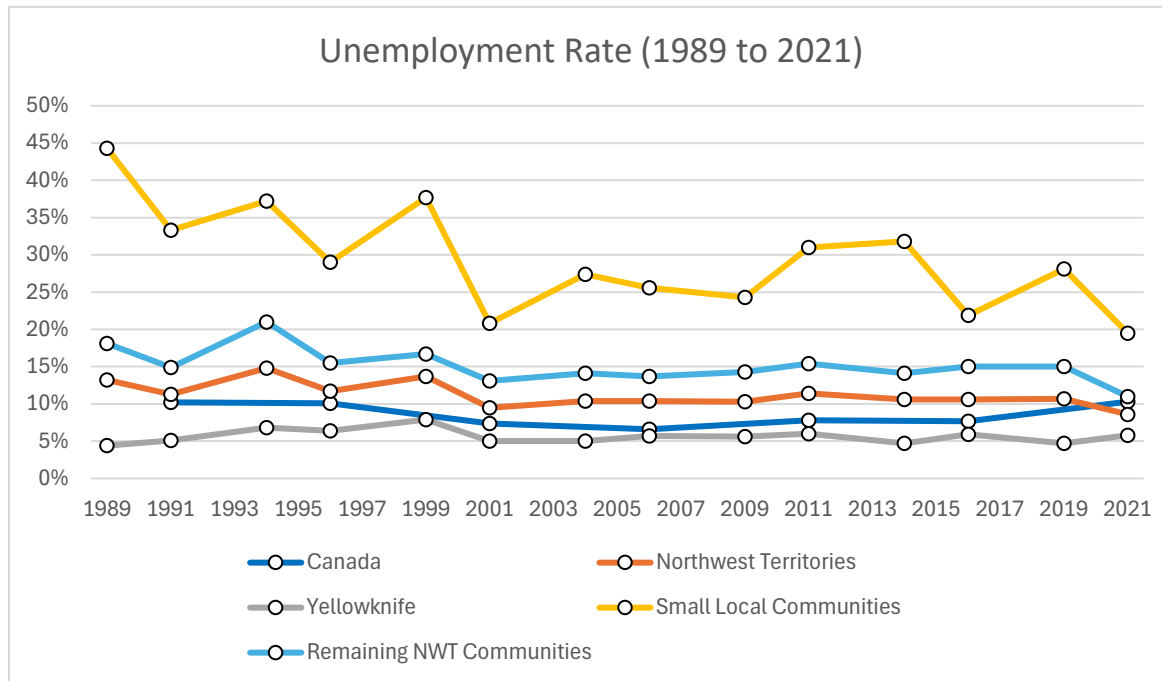
Sources: 1989, 1994 and 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey; 1996, 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census; 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 NWT Community Survey; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

Note: Comparisons between the labour force survey (LFS) completed by the Bureau of Statistics and the Census should be made with caution. The LFS and NWT Community Survey were completed during the January-March period. The Census was done in May and June. Census indicators are often higher due to seasonal employment activities.

Unemployment Rates

Since 1989, the overall unemployment rate has trended downward in all communities outside of Yellowknife. While there has been some variability over the years, the unemployment rate today is lower than before the first SEA came into effect in 1996.

Although there are yearly fluctuations, the unemployment rate in SLCs has decreased since the mines started up. This trend is consistent with the Remaining NWT Communities. Except for a peak in 1999, the unemployment rate in Yellowknife has remained relatively unchanged over the same period.



Sources: 1989, 1994 and 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey; 1996, 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census; 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 NWT Community Survey; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

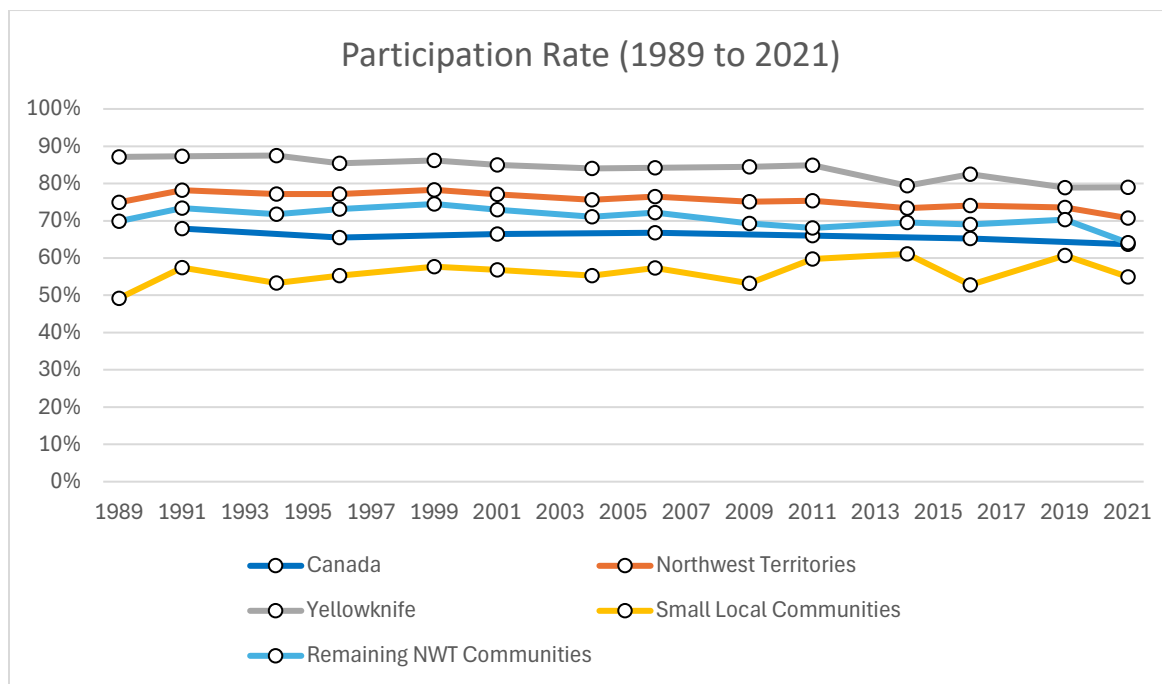
Note: Comparisons between the LFS completed by the Bureau of Statistics and the Census should be made with caution. The LFS and NWT Community Survey were completed during the January-March period. The Census was done in May and June. Census indicators are often higher due to seasonal employment activities.

Participation Rates

The participation rate is the number of labour force participants (employed and unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

In SLCs, the participation rate increased from 52.8 percent in 2016 to above 60 percent in 2019, which means that more people were working or looking for work. The participation rate increased slightly in SLCs when the first SEA came into effect in 1996, with minimal variability ever since.

In both Yellowknife and the Remaining NWT Communities, the participation rate has been relatively stable since the mines started up.



Sources: 1989, 1994 and 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey; 1996, 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census; 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 NWT Community Survey; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

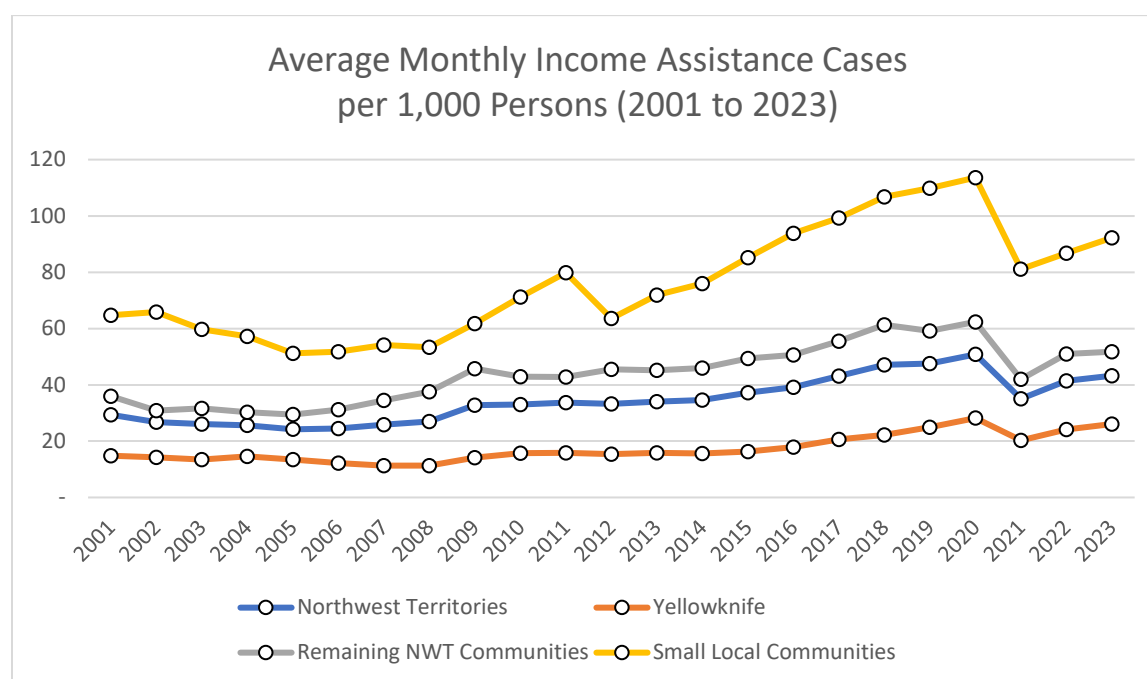
Note: Comparisons between the LFS completed by the Bureau of Statistics and the Census should be made with caution. The LFS and NWT Community Survey were completed during the January-March period. The Census was done in May and June. Census indicators are often higher due to seasonal employment activities.

Income Assistance

The GNWT completed a review of the Income Assistance program and introduced several enhancements, including launching a new Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program, on July 1, 2024.

The Income Assistance program provides financial assistance to NWT residents to help meet their basic needs. The program ensures clients have the opportunity to develop greater financial security, so they are able to participate in community life and share opportunities available throughout the NWT.

The availability and delivery of COVID-19 benefits may have impacted Income Assistance case levels between 2020 and 2022.



Sources: Department of Education, Culture and Employment; NWT Bureau of Statistics.

Notes:

- Income Security Program changes made in 2016 affected subsequent results.
- In previous Social Data Reports, Yellowknife data for this indicator included the communities of Ndilq and Dettah, and SLC data included Behchokq, Fort Resolution, Gamètì, Łutselk'e, Wekweètì, and Whatì. In this year's Social Data Report, Dettah is included in SLC, as it is elsewhere in this report.

Indigenous Languages

Language Revitalization

The NWT is home to nine official Indigenous languages:

- Dehcho Dene Zhatié (South Slavey)
- Dëne Sųłné (Chipewyan)
- Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik (Gwich'in),
- Inuinnaqtun
- Inuktitut
- Inuvialuktun,
- nēhiyawēwin (Cree)
- Sahtu Dene Kədá (North Slavey)
- Tłıchų

For over a century, colonization and colonialism resulted in the loss of Indigenous languages in the NWT. Residential schools further impacted the natural intergenerational transmission of language from parent to child. These policies and practices, including forced assimilation and the promotion of dominant languages, continue to affect Indigenous communities worldwide.

These policies continue to impact Indigenous languages and culture. Indigenous people in the NWT have put an enormous effort into reclaiming and revitalizing their unique languages. With the adoption of official Indigenous languages alongside English and French, governments, community groups, and educational institutions have likewise committed themselves to restoring the resilience and use of Indigenous languages over the long term.

In 2024, the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement for Indigenous Languages was renewed until 2027. This will support the GNWT and its partner organizations to strengthen, revitalize, and promote Indigenous languages.

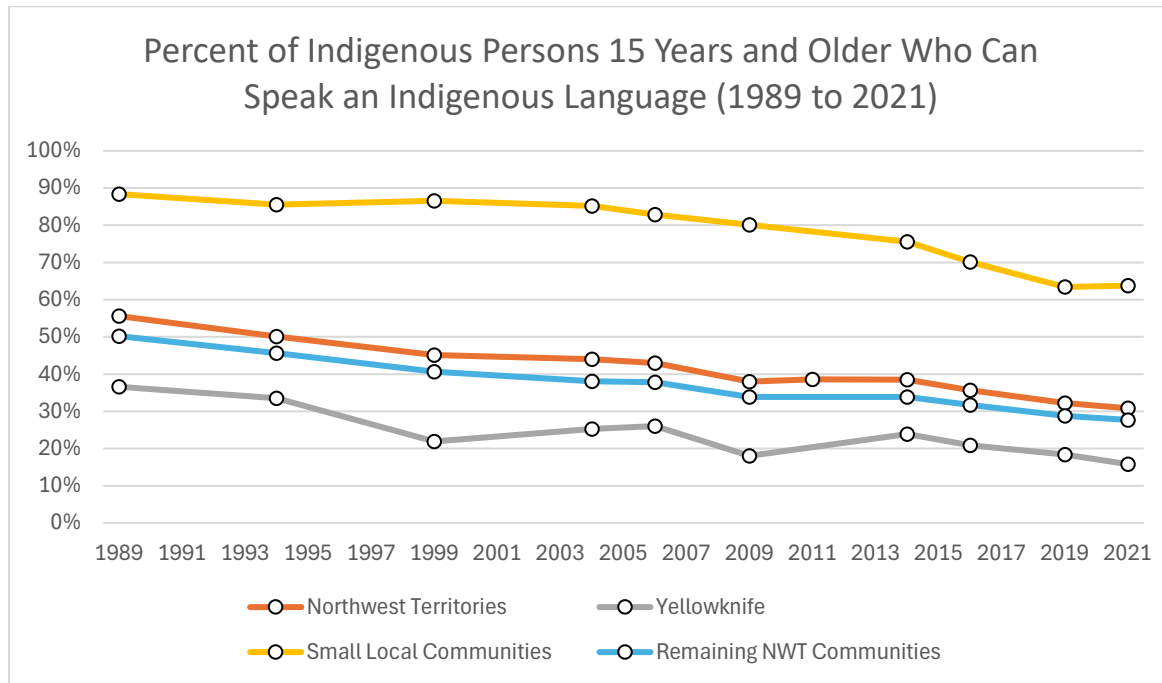
There have not been any studies completed on the impact that mines have on the use of Indigenous languages in the NWT. While studies in other regions like Australia, Amazonia, and Papua New Guinea where Canadian mining corporations operate have documented mining-related language loss, no comparable study has been done in the NWT.

For languages to be spoken they need to be passed down from parent to child. Many mines operate on shift work, which may inhibit the natural cycle of communication between parent and child as well as disrupt traditional cultural practices. The influx of workers from the south can further disincentivizes Indigenous language use. More research is needed in this area.

The GNWT supports the following language revitalization initiatives across the NWT:

- Indigenous Government-administered Regional Indigenous Language Plans;
- Indigenous Communications Societies and the Community Radio Support Program;
- Territorial Indigenous Languages Strategic Initiatives Program;

- Indigenous Language Training Programs – i.e., the Mentor Apprentice Program (MAP);
- Indigenous Languages and Education in NWT Schools;
- Indigenous Language Instructor Employment Plan;
- Indigenous Languages Revitalization Scholarship Program; and
- Interpreter-Translator Funding Program.



Sources: 1989, 1994 and 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey; 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 NWT Community Survey; 2006, 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

Notes:

- Statistics Canada cautioned that collection challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic may have significantly affected the count of Indigenous language speakers in communities when compared with non-Indigenous language speakers in larger centres such as Yellowknife.
- 2011 percentages are restricted to NWT-wide data based on current Statistics Canada Census data availability. Figures for Yellowknife, SLCs, and Remaining NWT Communities are not included for 2011.

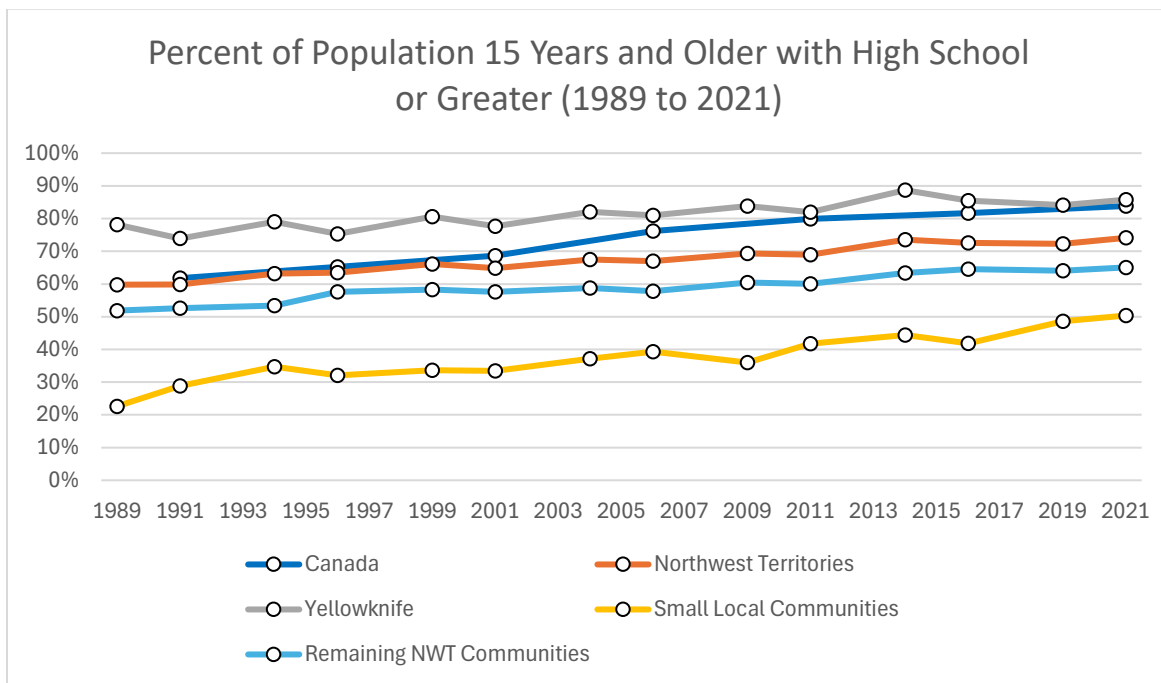
Education

High School Completion Rates

The High School Completion Rate, which is the percentage of the NWT population 15 years and older with a high school diploma or greater education, has increased since 1989. It is unlikely that this change is due completely to the operating diamond mines. There have been significant improvements to the delivery of education programs throughout the NWT.

In SLCs, and Remaining NWT Communities, the percentage of people 15 years and older with high school or greater increased sharply between 1989 and 1994. This coincided with grade extensions offered in smaller communities, which led to an increase in the number of people completing Grade 9 and moving on to high school.

In 2021, 74.1 percent of the NWT population over 15 had a high school diploma or greater, which reflects the highest level since SEA reporting began. The levels in SLCs (50.4 percent) and Remaining NWT Communities (65.1 percent) are also the highest reported for their respective categories.



Sources: 1989, 1994 and 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey; 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census; 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 NWT Community Survey; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

High School Graduation Rates

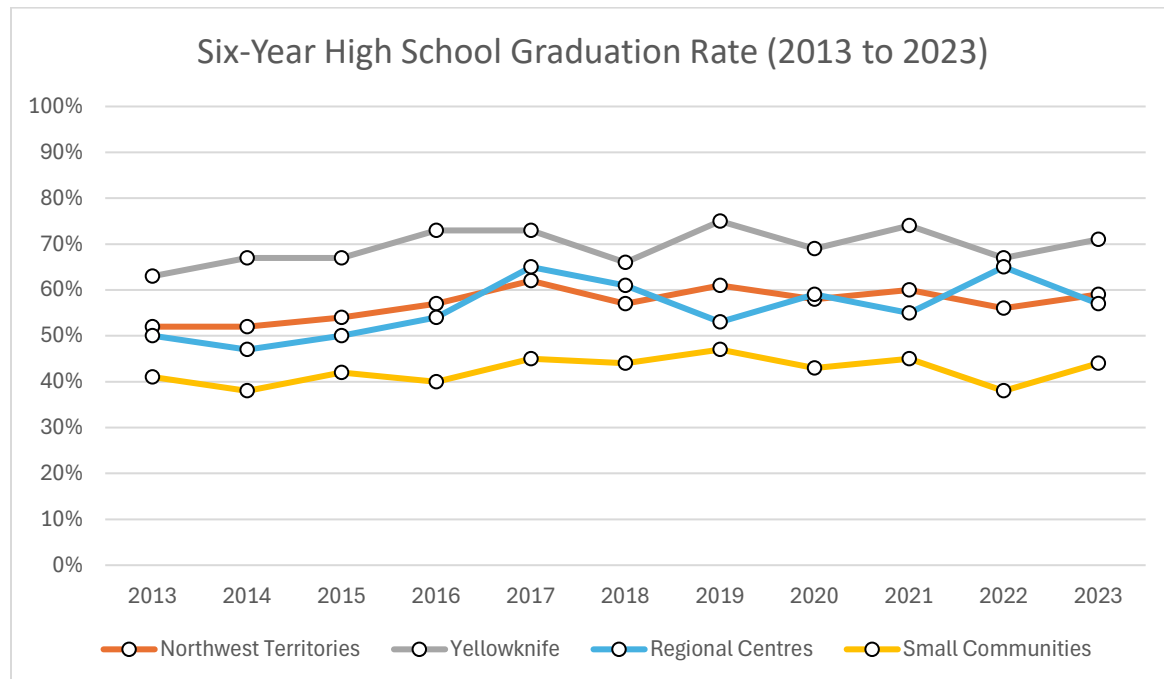
Graduating high school is more critical today than it was even a generation ago. More employers are looking for job candidates who have finished high school. Statistics across Canada indicate that there is a strong relationship between having a high school diploma and having a higher income.

In 2021, the GNWT developed a new method for calculating the Northwest Territories graduation rate. The new method is referred to as the Six-Year High School Graduation Rate. It reflects the GNWT's philosophy that there are many paths to graduation beyond the traditional three-year time frame to graduate. The current Graduation Rate allows students up to six years to graduate from when they first enter Grade 10. All students, no matter their circumstances, have a chance to be counted in the graduation rate.

In 2023, the Six-Year Graduation Rate for the NWT showed that 59 percent of students graduated. Overall, graduation rates have been slowly climbing since 2013. Over the last ten years, the gap between Indigenous student and non-Indigenous student graduation rates has remained between 30 and 40 percent.

Yellowknife and small communities have both seen an increase in their graduation rates from 2022 to 2023. In 2023, Yellowknife had the highest graduation rate and small communities had the lowest. This trend, of Yellowknife having the highest rate and small communities having the lowest, has been consistent for the last 10 years.

Since the graduation rate allows students up to six years to complete high school, the student cohort in the 2023 rate started high school in the 2017-18 academic year. This means the COVID-19 pandemic would have impacted this cohort's third, fourth, and fifth years since starting high school. As such, it's possible the fluctuations seen in the graduation rates are related to the pandemic.



Source: Department of Education, Culture and Employment

Notes:

- Regional centres include Inuvik, Hay River, and Fort Smith. Small communities include all NWT communities outside of regional centres and Yellowknife.
- For reference, the student cohort for 2023 started high school in the 2017-18 academic year.

Health and Wellness

Potential Years of Life Lost

Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) is the total number of all years of life not lived by individuals who died before reaching the average age of life expectancy (age 75) from all causes of mortality. This number is used to indicate early deaths, which can broadly measure the health and well-being of people in a region.

PYLL is measured using Statistics Canada data taken from the Vital Statistics' Death Database. The database collects demographic and medical (cause of death) information annually and monthly from all provincial and territorial vital statistics registries on all deaths in Canada.

A causal relationship between PYLL and NWT mining activity is difficult to determine using trend analysis, as presented in this report.

A three-year average PYLL is used to look at trends that might be harder to identify using annual data. There can be large changes in PYLL rates from one year to the next, for a variety of reasons including small population size. PYLL is used as an indicator both to reflect the potential impact of the mine on workers' longevity, as well as any indirect effects of mining on longevity of people in communities that are home to mine workers.

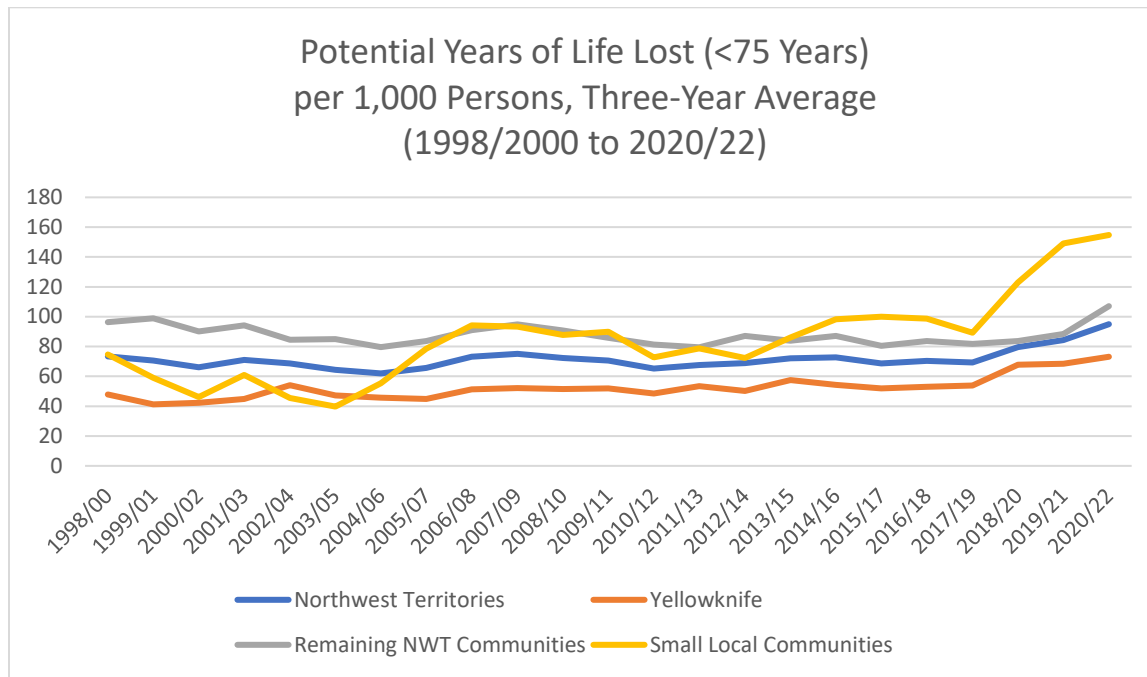
Research⁹ has made connections to the environmental conditions, rotation schedules and lifestyles associated with mine work that puts employees at greater risk of death or reduced lifespan compared to most occupations for many reasons, including traumatic injury, cancer, heart disease (due to silicosis), tuberculosis and pneumonia, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and suicide. The 24-hour nature of mine operations means that workers often must work night shifts, which research has shown are independently associated with poorer sleep quality in workers in similar conditions (rotational oil and gas workers) to miners in the NWT. Poor sleep quality can negatively impact longevity.

Mines may increase all-cause mortality (and therefore may increase PYLL if the deaths occur in people under 75 years of age) in nearby communities through other means as well. Rotational mine workers can increase the spread of disease as they move in and out of mine camps containing workers from across Canada. If an outbreak occurs at a mine camp or at the home locations of any workers, then a disease can spread to the home locations of other workers present at a work camp.

Up until 2018/20, the PYLL rate in the NWT had remained relatively unchanged since monitoring began in 1998. Trends in PYLL in 2018/20 and 2019/21 may be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Trends in the three-year average PYLL rate may obscure more detailed annual variations within the data. For SLCs and Remaining NWT Communities, because of their small populations, one or more

⁹ References are available to support statements made throughout the Social Data Report. For example, see Berriault, C. J., Lightfoot, N. E., Seilkop, S. K., & Conard, B. R. (2017a). Injury mortality in a cohort of mining, smelting, and refining workers in Ontario. *Archives of Environmental & Occupational Health*, 72(4), 220–230. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19338244.2016.1265479>.

early deaths has a greater impact on PYLL rate than it does in a larger population (such as the NWT as a whole) which results in greater variability, even when presenting three-year averages, and adds to the difficulty in interpreting causes for changes in their PYLL rates.



Source: Statistics Canada Vital Statistics

Injuries and Poisonings (Physician-diagnosed)

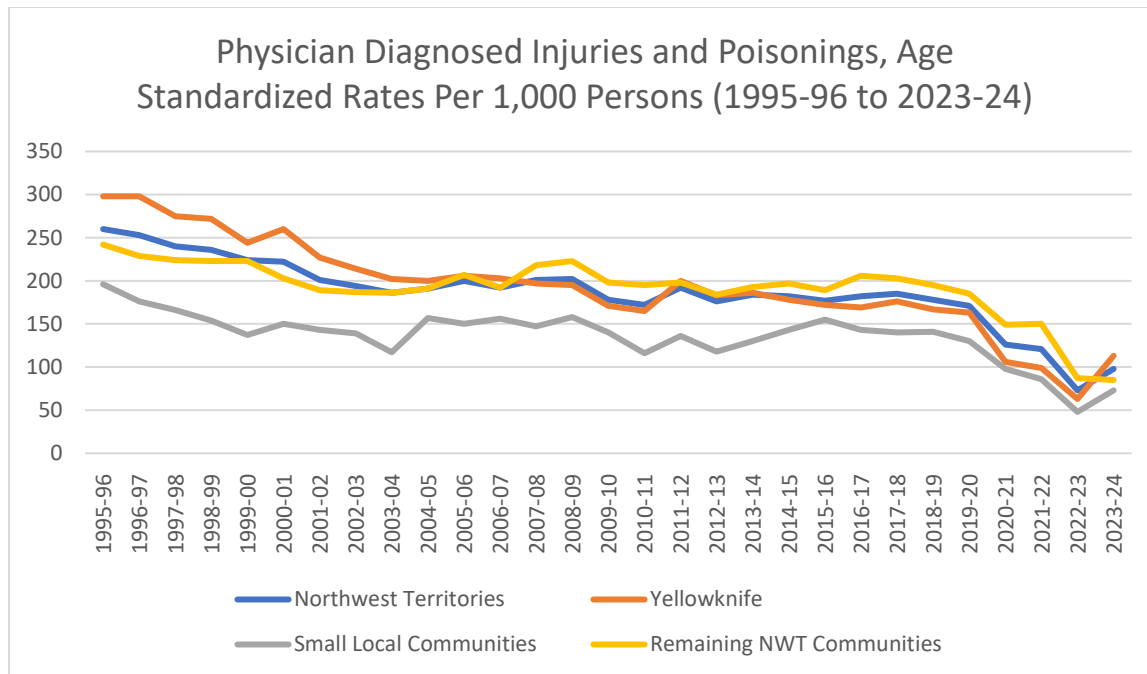
At this time, physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings are measured by the number of injuries treated by doctors in the territory. This includes broken bones, severe burns, minor cuts or bruises, and poisonings. However, physician-diagnosed claim data in the NWT is an unreliable indicator on injury and poisoning rates.

Physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings claims data come from the NWT Health Management Information System. Physicians in hospitals and clinics use this secure system to input notes and data on patients, which can then be retrieved under the *Health Information Act* as required. The postal code of a registered patient is used to determine where the injury occurred. Injury and poisoning indicators are examined to see whether there has been an increase in reckless, risk-taking behaviour or violence in a community, as these types of behaviours have been associated with resource development in research.¹⁰ Please note that not all injuries which occur in a community are related to mine activity.

Overall, the rate of physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings has been decreasing since 1995-96. The trend cannot be directly associated with the beginning of mining activity, but it may be related to other social and political changes in communities, such as improvements in primary health care services. The rate of physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings is lower in SLCs than in Yellowknife and the rest of the NWT. This may be explained by the fact that much of the health care provided in SLCs is from nurses rather than doctors. Recent data between 2020-21 and 2022-23 may indicate a drop in injuries and poisonings across the Northwest Territories.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the public health response to the pandemic in the NWT may have resulted in a reduction in traumatic injuries, but evidence from outside the NWT indicates an overall mixed effect from COVID-19 restrictions on traumatic injuries. However, given physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings numbers are based on physician claims (claims made to public health insurance for reimbursement), if there are delays in processing these claims, not all recent injuries and poisonings will appear in recent data. It is therefore possible that the recent reduction in physician-diagnosed injuries from 2021 through 2023 is due to a delay in claims rather than a fundamental change in the number of injuries. If this is the case, then the reduction in injuries and poisonings visible in the data will be corrected to their true levels in future years, which could reduce the recent trend down. Thus, at this time, physician-diagnosed claim data in the NWT should be considered an unreliable indicator on injury and poisoning rates. Nonetheless, the health and social services system is working to improve reliability and timeliness of data.

¹⁰ References are available to support statements made throughout the Social Data Report. For example, see: *Canada's Resilient North: The Impact of Mining on Aboriginal Communities*. The Impact of Mining on Aboriginal Communities G. Gibson, J. Klinck Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous Community Health, 3(1)



Sources: Department of Health and Social Services, Medicare; NWT Bureau of Statistics and Department of Health and Social Services (1995-96 population estimates).

Notes:

- These numbers are subject to future revisions (due to population estimate revisions, record revisions, data entry delays and database design changes) and are not necessarily comparable to numbers in other tabulations and reports.
- Ndilq and Dettah numbers are included in Yellowknife.
- Numbers included physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings regardless of location (clinic, hospital, or other location).
- Nurse practitioner-diagnosed injuries and poisonings are included.
- Some individuals may be diagnosed more than once for the same injury or poisoning.
- These rates were standardized using the NWT Population from 2001.

Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections

Since 2021, sexually transmitted infection (STI) and sexually transmitted blood-borne infection (STBBI) rates have dramatically increased across the territory, most notably in SLCs. NWT has the highest rate of syphilis in the country and the second highest rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia. In 2019, the CPHO declared a syphilis outbreak in the NWT. The outbreak continues, with the majority of cases occurring within Yellowknife.

While no causal relationship has been identified between NWT mines and STIs in this report, research indicates that work in-migration for resource development is generally associated with increases in STI/STBBI rates in general.¹¹ In the NWT, limited research has been conducted looking at how resource development may influence STI/STBBI rates. This limited evidence suggests anecdotally that STIs may increase in communities where residents are employed in the resource development sector.¹² The data presented below include rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and congenital syphilis in SLCs, Remaining NWT Communities, Yellowknife, and the Northwest Territories as a whole.

STI/STBBI testing and treatment is available across the territory. STI/STBBI cases require public health follow up for contact identification, treatment monitoring, and follow-up testing. STBBI cases may require lengthy follow up and specialist management. Suspected or confirmed STI/STBBI bases are reportable by Public Health Act legislation to the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO).

STI/STBBI case data reported to the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) are housed in the Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) which serves as the territorial electronic communicable disease registry. STI/STBBI case data from iPHIS are used to monitor STBBI incidence and trends in the territory. Information from the health insurance registration is used to determine community and region of cases. STI/STBBI case data is also reportable to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Incidence rates for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and infectious syphilis in the NWT are significantly higher than the national average. Among Canadian provinces and territories, the NWT had the highest rate for infectious syphilis in 2022 (the most recent year where comparisons can be made), and the second-highest rate for gonorrhea and chlamydia in 2021 (the most recent year where that comparison can be made). Rates of all three STI/STBBIs have been increasing nationally since the early 2000s. Hypothesized drivers of this increase include social determinants of health such as poverty and lack of access to healthcare, as well as behavioural factors including substance use and having multiple sexual partners.

The COVID-19 pandemic reduced the demand for and access to services related to STI/STBBIs, including availability of testing. This likely contributed to fewer reported cases of STIs in 2020 and

¹¹ Goldenberg, S., Shoveller, J., Ostry, A., & Koehoorn, M. (2008). Youth sexual behaviour in a boomtown: implications for the control of sexually transmitted infections. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 84(3), 220–223. <https://doi.org/10.1136/STI.2007.027219>

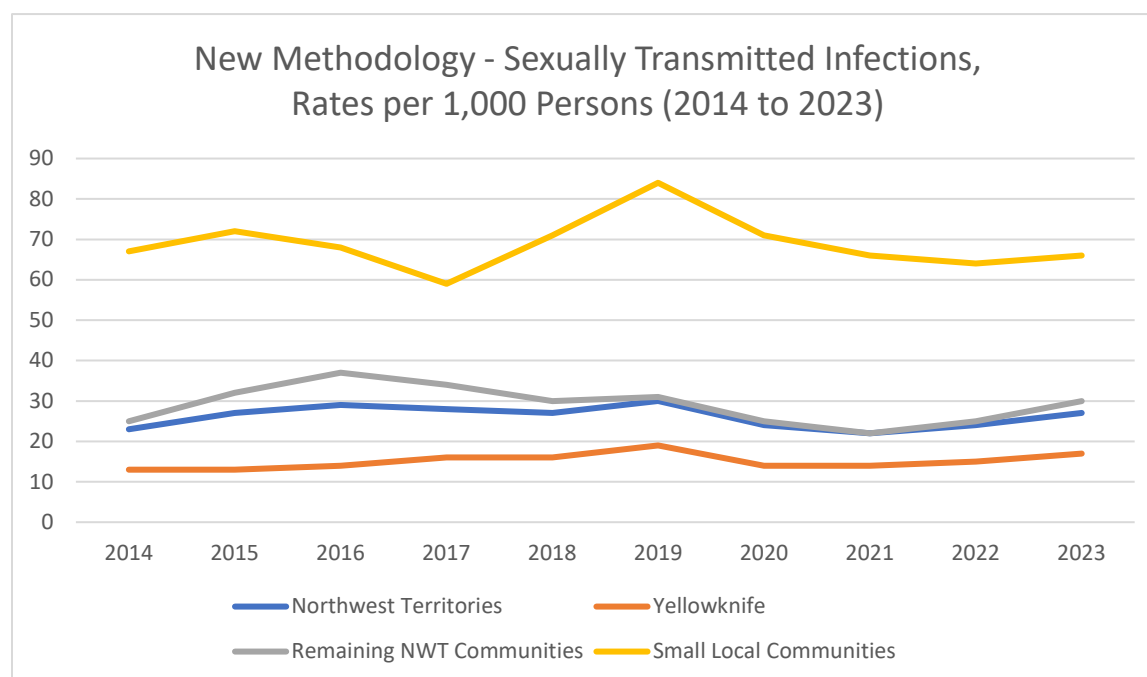
¹² References are available to support statements made throughout the Social Data Report. See, as one example, Davidson, C., & Hawe, P. (2012). *All That Glitters: Diamond Mining and Tłıchǫ Youth in Behchokǫ, Northwest Territories* on JSTOR. *Arctic*, 65(2), 214–228. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41638593?seq=4>.

2021. Demand and access to STI/STBBI services have returned to pre-pandemic levels, however accessible services are still limited. The increase in STI/STBBI rates in 2022 and 2023 may be a partial reflection of the ability for individuals to more easily access STI/STBBI services post-pandemic. It is unlikely that the increase in STIs across the territory is due to mining activity.

The GNWT has been working to limit the spread of syphilis and other STI/STBBIs. OCPHO launched an education and awareness campaign to combat the ongoing outbreak of syphilis and procured free condoms and dispensers for health centers and other key stakeholders for distribution. In addition to the ongoing education and awareness campaigns and additional training staff to support sexual health in the territory, the GNWT opened a new temporary private STI/STBBI clinic in Yellowknife on October 1, 2024. The clinic offers quick, convenient, and confidential testing and treatment in a single location.

In 2024, a methodological change occurred in the calculation of the STBBI rate for each region. This was a switch from using the Bureau of Statistics population estimates for the NWT, to a population estimate based on NT health insurance registration.

Data generated using this new methodology are presented below. Data is only available from 2014 to 2023 is used due to limitations in historical disease records and Northwest Territories insurance registry information prior to 2014. Data from 1997 to 2022, based on the Bureau of Statistics population estimate, can be found in the 2023 Social Data Report and are not directly comparable to the data presented below.



Source: Department of Health and Social Services, Communicable Disease Registry; NWT.

Notes:

- These numbers are subject to future revisions (due to record revisions, data entry delays and database design changes) and are not necessarily comparable to numbers in other tabulations and reports.

- Numbers are based on community of diagnosis, and include all cases counted by NWT, regardless of NWT residency status at the time of diagnosis.
- Ndilo and Dettah numbers are included in Yellowknife.
- STIs include Chlamydia, Chlamydia of the Eye, Gonorrhea, Gonorrhea of the Throat, and Syphilis.
- SLC does not include Fort Resolution in this extract.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial disease that mostly attacks the lungs but can also spread and cause disease in any part of the body, including the brain, lymph nodes and bones. TB can be treated with antibiotics, but treatment is often months long and requires public health monitoring throughout the course of treatment. TB cases require contact investigations to determine if there are other TB cases or to identify those who may have been infected. TB case investigations are multi-faceted, require public health and primary care resources, and can last up to two years, or longer in an outbreak.

TB disproportionately affects Indigenous Peoples and foreign-born people in Canada. TB remains a disease of prevalence in the Northwest Territories. TB infection—when a person has evidence of exposure but is not symptomatic and cannot transmit TB bacteria to others—is also prevalent in the NWT.

When an individual presents to an NWT healthcare facility with signs and symptoms consistent with TB or identified as high-risk, by exposure to a known TB case, they should be clinically assessed and undergo assessment and testing. All suspected and confirmed cases of TB are to be reported to the OCPHO. Case management will be coordinated with front-line staff and public health teams. Any TB test for TB infection, done in the NWT, is also reportable to the CPHO.

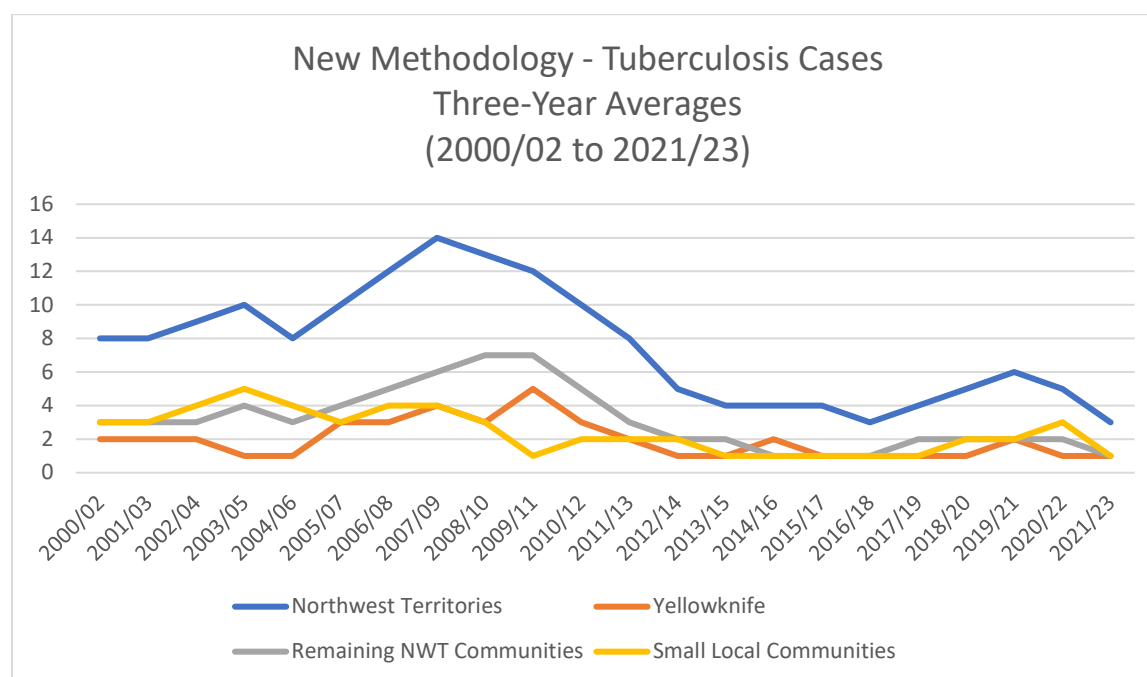
TB tests and case data reported to OCPHO are housed in iPHIS. Case data from iPHIS is used for monitoring TB disease incidence and trends in the territory. Information from the health insurance registration is used to determine the community and region of cases. TB case data is reportable to the Public Health Agency of Canada. Community-level TB counts are calculated using the patient's current address as a basis, providing insights into the prevalence of TB in each community. These counts are then combined for smaller communities, as very small population numbers may make individuals with TB identifiable to the public.

Individuals seeking TB testing for employment or through a contact investigation, for example, can only be done through a public health unit or at a community health center. TB assessment and testing for TB disease can be done through primary care or public health. Testing for TB disease generally occurs by laboratory specimens sent to DynaLife/Alberta Provincial Laboratory and via radiology or other imaging. Results of testing are reported to the ordering health care practitioner and to the OCPHO. It is the ordering practitioner's responsibility to communicate the results to the patient. The ordering practitioner also has a legislative duty to report the results to the CPHO. Studying TB in relation to mine work has its roots in the historically high tuberculosis counts in the NWT throughout the 20th century, particularly for Indigenous communities. Although no firm connection to mining activity has ever been established, TB counts remained high in 1996 when the first Socio-Economic Agreement (SEA) was signed with BHP Billiton for the Ekati Diamond Mine, making it important to monitor TB counts across the territory.

The annual count of TB in the territory and in SLCs has been relatively low over the last 10 years. The overall small number of cases results in small changes being reflected as noticeable increases in the graph; it is unlikely that changes in counts of TB are related to mining activity.

In 2024, a methodological change occurred in the calculation of the TB cases for each region. This was a switch from using the Bureau of Statistics population estimates for the NWT, to a population estimate based on NT health insurance registration.

Data generated using this new methodology are presented below. Data from 2000 to 2023 is used due to limitations in historical disease records and NT Insurance registry information prior to 2000. Data from 1997 to 2022, based on the Bureau of Statistics population estimate, can be found in the 2023 Social Data Report and are not directly comparable to the data presented below.



Source: Department of Health and Social Services, TB Registry.

Notes:

- TB case inclusion criteria: TB cases categorized in the TB Registry as either lab-confirmed or clinically diagnosed TB disease.
- These numbers are subject to future revisions (due to record revisions, data entry delays and database design changes) and are not necessarily comparable to numbers in other tabulations and reports.
- Ndilo and Dettah numbers are included in Yellowknife, as separate postal codes do not exist for each community.

Suicide

Suicide is a major cause of early death in the NWT. The territory's rate of suicide is approximately 50 percent higher than the national average.

Since diamond mining activity began after the first SEA was signed in 1996, the suicide rate in SLCs has fluctuated, as has the rate in Remaining NWT Communities. The suicide rate is shown as a three-year average to better identify changes and trends that are more difficult to see when comparing the annual number of suicides, and to reduce variability caused by small populations. Due to high levels of data volatility and low numbers of total data points, it is difficult to determine long-term trends or to determine if there is a relationship between mining and suicide rates in the NWT using trend analysis.

Suicides are measured using Statistics Canada data taken from the Vital Statistics' Death database, which collects demographic and medical (cause of death) information annually and monthly from all provincial and territorial vital statistics registries on all deaths in Canada.

Worldwide, mine workers are at a higher risk of suicide than many other occupations. In Australia, for instance, the disruption to family life caused by shift work has been identified as a strong contributing factor for mine worker suicides.¹³ Additionally, the "boom-bust" nature of natural resource employment can result in large swings in employment and wages; when a large number of community members lose their jobs at once, there can be a spike in suicides. There is some evidence that this association exists for Canada at large and Northern Canada as well.¹⁴ It is not possible to know how many suicides reported here are related to people working at mines.

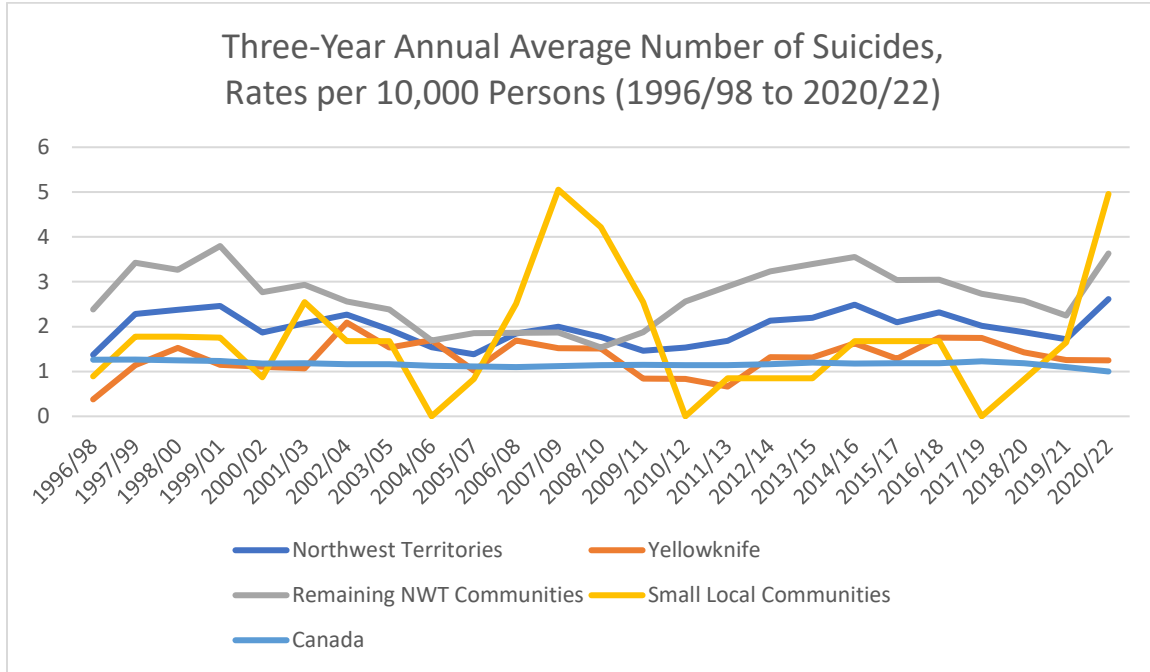
There has been a large increase in suicide rates in SLC between 2021 and 2022. This is in line with reports from the Chief Coroner of the NWT: 29 individuals, primarily males, died by suicide between January 2021 and September 2022. However, the suicide rate should be viewed with caution, due to the impact that one more or one less suicide can have on a rate in any given year and on the three-year average. Available data in the NWT does not appear to support a direct correlation between mining activity and the suicide rate in the NWT.

The GNWT has been listening to communities on the need for additional, consistent, and ongoing support in the wake of tragedies like suicides. The GNWT and the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) have developed a Suicide Prevention and Crisis Response Network that is focused on key areas to address suicide. Canada has also launched 988, a suicide crisis helpline available across Canada. Since 2022, the GNWT has expanded the Community Suicide Prevention fund from \$225,000 to \$725,000 for 2023-2024 projects, and expanded the eligibility

¹³ References are available to support statements made throughout the Social Data Report. See for example: McPhedran, S., & De Leo, D. (2013). *Suicide Among Miners in Queensland, Australia*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244013511262>, 3(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244013511262> and;

¹⁴ Buell, M., O'Hearn, T., Rideout, D., Keenainak, N., Maghagak, A., & Mollon, A. (2006). *Resource Extraction Development a traction Development and Well-Being in the North: A Scan of the Unique Challenges of Development in Inuit Communities*. National Aboriginal Health Organization. www.nahc.ca/inuit.

requirements for the fund to include a greater variety of projects. The GNWT has also been working to expedite and streamline the application, approval, and reporting requirements for the fund.



Source: Statistics Canada Vital Statistics.

Note: Rates before 1996 are not calculated since annual population is not available.

Family Violence

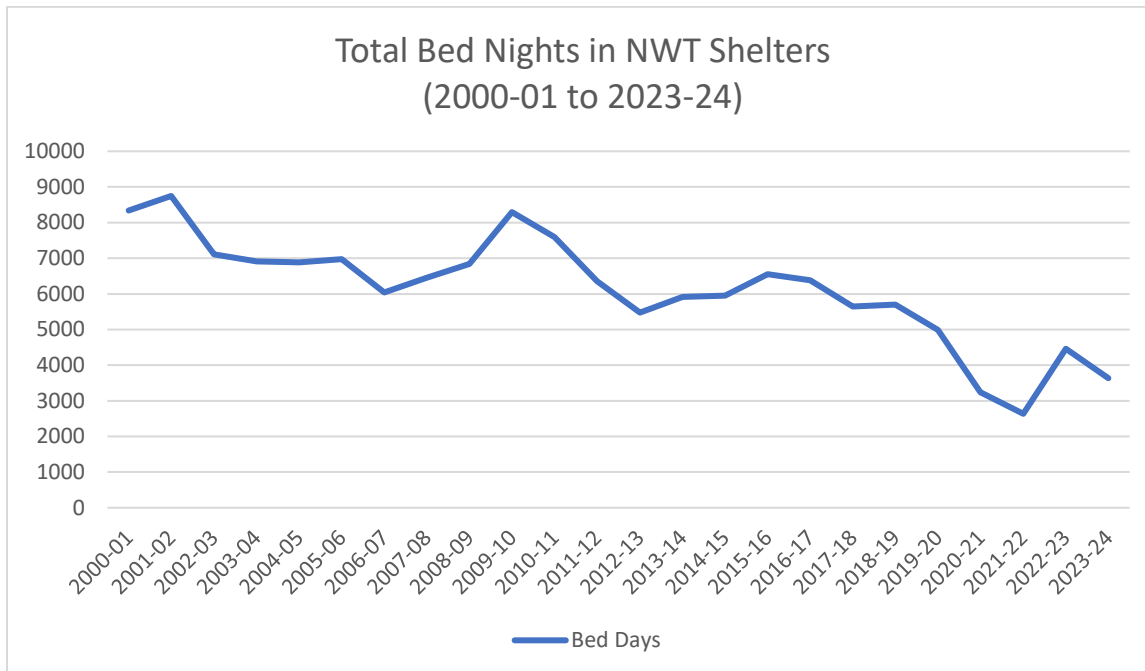
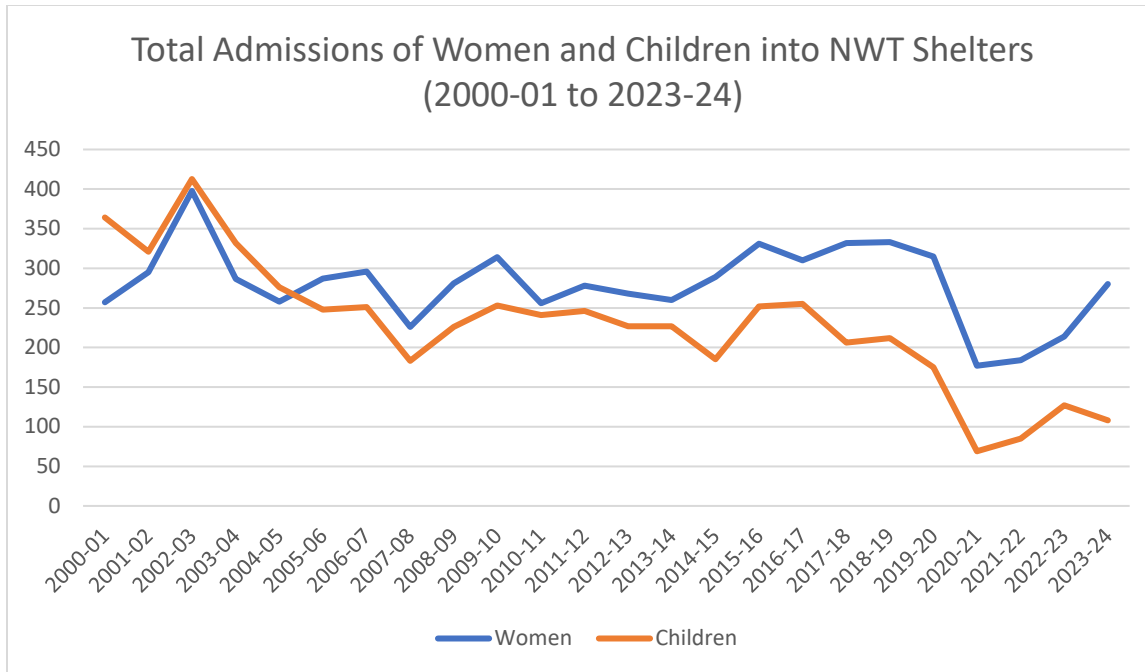
Family violence is defined by the Government of Canada as any form of abuse, including the neglect a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship. Admissions of women and children into family violence shelters is not a strong indicator for family violence levels in the NWT.

Admissions of women and children into family violence shelters are recorded by individual shelters, along with an individual's stated location of residence. The shelter records an individual as having stayed at a shelter, along with the start and end date of their stay. This report records both the total number of stays, along with number of total days all living spaces in a shelter were occupied for (recorded as bed nights). For instance, if one person went to a shelter twice over a week (each time staying for three days), then the data for that week would appear as two total admissions, and six total bed nights for the week.

Data from family violence shelters are presented here as a proxy measure of family violence. This should not be considered an accurate assessment of family violence occurring in communities in the NWT as there are a variety of reasons people use, or do not use, shelters. Shelters may be sought due to homelessness, mental health concerns, or substance abuse. In some instances, those seeking shelters may not be able to find access. Data regarding shelter use is presented in this report at a territory-wide level. It is not possible to make a more direct connection to incidence of family violence, as indicated by shelter data, in SLCs.

Although it is one of the only proxy measures available, take caution when interpreting admission of women and children into family violence shelters and total shelter bed nights as an indicator of family violence.

There are five family violence shelters in the NWT, located in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik, and Tuktoyaktuk. This Territorial Family Violence Shelters Network works to increase the capacity and skills of the shelter staff to meet the needs of women and children. Combined data from all those shelters indicate that admission of women and children into family violence shelters and total shelter bed nights may be returning to pre-existing levels following a drop likely due to public health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 to 2021). There is little reason to believe that mining activity is related to this trend, as there are other explanations in this case. There is stronger evidence that the observed decrease in shelter admissions was due to GNWT policies implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in this period. Similar trends can be observed across Canada, where comparable COVID-19 policies were implemented. It remains important to monitor data regarding family violence shelter use. Post COVID-19, the number of admissions to shelters increased, as did number of bed nights. With fluctuating numbers of admissions and total bed nights, it remains unclear if use of family violence shelters will increase to pre-COVID-19 levels.



Source: Department of Health and Social Services, Family Violence Database.

Notes:

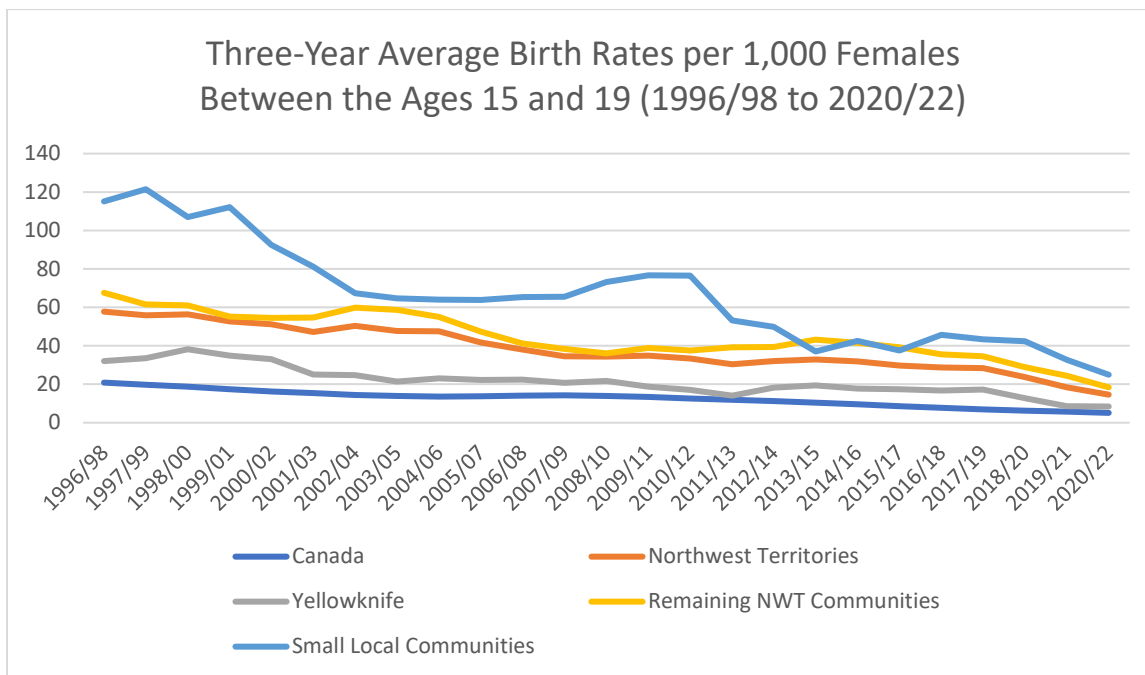
- These numbers are subject to future revisions (due to record revisions, data entry delays and database design changes) and are not necessarily comparable to numbers in other tabulations and reports.
- Data for Tuktoyaktuk were unavailable for 2002-03 to 2006-07 and has been estimated based on an average of the previous three years.
- Fort Smith shelter data were not included for 2004-05 as it was not in operation for most of that year.
- NWT data are based on shelter and not community of residence. Some admissions may be from non-NWT residents.

Teen Births

The rate of teen births includes all births to individuals between the ages of 15 and 19.

Data on teen births is collected from the Stats Canada Vital Statistics database after a birth is registered with the Northwest Territories Vital Statistics Registry. Teen birth rates are derived from the date of birth of the parent, which is included alongside the birth registration data.

Overall, the rate of teenage births has decreased across Canada and the NWT since 1996. Since 2010/12, the rate of teen births has declined again in SLCs. Based on current trend analysis, it is not possible to link a decrease in teen births to mining activities. The continued decrease in rate of teenage birth may be due to an increased use of birth control or broader social or behaviour changes in communities across the territory.



Source: Statistics Canada Vital Statistics.

Note: Average rates before 1996/98 are not calculated since annual population is not available.

Single-parent Families

The rate of single-parent families includes the number of households headed by only one adult containing children under the age of 18.

Data on single-parent families are measured by Statistics Canada using the Census of the population taken every five years. Single-parent families face broad socio-economic challenges due to lack of dual income and caregiving time available to a single parent.

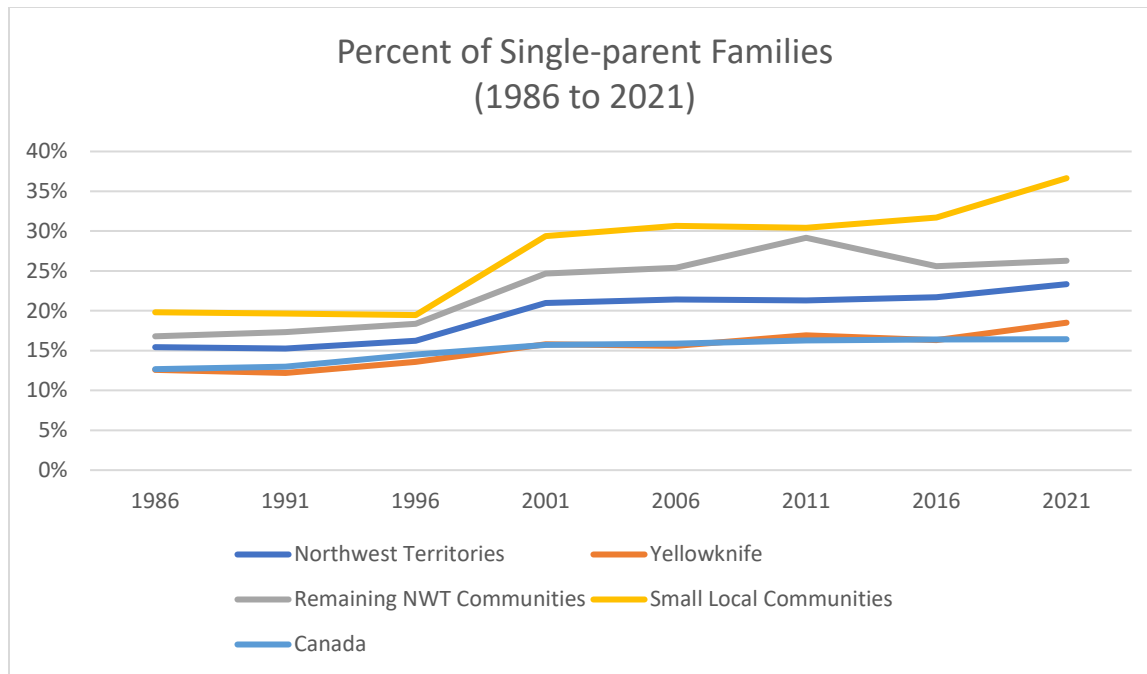
Studies have shown that mine work can be high-stress and riskier than other work,¹⁵ and transitioning between mine camps and home can make it difficult to maintain consistent and healthy coping mechanisms and supports. This can lead to high rates of anxiety, stress, and fatigue, disrupting relationships and increasing rates of suicidality, which can result in family separation or single-parent families. As such, mine work can have a relatively direct impact on the rate of single-parent families.

The data suggest that there is a link between the rise in the rate of single-parent families in SLCs and mining activity. Between 1996 and 2001, the percentage of single-parent families in SLCs rose. This correlates with the construction and beginning of operations of two major diamond mines. Combined with qualitative reports from communities, it is likely this change occurred partly due to mining activities. In the period directly following the opening of the diamond mines, the percentage of single-parent families in SLCs also increased. The change did not occur as quickly, or increase as much, in the Remaining NWT Communities or Yellowknife.

Recent trends also indicate a rise in single-parent families between 2016 and 2021, increasing by four percentage points (from 31.6 percent to 35.7 percent) in SLCs, the largest increase since the beginning of mining activity. The most recent data available on single-parent families is from 2021.

This recent increase may have a multitude of causes which are difficult to identify. It is thus difficult to make a definitive statement on the relationship between mine activity and the percent of single-parent families.

¹⁵ References are available to support statements made throughout the Social Data Report. See for example: Roberts, S. E., Jaremin, B., & Lloyd, K. (2013). High-risk occupations for suicide. *Psychological Medicine*, 43(6), 1231–1240. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291712002024>



Source: Statistics Canada.

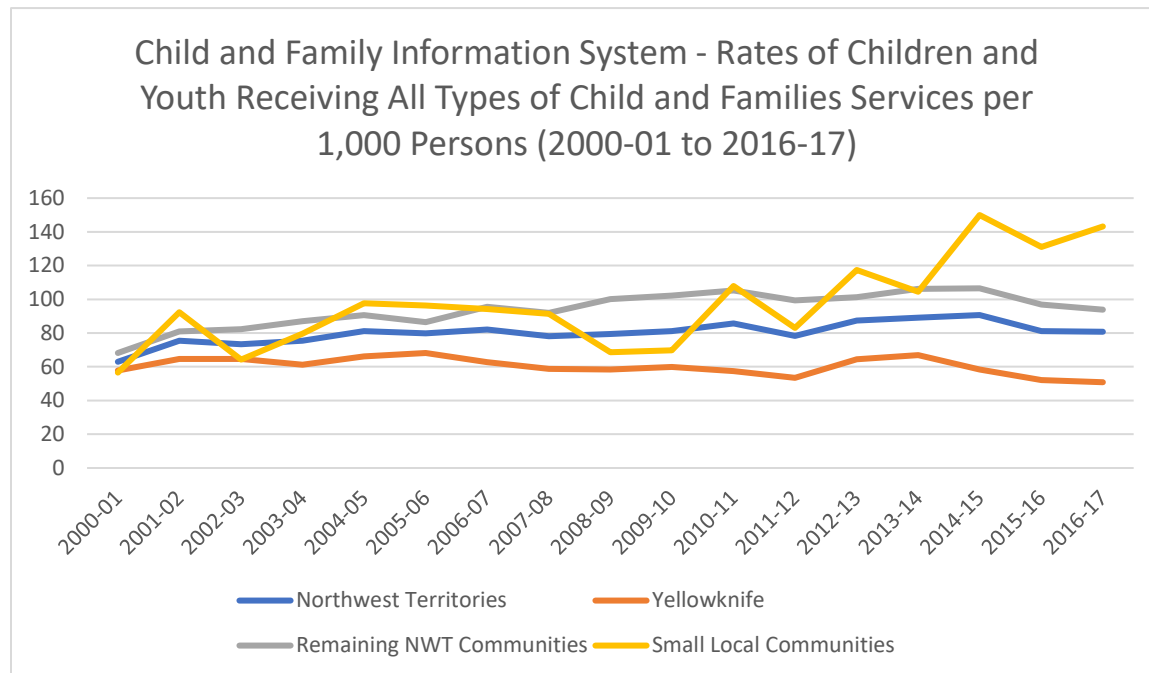
Note: 2011 data has been adjusted for Remaining NWT Communities and 1986, 1991, and 1996 data has been adjusted for Remaining NWT Communities as a result in changes to that data set from Statistics Canada.

Children, Youth, and Families Receiving Child and Family Services

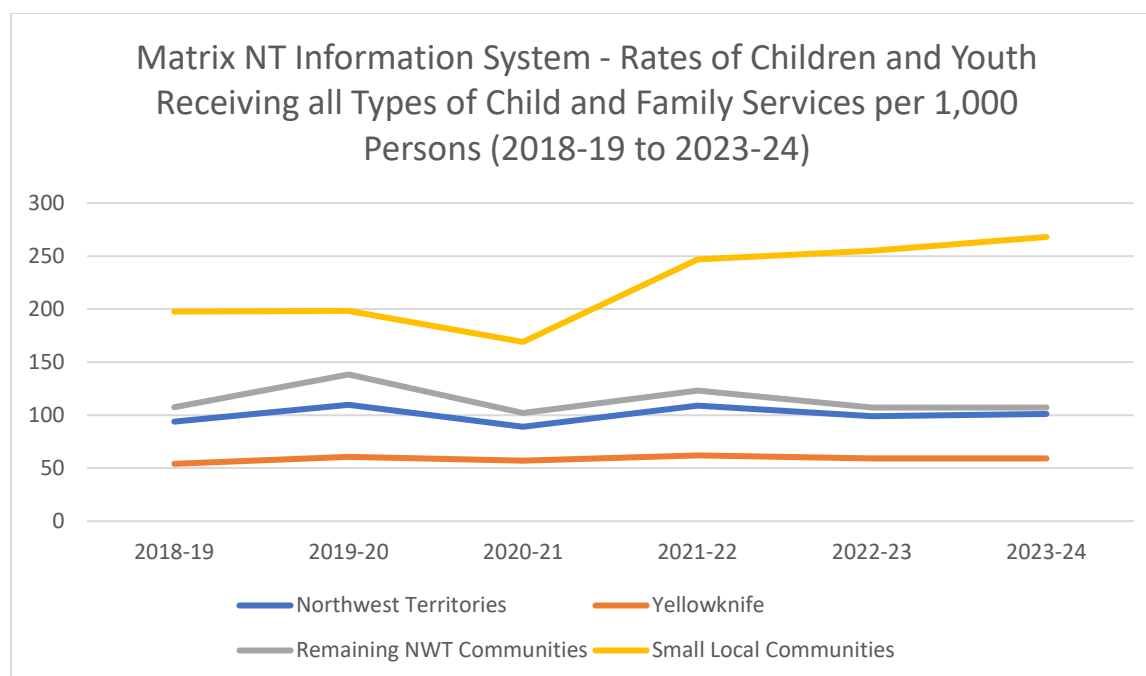
The graphs show the rate of children and youth receiving services provided through Child and Family Services (CFS), including prevention supports, services provided through a Plan of Care Agreement, and court-ordered services. An increased focus on prevention services through legislative changes may have contributed to steady increase in the rate of children/youth receiving services since 2000. Examples of prevention services offered through CFS include counselling, services to improve financial or housing situation, respite care, and addictions recovery support.

In October 2017, Child and Family Services implemented a new electronic case management system known as Matrix NT. The way information is captured for certain services in Matrix NT differs from the previous case management system known as the Child and Family Information System (CFIS). For this reason, data collected between 2000 and 2017 is not comparable with data collected through the Matrix NT system from 2017-present.

In 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024, the Matrix NT data shows an increase in the rate of children/youth receiving services in SLCs. This increase can largely be attributed to a larger number of children/youth receiving prevention services in Behchokò. The rate of children/youth receiving services in Yellowknife has remained relatively stable since 2019. While trends can be identified within the data, these are influenced by many factors, and it is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between Child and Family Services in the NWT and mining activity.



Note: Due to the implementation of a new information system (Matrix NT) in October 2017, data from the 2017-2018 fiscal year can only represent a partial year. Therefore, the 2017-2018 data was removed from the dataset, as comparisons to this year should not be made.

**Notes:**

1. 2018-19, 2019-20 - Some children/youth have missing or blank community fields and were not included in the analyses for Yellowknife, Remaining Communities, and Small Local Communities. Therefore, the total from these three categories will not total the NWT.
2. The types of Child and Family Services that were included in the analyses for 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23, and 2023-24 include: Voluntary Services Agreement, Support Services Agreement, Plan of Care Agreements, Temporary Custody Orders and Permanent Custody Orders.
3. With the shift from CFIS to Matrix NT, the number of Voluntary Services Agreement (VSA) and Plan of Care Agreements (POCA) have increased because reporting practices have changed as VSAs and POCA's are now assigned to the household, and include the full number of children/youth in the household. The calculation of the number of VSAs and POCA's is completed by assigning a VSA or POCA service to each child/youth in the household.
4. While a child or youth can receive multiple types of services within the year, only the most recent service was included in the analysis so that the number of unique children/youth could be calculated.
5. Data comparisons from Child and Family Information System and Matrix NT should not be made.
6. Small Local Communities include: Behchokò, Dettah, Fort Resolution, Gamètì, Łutselk'e, Wekweètì and Whatì.
7. Remaining NWT Communities include: the remaining 23 communities, excluding Yellowknife.
8. Yellowknife includes Ndı́łq.
9. In 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, Behchokò had a larger number of children receiving prevention services which contributed to the higher rate for Small Local Communities.

Housing

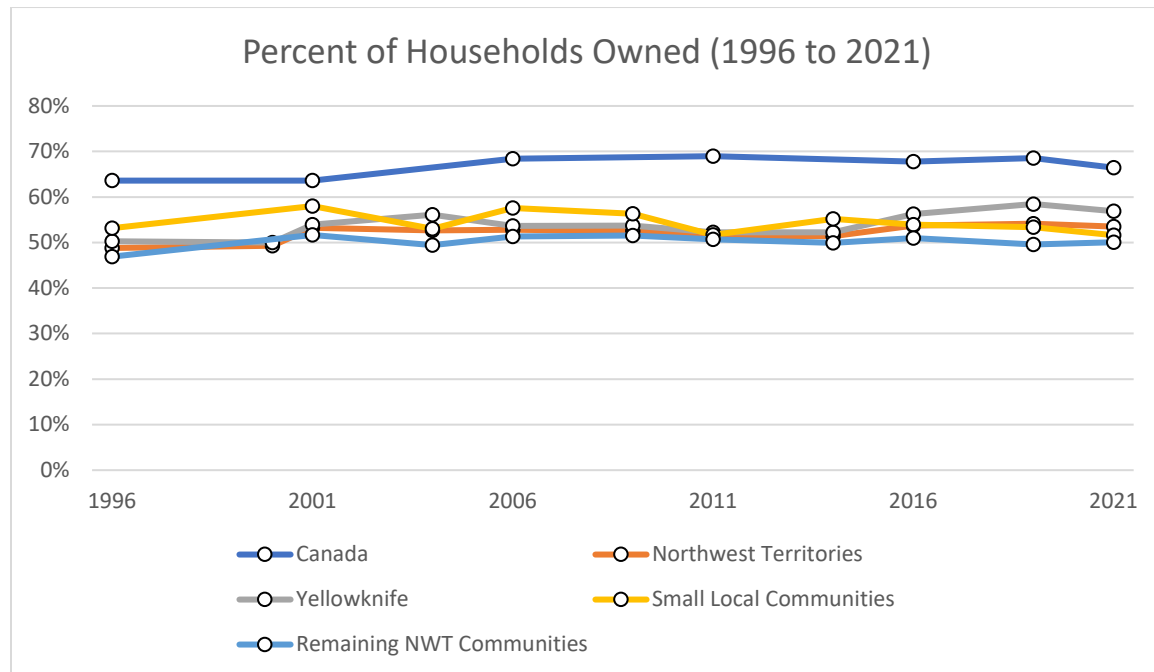
Household Ownership

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of household ownership and mining activity.

This indicator is calculated by dividing the number of owned households by the total number of households. This indicator essentially shows the percentage of households that own their dwellings rather than renting.

The percentage of households owned has remained consistent across Canada and the NWT since 1996. The largest amount of variation can be seen in SLCs. The peaks in the SLC trendlines partially correlate to the opening of NWT diamond mines. However, this is less noticeable when looking at the NWT category.

A larger percentage of people own homes across Canada than in the NWT, with a 2021 average of 67 percent and 52 percent respectively. However, this gap has closed slightly since the diamond mines began operating. This is most apparent in Yellowknife, where the percentage of households owned grew six percent between 1996 and 2021, and across Canada only grew three percent. It is worth noting the percentage of households owned has decreased slightly in SLCs since the mines opened, with a large variation among SLCs.



Sources: Statistics Canada; NWT Bureau of Statistics.

Households with Six or More Persons

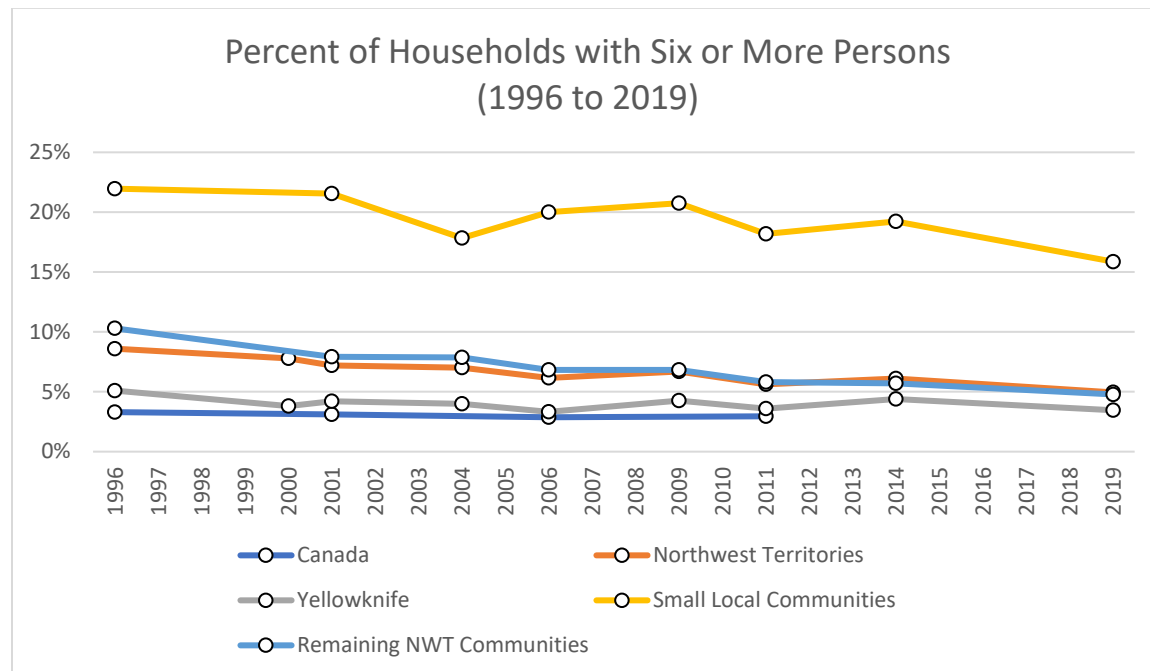
It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of households with six or more persons and mining activity.

Households with six persons or more can generally be seen as overcrowding. This indicator, once referred to as “crowding” in past GNWT socio-economic reporting, is calculated by dividing the total number of households by the number of households with six or more people.

Since 1996, the NWT has had a higher percentage of households with six or more persons than the Canadian average. However, as of 2019, the most recent data available, the percentage of households with six or more persons is lower in the NWT than it was in 1996, particularly in SLCs and Remaining NWT Communities. The decrease in Yellowknife has been less pronounced over this time period. On the other hand, the Canadian average has remained consistent at three percent.

Within the NWT, the percentage of households with six or more people in SLCs is significantly higher than the rest of the territory. This may be due to the limited housing available in SLCs. In 2019, the percentage in each of the Tłıchǫ communities was over 15 percent, with Behchokǫ at nearly 23 percent. However, the difference between SLCs and the NWT used to be 13 percent or more in 1996; in 2019, it was only 10 percent.

As of 2016, this indicator is no longer available from the Census, which is why the data for Canada ends in 2011. However, data for this indicator is still collected in the NWT Community Survey.



Sources: Statistics Canada; NWT Bureau of Statistics.

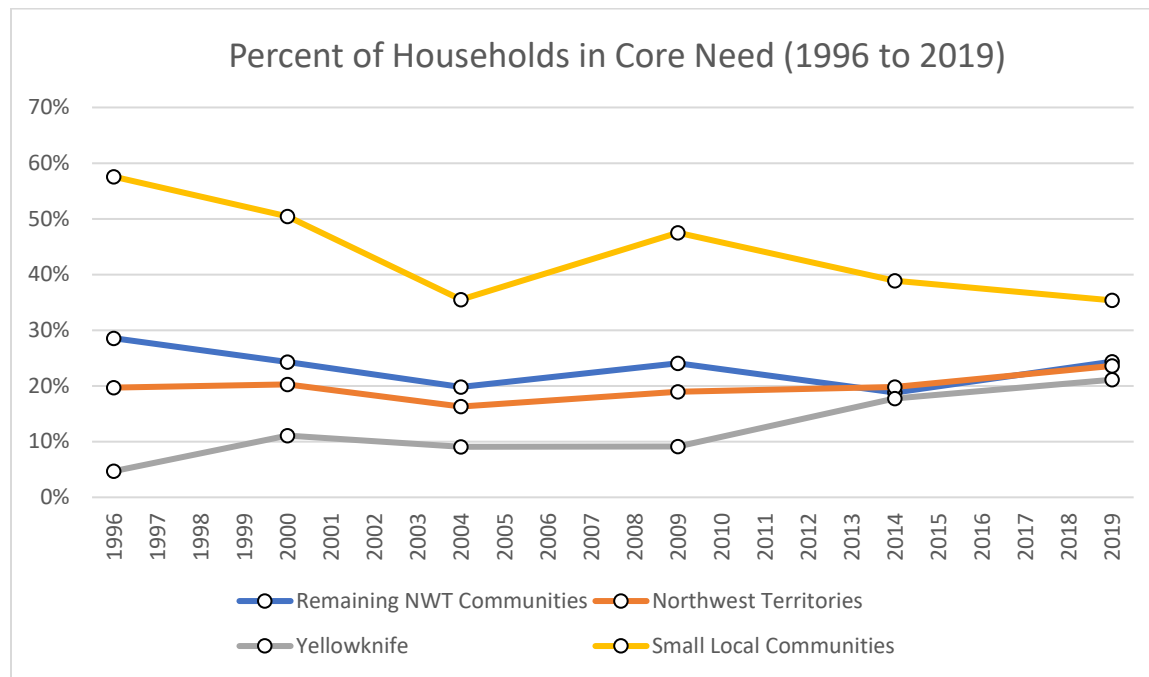
Households in Core Need

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of households in core need and mining activity.

Core housing need is defined as a household with a suitability, adequacy or affordability problem, and a total household income below the community Core Need Income Threshold (CNIT). If a household is below this threshold, it means it would have to spend 30 percent or more of its before-tax household income to access local housing that meets all three standards.

The data does not differentiate between households that have more than one of the three problems. Additionally, some households may have one or more of these housing problems, but not be considered in core need due to having a total household income above the CNIT, and therefore theoretically possessing an income necessary to correct the problem.

Between 1996 and 2019, the percentage of households in core need increased in the Northwest Territories by nearly four percent. This was largely driven by the increase in households in core need in Yellowknife, which increased between 1996 and 2019 by more than 16 percent. SLCs have experienced an overall decline of more than 22 percent during the same time period.



Source: Statistics Canada; NWT Bureau of Statistics.

Notes:

- Definition for Suitable Housing: A dwelling must have the appropriate number of bedrooms for the household's characteristics and number of occupants, as determined by the National Occupancy Standard requirements.
- Definition for Adequate Housing: Adequate housing must have running water, an indoor toilet, bathing and washing facilities and must not require major repairs.
- Definition for Affordable Housing: Shelter costs (rent or mortgage payments, utilities, heat, insurance, and property taxes) being less than 30 percent of household income.

Justice

The Safety Needs of Communities and Northerners

The GNWT continues to explore how residents in NWT communities, including those in SLCs, can access justice services in ways that are both sustainable over time and appropriate to the needs of each community.

The GNWT works with the RCMP, communities, and partners to enhance community safety while working to ensure community-based priorities, values, and cultural context are reflected in services provided.

Understanding the Crime Rate in the NWT

In 2023, the NWT had the highest or second-highest overall police-reported crime¹⁶ rate, depending on measurement technique, and the highest property crime rates across Canada, along with the second-highest rate of 'other' Criminal Code violations and violent crime offenses. Property crime continues to constitute the greater part of the NWT's crime rate. The most common property offence is mischief, which is typically linked to substance use.

The comparatively high crime rate in the NWT is influenced in part by the small population and likely by the high ratio of police per capita in the NWT (the highest of all provinces and territories) which may contribute to a higher level of reporting. In 2023, the NWT had 437 police officers per 100,000 civilians, which represented a total of 195 police officers. For context, the national rate was 178 police officers per 100,000 civilians in 2023. The high crime rate in the NWT is also driven by demographic and social factors, such as substance use, the NWT's relatively young population, and low educational attainment.

Although there is an upward trend in most rates of crime in Yellowknife and SLCs since 1999, the beginning of the period of increased mining activity, trends in crime are influenced by many factors. Therefore, it is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between crime rates and mining activity.

The RCMP reports criminal incidents by detachment, not by community. Thirteen NWT communities do not have RCMP detachments. SLCs in this report without detachments include:

- Dettah and Ndilo, which are patrolled out of Yellowknife;
- Wekweètì, which is patrolled out of Behchokò; and

¹⁶ Most topline calculations of crime rates use Criminal Code violations excluding traffic violations. By that metric, the crime rate in Nunavut was slightly higher than in the Northwest Territories in 2023. If traffic violations and federal statute violations are included, the Northwest Territories had a higher rate than any other jurisdiction. The figures for Police-reported Crimes include traffic violations and federal statute violations.

- Gamètì, which has two dedicated RCMP members based in Behchokò. (Note: Gamètì does report detachment-level data despite lacking a dedicated detachment.)

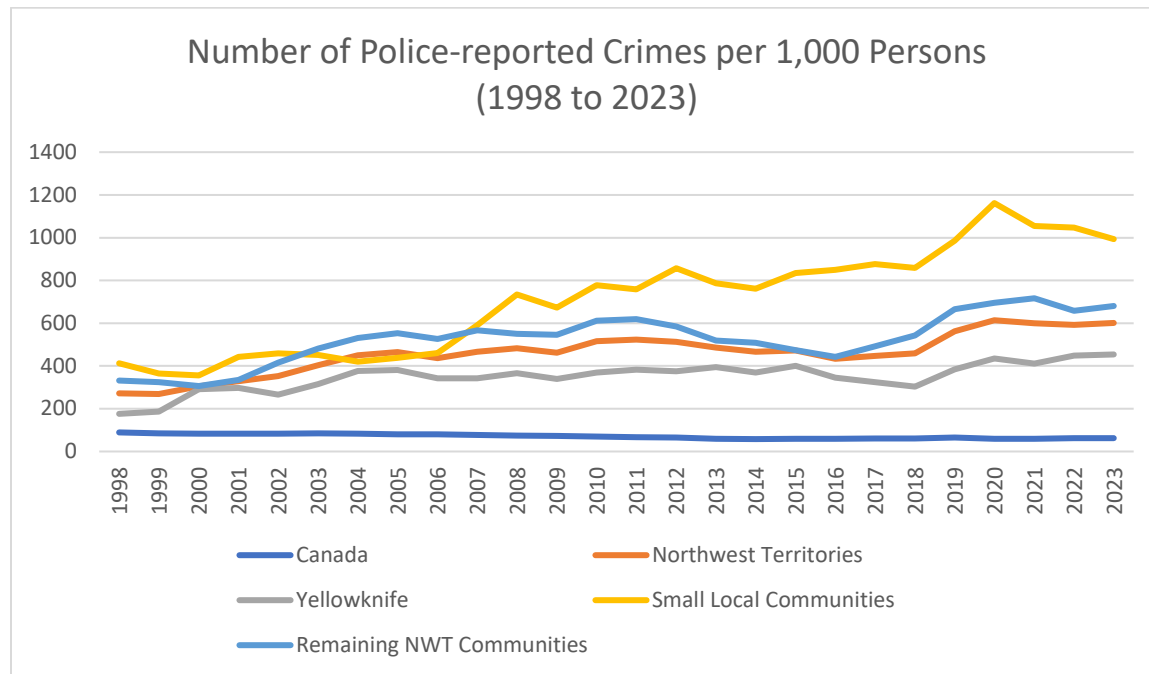
Please note that while rate data in the introduction are referred to per 100,000 persons, the graphs in the following section use rates per 1,000 persons to present population data on a scale more closely matching the population of the Northwest Territories.

Police-reported Crimes

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of police-reported crimes and mining activity.

The Social Data Report publishes police-reported statistics. Police-reported rates provide a consistent set of data. The total number of crimes committed is likely higher than the number of crimes reported to police. The percentage of crimes which are reported to police differs by the type of crime and can occur for a variety of reasons. It is difficult to adjust for these variables, meaning police-reported rates are the most reliably consistent indicator of overall trends in criminal activity.

Although the overall rate of police-reported crime has been trending upward across the NWT, the rate per 1,000 persons for SLCs decreased slightly in 2022. The SLC rate remains substantially higher than the rate of Remaining NWT Communities and more than twice the rate of Yellowknife.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

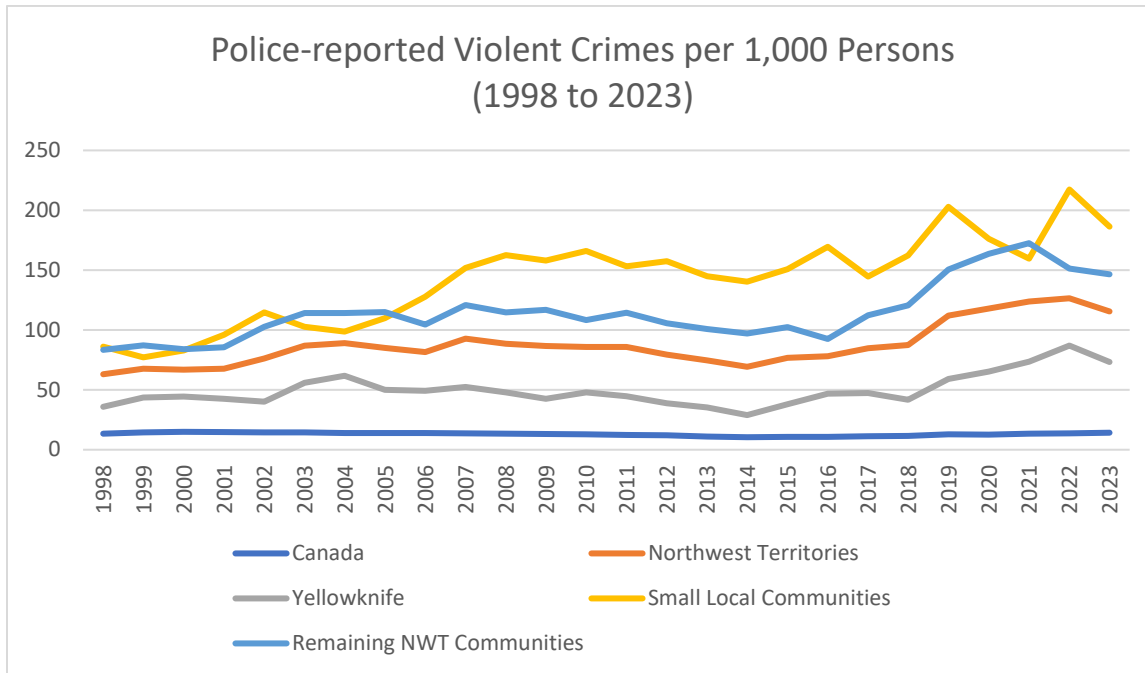
Notes:

- Criminal incidents and rate statistics are only available by RCMP detachment.
- Detachments are captured in neighbouring community detachments.
- Regional summaries only include statistics from RCMP detachments in that region.

Police-reported Violent Crimes

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of police-reported violent crimes and mining activity.

Violent crimes are offences which involve the threat or use of force against a person. These offences may include homicide or assault. The rate of violent crime in SLCs decreased to a rate of 186 per 1,000 persons in 2023. Most of this decrease occurred in Whatì, with the community's rate reverting to 203, which was similar to 2020 and 2021 numbers, after a sharp spike to 434 per 1,000 persons in 2022. Remaining NWT Communities saw a decline in police-reported violent crime rates from 151 to 146 per 1,000 persons.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

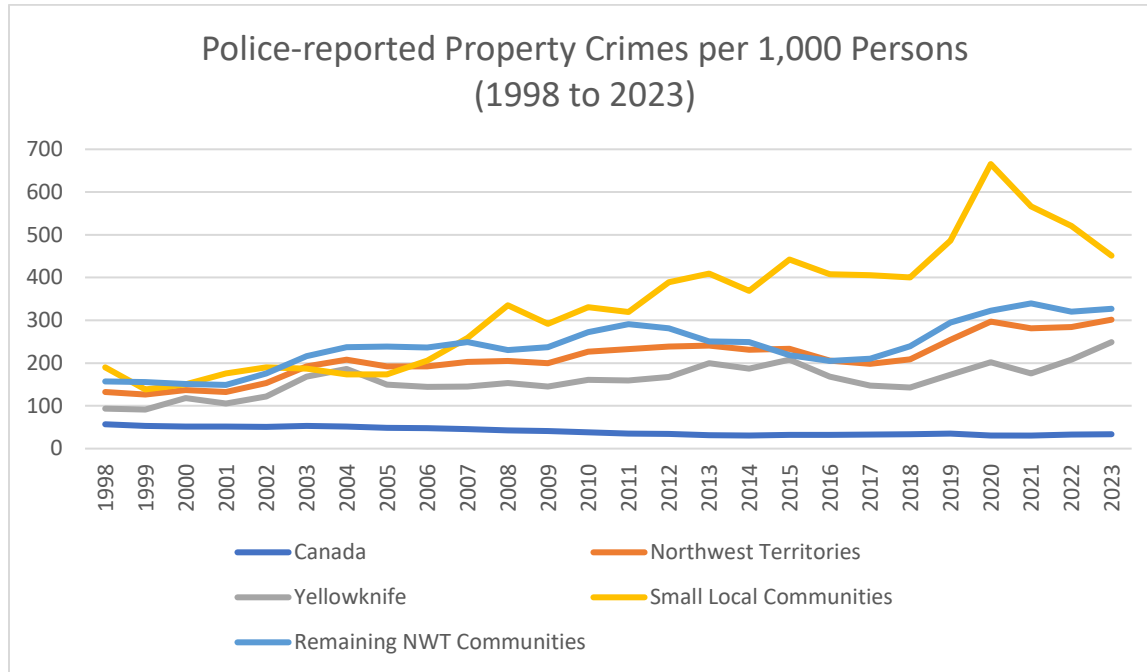
Notes:

- Criminal incidents and rate statistics are only available by RCMP detachment.
- Detachments are captured in neighbouring community detachments.
- Regional summaries only include statistics from RCMP detachments in that region.

Police-reported Property Crimes

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of police-reported property crimes and mining activity.

Property crime constitutes the bulk of NWT crime. The most common property offence is mischief, which is typically linked to substance use. A decreasing trend in the property crime rate in SLCs continued in 2023. The rate slightly increased in Remaining NWT Communities and considerably increased in Yellowknife to 249 per 1,000 persons, the highest level recorded in the data series.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Notes:

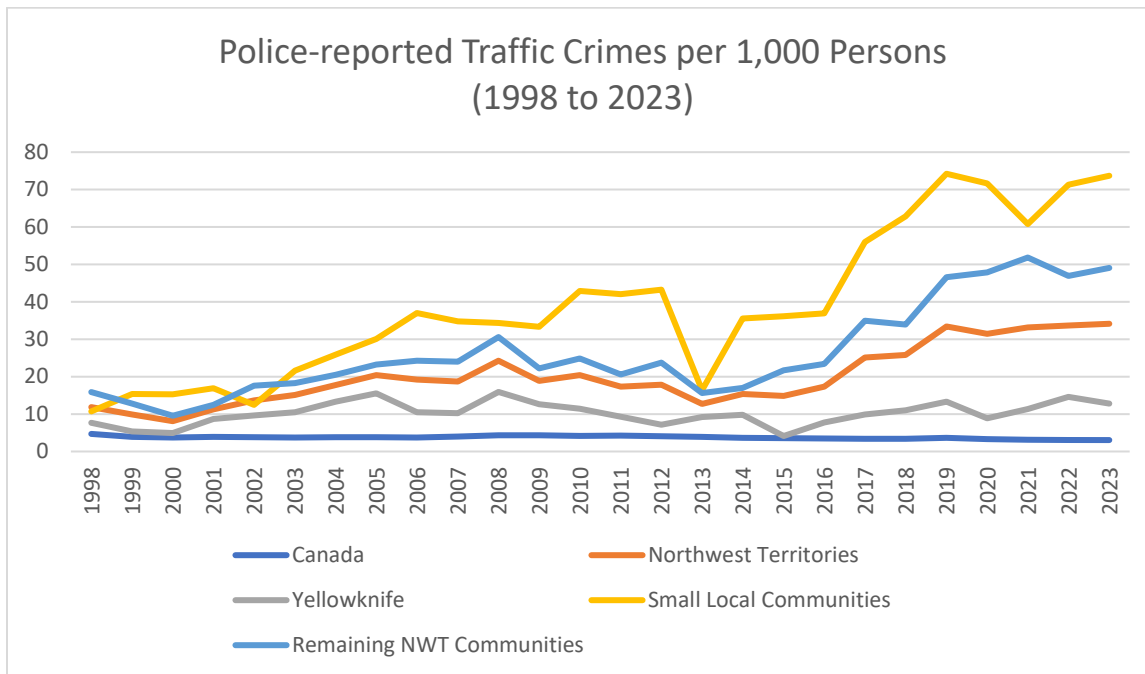
- Criminal incidents and rate statistics are only available by RCMP detachment.
- Detachments are captured in neighbouring community detachments.
- Regional summaries only include statistics from RCMP detachments in that region.

Police-reported Traffic Crimes

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of police-reported traffic crimes and mining activity.

Traffic crimes include Criminal Code violations related to traffic, such as operation while impaired by drugs or alcohol. Aside from Yellowknife, where the rate of traffic crimes has remained steady, other community groups, particularly SLCs, have seen a steady upward trend. SLCs experienced their highest rates in 2019, with rates declining in 2021 before increasing again in 2022. The rates in 2023 are stable. Remaining NWT Communities reached a spike at a similar time and have also stabilized since.

Traffic data has not always been available for all communities. For example, data is not reported for Wekweètì and it has only been available for Gamètì since 2010.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

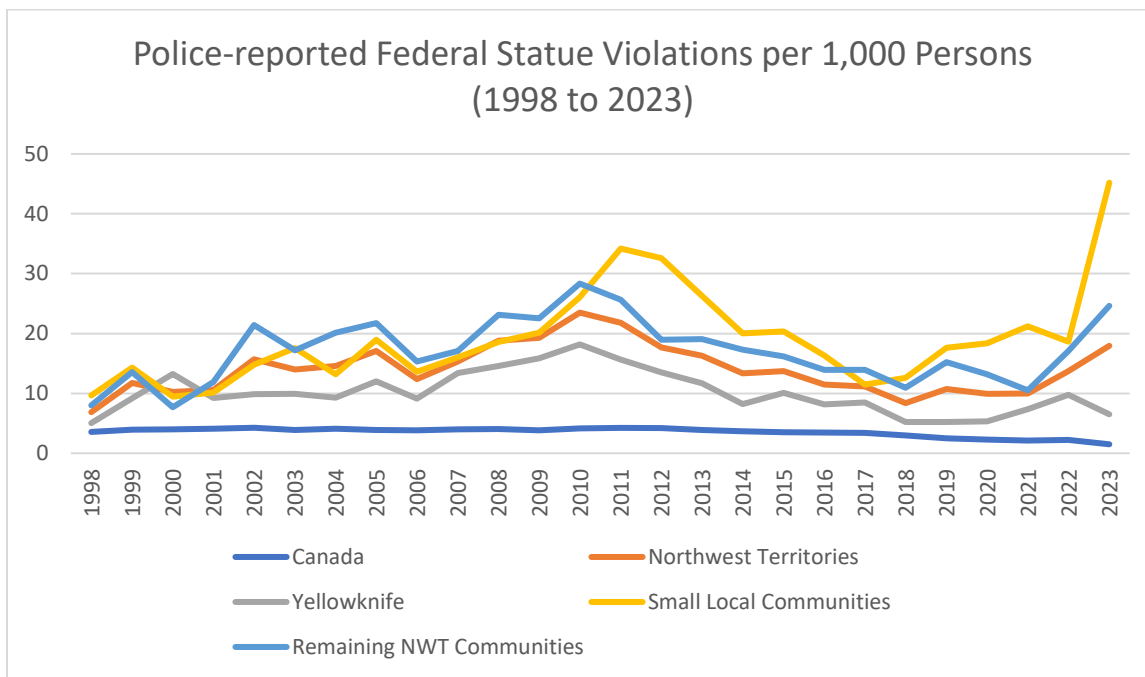
Notes:

- Criminal incidents and rate statistics are only available by RCMP detachment.
- Detachments are captured in neighbouring community detachments.
- Regional summaries only include statistics from RCMP detachments in that region.

Police-reported Federal Statute Violations

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of police-reported federal statute crimes and mining activity.

Most Federal Statute violations are Controlled Drugs and Substances Act violations, such as drug crimes. An increase in 2023 saw federal statute violations at their highest rate since 2012, after a previous declining trend. This increase occurred in SLCs and Remaining NWT Communities, despite a decline in Yellowknife. A significant jump in federal statute violations occurred in SLCs in 2023, to the highest level on record. While all communities except Gamètì showed increases, a massive increase in drug violations in Fort Resolution was responsible for most of the 2023 SLC jump—and 7.4 percent of all violations in the territory.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

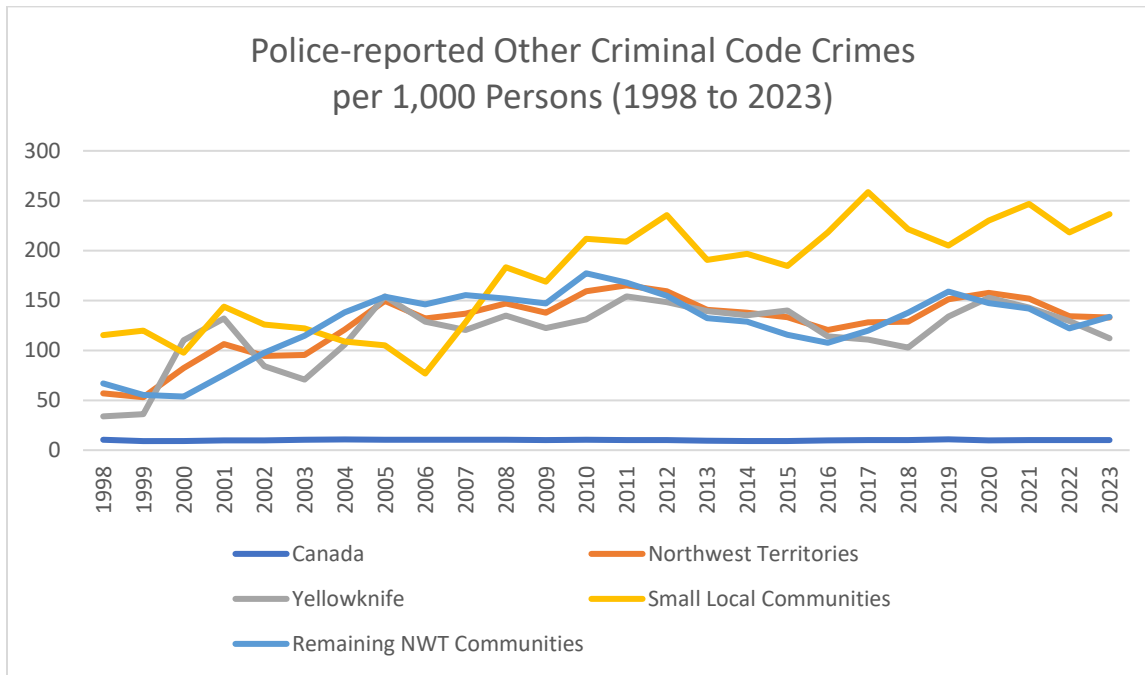
Notes:

- Criminal incidents and rate statistics are only available by RCMP detachment.
- Detachments are captured in neighbouring community detachments.
- Regional summaries only include statistics from RCMP detachments in that region.

Police-reported Other Criminal Code Crimes

It is not possible to definitively conclude that there is a relationship between the level of police-reported other criminal code crimes and mining activity.

Other Criminal Code offences are those non-traffic Criminal Code offences that are not violent or property crime violations. These offences range from administration of justice violations to counterfeiting. The rate of Other Criminal Code offences has remained relatively stable since 2019, after declining from 2011 to 2019. The SLC rate continues to fluctuate within a stable range, but has remained below the 2017 high.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Notes:

- Criminal incidents and rate statistics are only available by RCMP detachment.
- Detachments are captured in neighbouring community detachments.
- Regional summaries only include statistics from RCMP detachments in that region.