



2025 SOCIAL DATA REPORT

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENT

RAPPORT 2025 SUR LES DONNÉES SOCIALES

ACCORDS SOCIOÉCONOMIQUES

Le présent document contient la traduction
française du résumé et du message du ministre.

Supplementary Information and Summary Data
Renseignements supplémentaires et données récapitulatives

K'áhshó got'jne xədə k'é hederı ʔedjht'é yerınıwę nı dé dúle.
Dene Kədə

ʔerıht'ıs Dēne Sųlıné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóttı.
Dēne Sųlıné

Edı gondı dehgáh got'je zhaté k'éé edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahı.
Dene Zhaté

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijáhch'uu zhit yinohtan jı', diits'at ginohkhı.
Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqłuta.
Inuvialuktun

Ć'đ< nŋ^{sb}Δ^c ΛϋLJ&ŕ^c Δ.đ'ŋĐŕ^{sb}γL>ŋ^b, >ŕ^cŋ^{sb}Đ^c >đ^{sb}ŕ^{sb}ŕ^{sb}Đŋ^c.
Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

kıspin ki nitawihtın ē nıhıyawıhk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.
nēhiyawēwin

Tłıchq yatı k'èè. Dı wegodı newq dè, gots'o gonede.
Tłıchq

Indigenous Languages
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Executive Summary

Major resource 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 that can be both beneficial and challenging to individuals and families in nearby communities. For example, working at a mine might mean rotational fly-in shift work that has community members leave home regularly for weeks at a time. Sudden, significant increases in income from getting a job at a large mining project can affect household spending behaviours.

To maximize benefits and 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 put the company's commitments to hire and spend locally into writing. The GNWT also commits to measure potential impacts that projects have on communities, regions, and the entire territory. Both the GNWT and companies have responsibilities they need to live up to in an SEA.

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,
- Effects on local and territorial governments, and
- Sustainable development initiatives.

SEAs also include commitments by the GNWT to support residents so they can participate in major projects. This includes supports for maintaining good health and access to education.

This report shows data collected by the GNWT as part of the government's commitment 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.^{1,2}

To learn more about the economic benefits of mining in the NWT, make sure to read the companion document to this report: *2025 SEA Report on Mines Operating in the NWT*, which is scheduled for release in the summer of 2026. The SEA report is a deep dive into the employment, procurement, and training done by producing mines in 2025.

¹ The indicators included in this document were negotiated into SEAs, although specific datasets have been added, removed, or modified over the years. 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. The NWT Bureau of Statistics completed its most recent NWT Community Survey in 2024.

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

The 2025 Socio-Economic Agreement Social Data Report

Three SEAs for producing diamond mines were active in the NWT in 2025:

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

Major mining activity over the last 25 years has mostly been focused 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 Ndıłq³
- Small Local Communities (SLC)
 - Behchokò
 - Dettah
 - Fort Resolution⁴
 - Gamètì
 - Łutselk'e
 - Wekweètì
 - Whatì
- Remaining NWT Communities⁵

Summary of Most Recent Data

Labour and Income:

Labour force participation has increased in SLCs since the first SEA was signed in 1996, while it has decreased in Remaining NWT Communities. Unemployment declined across the territory, with the rate in SLCs dropping from 20 percent in 2021 to 13 percent in 2024. The employment rate in SLCs surpassed 50 percent for the first time in 2024.

Indigenous Languages:

As of 2024, fewer than 25 percent of Indigenous residents in the NWT speak an Indigenous language, reflecting a critical state. The percentage of Indigenous persons 15 years and older who can speak an Indigenous language has been declining for decades, with the pace of decline in SLCs accelerating since 2021.

³ Data for the community of Ndıłq is included as part of Yellowknife in the report, unless otherwise noted.

⁴ 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 Ndıłq is included as part of Yellowknife in the report, unless otherwise noted.

⁵ Remaining communities includes all NWT communities, except those previously listed (Yellowknife, Ndıłq, and SLCs: Behchokò, Dettah, Fort Resolution, Gamètì, Łutselk'e, Wekweètì and Whatì).

In 2024, the Canada–NWT Cooperation Agreement for Indigenous Languages was renewed to 2027 to support ongoing revitalization efforts.

Education:

The proportion of NWT residents aged 15 and older with at least a high school diploma continues to steadily increase. In 2024, the NWT’s Six-Year Graduation Rate was 59 percent, with Yellowknife at a high of 71 percent and SLCs at roughly 45 percent.

Health and Wellness:

Social and economic pressures can influence community and individual health and wellness, particularly in small communities. Recent increases in Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL), especially in SLCs, may reflect residual impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and disruptive events such as the severe 2023 wildfire season. Further, small populations make long-term patterns hard to interpret because a single case of mortality or morbidity has a much larger statistical impact.

Reported Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) cases temporarily declined during the Covid-19 pandemic due to reduced access to testing and public health services. As services returned to normal, documented STI rates rebounded with increases observed from 2022 to 2024, most notably in SLCs, where rates rose by 41 percent between 2023 and 2024.

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a persistent public health concern in the NWT. Although annual case counts have stayed relatively low over the past decade, the three-year rolling average rose by 33 percent from 2023 to 2024, driven largely by a TB outbreak in Yellowknife in 2024. Four cases linked to this outbreak were identified that year, with exposures traced back to 2020 and 2023.

Between 2021 and 2023, suicide rates in SLCs rose sharply and were likely influenced by isolation, mental health challenges and reduced service access resulting from the pandemic and severe wildfires. During the pandemic, family violence shelter admissions temporarily decreased; the number of admissions rose again afterward. The rate of single-parent families in SLCs increased between 2016 and 2021 by five percentage points, suggesting that mining may influence family structures in these communities.

Since 2021–22, the rate of children and youth receiving adoption, family preservation, and other child and family services has increased. This may be partly due to a stronger emphasis on prevention services introduced through legislative changes and related initiatives.

Housing:

Homeownership rates have remained largely stable in both Canada and the NWT since 1996, while Yellowknife has seen an 11 percent increase. Although SLCs continue to have the highest percentage of households with six or more people of the observed categories in the NWT, the percentage has fallen from 22 percent in 1996 to less than 13 percent in 2024. Meanwhile, the percentage of housing in core need increased territory wide between 1996 and 2024, particularly in Yellowknife, while SLCs saw a notable decline over the same period.

Justice:

In 2024, the NWT recorded the highest police reported crime rate in Canada, driven by property offences, especially mischief, and persistently elevated rates in SLCs. Crime in SLCs approached 1,200 incidents per 1,000 persons, well above the territorial average of less than 800 and more than double Yellowknife's rate.

Violent crime in SLCs reached a high of 232 per 1,000, while rates in Yellowknife and Remaining NWT Communities remained stable.

Federal statute violations reached a new territorial high, with a significant increase in SLCs.

The comparatively high crime rate in the NWT is influenced in part by the small population and driven by demographic and social factors, such as substance use, the NWT's relatively young population, and low educational attainment.

Sommaire

Les grands projets d'exploitation des ressources touchent les Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) à bien des égards. Ils sont source d'emploi et de débouchés économiques, ce qui amène de nouveaux arrivants sur le territoire. Toutefois, les retombées de ces projets changent inmanquablement la vie des personnes et des familles des collectivités environnantes, d'une façon qui peut être aussi bien positive que négative. Le travail dans les mines, par exemple, peut obliger les résidents qui y sont employés à quitter régulièrement leur domicile pendant plusieurs semaines consécutives. Quant à la hausse soudaine de revenu associée à un travail dans le cadre d'un grand projet minier, elle peut se répercuter sur les habitudes de dépenses du ménage au complet.

Par conséquent, pour maximiser les avantages de ces projets et pour en surveiller les éventuels effets, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) signe, avec les entreprises à la tête des grands projets d'exploitation de ressources minérales, des ententes appelées « accords socioéconomiques » (ASE). Ces ASE officialisent par écrit les engagements pris par les entreprises en matière d'embauche et de dépenses au niveau local. Le GTNO s'engage quant à lui à mesurer les éventuelles incidences de ces projets sur les collectivités, les régions et le territoire dans son ensemble. 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 sur les gouvernements locaux et le gouvernement territorial;
- Initiatives de développement durable.

Les ASE comprennent également des engagements pris par le GTNO en vue d'aider les résidents à prendre part à ces projets importants, notamment en maintenant une main-d'œuvre en bonne santé et un accès à la formation.

Le présent rapport présente les données recueillies par le GTNO, conformément aux 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.^{6,7}

⁶ 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. 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. Le Bureau de la statistique des TNO a réalisé sa plus récente enquête sur les collectivités des TNO en 2024.

⁷ 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 socioéconomiques mesurés.

Pour en savoir plus sur les retombées économiques générées par l'exploitation minière aux TNO, veuillez consulter le rapport de 2025 sur les accords socioéconomiques concernant les mines exploitées aux TNO qui examine les indicateurs liés à l'emploi, à l'approvisionnement et à la formation dans les mines en exploitation en 2025. Ce rapport, dont la publication est prévue à l'été 2026, viendra compléter les données du présent rapport.

Rapport de 2025 sur les données sociales des accords socioéconomiques

En 2025, 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 principalement concentrée sur les diamants dans la région du Slave Nord aux TNO. Le GTNO présente dans son rapport annuel des indicateurs socioéconomiques 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 Ndilò⁸
- Les petites collectivités locales (PCL)
 - Behchokò
 - Dettah
 - Fort Resolution⁹
 - Gamètì
 - Łutselk'e
 - Wekweètì
 - Whatì
- Les autres collectivités des TNO¹⁰

⁸La collectivité de Ndilò est comprise dans les données de Yellowknife (sauf indication contraire).

⁹Fort 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 Ndilò est comprise dans les données de Yellowknife (sauf indication contraire).

¹⁰Le reste des collectivités des TNO inclut l'ensemble des collectivités du territoire, à l'exception de celles indiquées précédemment (Yellowknife, Ndilò et les petites collectivités locales : Behchokò, Dettah, Fort Resolution, Gamètì, Łutselk'e, Wekweètì et Whatì).

Sommaire des données les plus récentes

Main-d'œuvre et revenus

Depuis la signature du premier ASE en 1996, l'activité sur le marché du travail a augmenté dans les petites collectivités, mais a diminué dans les autres collectivités des TNO. Dans les PCL, le taux de chômage du territoire a diminué, passant de 20 %, en 2021, à 13 %, en 2024, et le taux d'emploi a dépassé les 50 % pour la toute première fois en 2024.

Langues autochtones

Depuis 2024, moins de 25 % des Autochtones résidant aux TNO parlent une langue autochtone, ce qui représente un important déclin. Le pourcentage de personnes autochtones âgées de 15 ans et plus qui peuvent parler une langue autochtone diminue depuis des décennies, et ce déclin s'accélère dans les PCL depuis 2021.

En 2024, afin d'appuyer les efforts continus de revitalisation des langues autochtones, l'Accord de coopération Canada-TNO sur les langues autochtones a été renouvelé pour trois ans.

Éducation

La proportion de résidents ténois âgés de 15 ans et plus qui détiennent au moins un diplôme d'études secondaires continue d'augmenter progressivement. En 2024, le taux de diplomation s'élevait à 59 % à l'échelle territoriale (sur une période de six ans), Yellowknife affichant un taux de 71 % et les PCL, de 45 %.

Santé et mieux-être

Les pressions sociales et économiques peuvent avoir une incidence sur la santé et le bien-être des gens, particulièrement dans les petites collectivités. La récente augmentation des années potentielles de vie perdues (APVP), particulièrement dans les PCL, pourrait être liée à la pandémie de COVID-19 et à certains incidents perturbateurs, comme la rude saison de feux de forêt de 2023. De plus, il est difficile d'interpréter les tendances à long terme des petites populations, étant donné qu'un seul cas de mortalité ou de morbidité influence considérablement les statistiques.

Pendant la pandémie de COVID-19, le nombre d'infections transmissibles sexuellement (ITS) déclarées a temporairement baissé en raison d'un accès restreint aux tests et aux services de santé publique. Cependant, de 2022 à 2024, une fois les services revenus à la normale, le nombre d'ITS déclarées a remonté, et ce, principalement dans les PCL, où les taux ont augmenté de 41 % de 2023 à 2024.

La tuberculose (TB) demeure un enjeu de santé publique constante aux TNO. Bien que le nombre de cas annuels relevés soit demeuré relativement bas au cours de la dernière décennie, la moyenne mobile sur trois ans a augmenté de 33 % de 2023 à 2024, en grande partie en raison d'une éclosion de TB à Yellowknife en 2024. Cette année-là, quatre cas liés à l'épidémie ont été recensés, bien que les expositions à l'origine de ces cas remontent à 2020 et 2023.

Entre 2021 et 2023, les taux de suicide dans les PCL ont brusquement augmenté, probablement influencés par l'isolement, les problèmes de santé mentale et l'accès réduit aux services découlant de la pandémie et des feux de forêt majeurs. Durant la pandémie, les admissions dans les refuges pour victimes de violence familiale ont temporairement diminué, mais le nombre d'admissions a augmenté par la suite. Le taux de familles monoparentales dans les PCL a augmenté de 5 % entre 2016 et 2021, ce qui laisse croire que l'exploitation minière pourrait influencer sur les structures familiales dans ces collectivités.

Depuis 2021-2022, le nombre d'enfants et de jeunes qui reçoivent des services d'adoption, de préservation familiale et d'autres services à l'enfance et à la famille a augmenté. Cette hausse s'explique peut-être en partie par les modifications apportées à la loi et les mesures connexes, qui mettent davantage l'accent sur les services de prévention.

Logement

Depuis 1996, les taux d'accession à la propriété sont en grande partie demeurés stables tant au Canada qu'aux TNO, alors que Yellowknife a connu une hausse de 11 %. Bien que ce soit toujours dans les petites collectivités des TNO que l'on trouve le pourcentage le plus élevé de ménages comptant six personnes ou plus parmi les catégories observées, ce pourcentage a chuté, passant de 22 % en 1996 à moins de 13 % en 2024. Entre-temps, le pourcentage de besoins impérieux en matière de logement a augmenté à l'échelle territoriale entre 1996 et 2024, particulièrement à Yellowknife, tandis que pendant la même période, ce pourcentage a connu un déclin notable dans les PCL.

Justice

En 2024, les TNO ont enregistré le taux de criminalité le plus élevé du Canada selon les rapports de police, en raison des infractions contre les biens dans les PCL, particulièrement les méfaits, et un taux de criminalité constamment élevé dans les PCL. Le nombre de crimes dans les PCL avoisine les 1 200 incidents par 1 000 personnes, soit bien au-dessus de la moyenne territoriale (inférieure à 800) et plus du double du taux enregistré à Yellowknife.

Le nombre de crimes violents dans les PCL s'est élevé à 232 ‰, tandis que les taux de Yellowknife et des autres collectivités des TNO sont demeurés stables.

Les infractions aux lois fédérales ont atteint un nouveau sommet territorial, connaissant une hausse significative dans les PCL.

Le taux de criminalité relativement élevé des TNO s'explique en partie par la faible densité de population ainsi que des facteurs démographiques et sociaux, comme la consommation de substances psychoactives, la population relativement jeune et le faible niveau de scolarité.

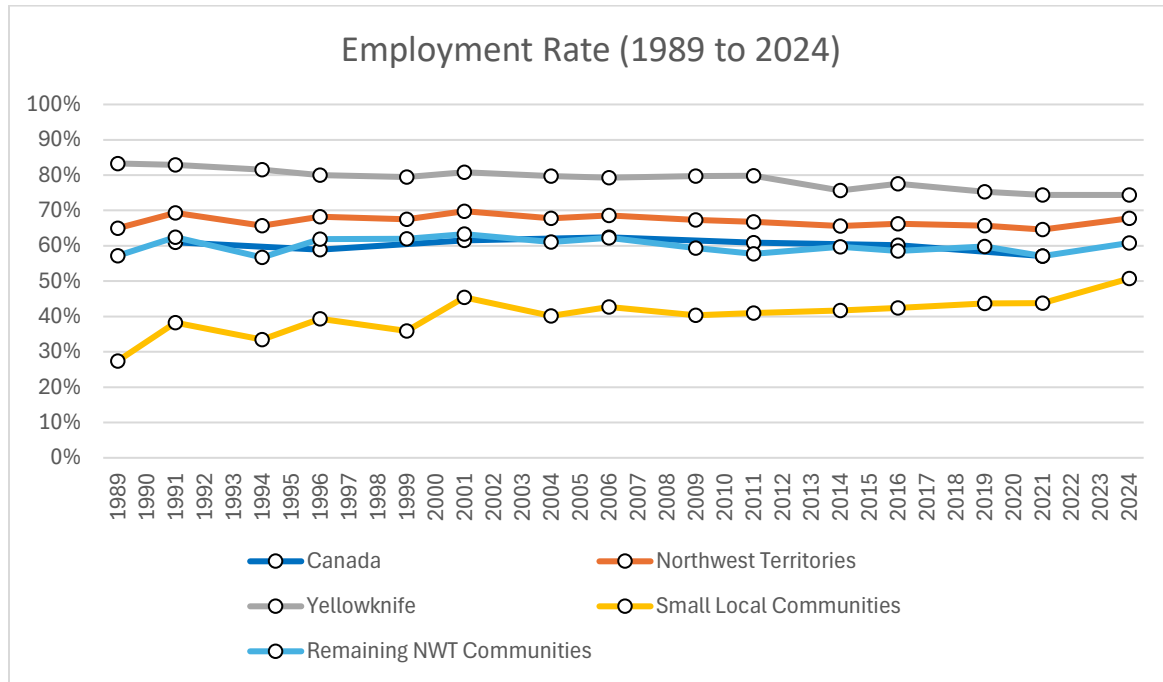
Labour and Income

Employment Rates

The employment rate in SLCs saw a notable increase from 1989 to 2001. There was a significant jump between 1999 and 2001, the period following 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.



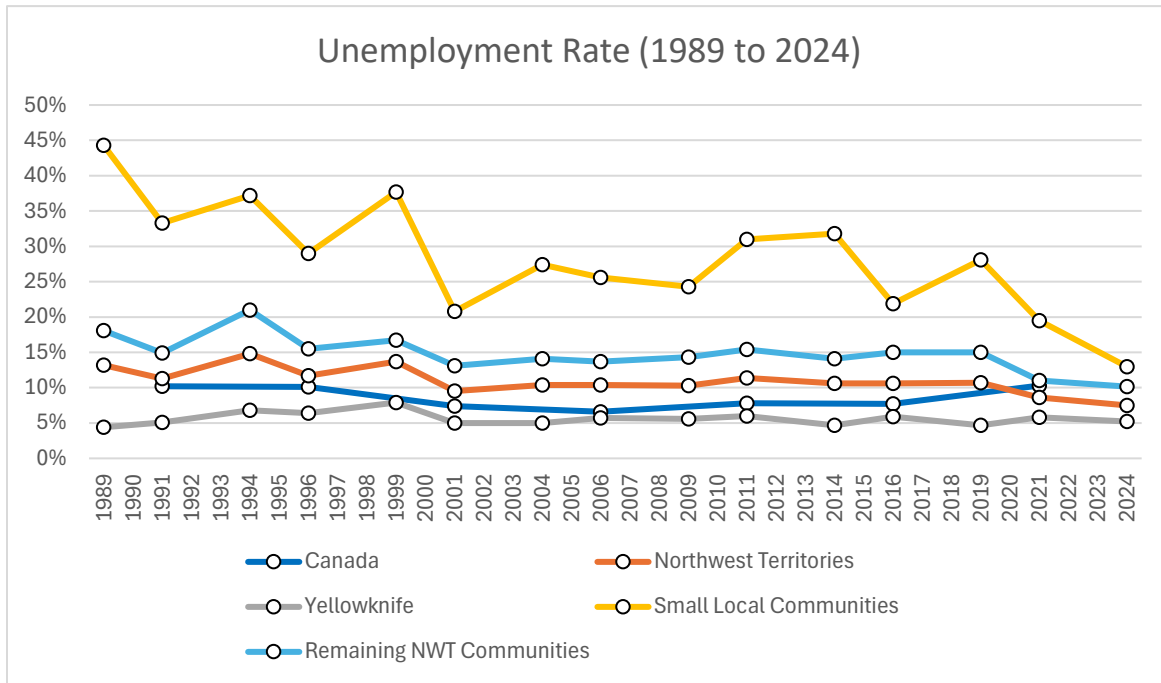
Sources: 1989, 1994 and 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey; 1996, 2001, 2006, 2016 and 2021 Statistics Canada Census; 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024 NWT Community Survey; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

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, 2019, and 2024 NWT Community Survey; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

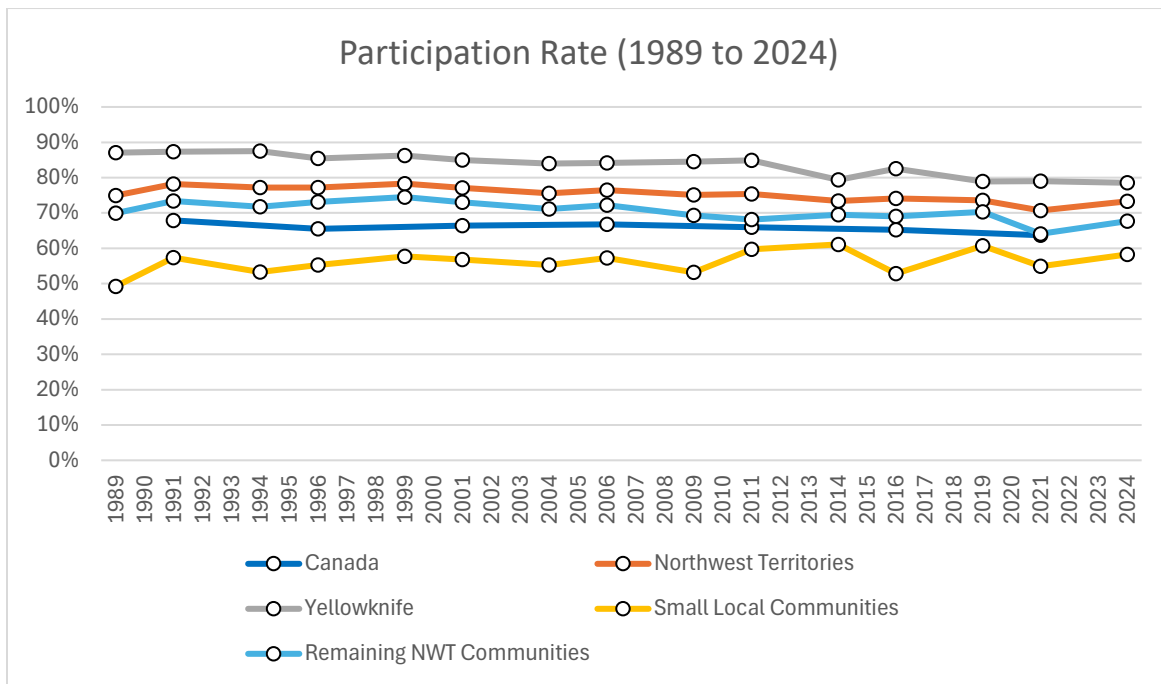
Note: Comparisons between the LFS completed by the Bureau of Statistics and the Census should be made with caution. The LFS and NWT Community Survey were completed during the January-March period. The Census was done in May and June. Census indicators are often higher due to seasonal employment activities.

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, 2019 and 2024 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 Income Assistance programs provide financial assistance to NWT residents to help meet their basic needs. The programs ensure 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.

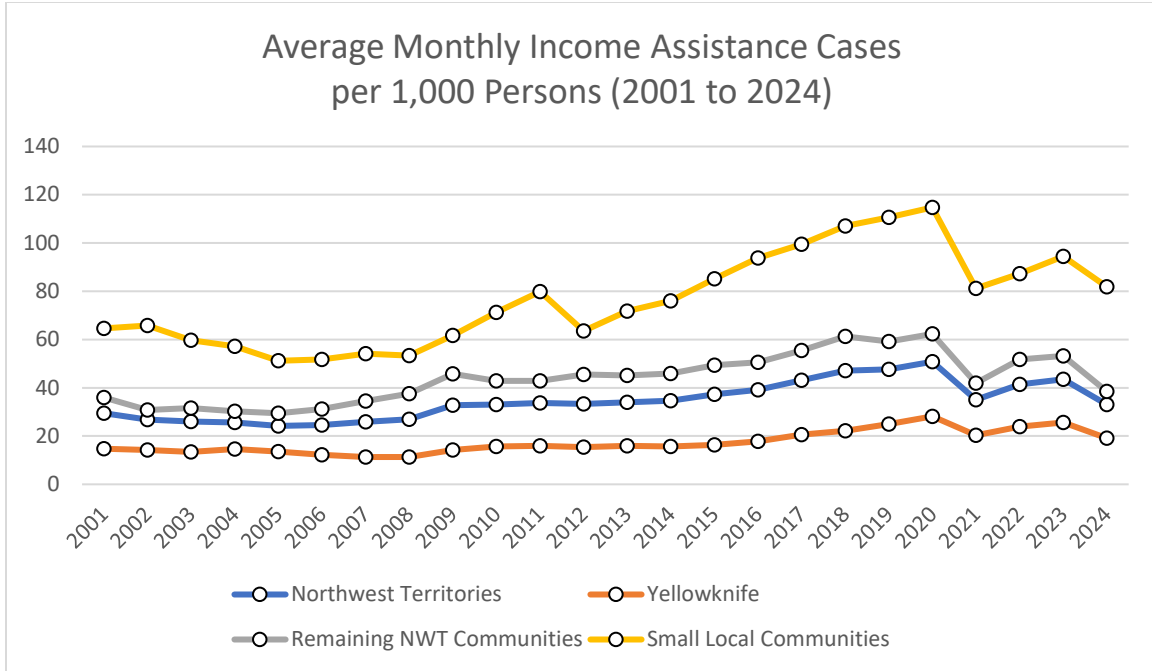
Average monthly Income Assistance cases increased in the Northwest Territories from 2005 to 2020, followed by a sharp decline in 2021, most notably in SLCs and Remaining NWT Communities.

As of July 2024, the GNWT has two Income Assistance programs: the Income Assistance program and the Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program. The graph below only includes Income Assistance data for 2024. Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities is not captured in this data set, which may result in a decrease in the number of recorded average cases.

The decision to reprofile the Income Assistance program ensures its benefits and delivery support the social and economic aspirations of NWT residents. The GNWT also launched the new Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities to serve residents that were previously supported by general income assistance.

These two distinct Income Assistance programs were designed to meet the diverse needs of residents: the Income Assistance program remains a month-to-month program and the Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program is an annual program from July to June.

Under the new programs, seniors and persons with disabilities have the option to choose which program to apply for. This person-centered change affirms an individual's right to determine which program aligns best with their unique needs and circumstances.



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

Notes:

- Income Security Program changes made in 2016 affected subsequent results.
- On July 1, 2024, Income Assistance was split into 2 programs: Income Assistance and Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. The graph only includes Income Assistance data for 2024 and does not include Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. Data for both programs will appear together in future Social Data Reports.
- In previous Social Data Reports, Yellowknife data for this indicator included the communities of Ndilq and Dettah, and SLC data included Behchokq, Fort Resolution, Gameti, Lutselk'e, Wekweeti, and Whati. In this year's Social Data Report, Dettah is included in SLC, as it is elsewhere in this report.

Indigenous Languages

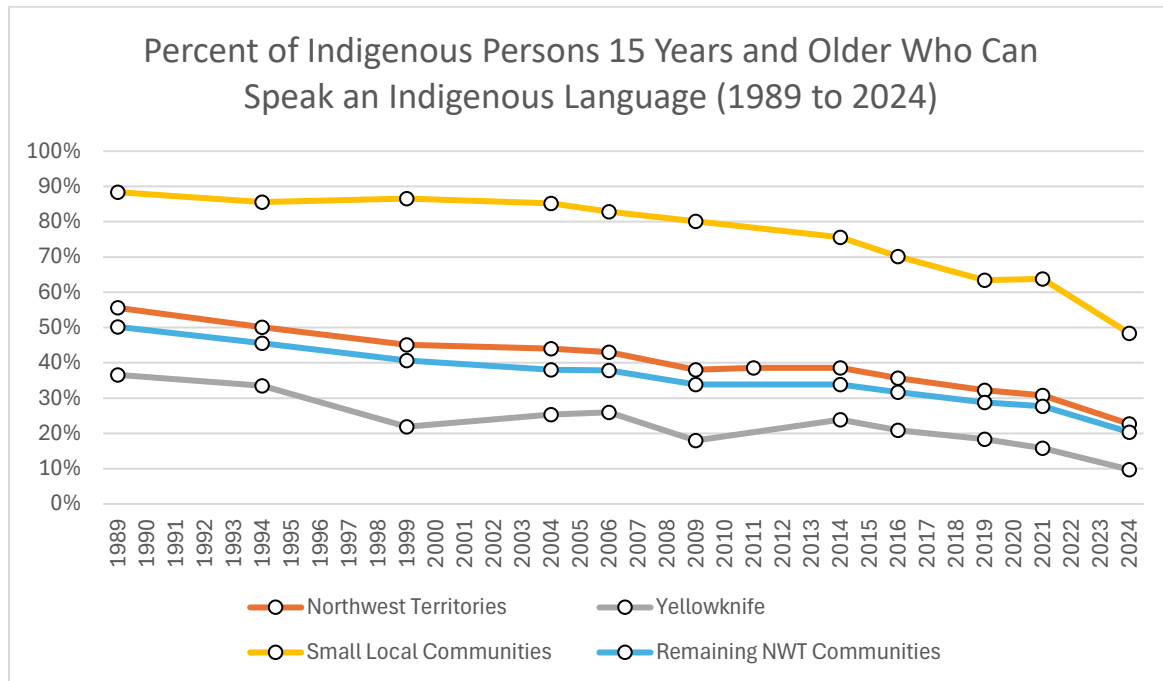
Language Revitalization

The NWT is home to nine official Indigenous languages:

- Dehcho Dene Zhatié (South Slavey)
- Dēne Sųhné (Chipewyan)
- Dinjii Zhuh Ginjik (Gwich'in)
- Inuinnaqtun
- Inuktitut
- Inuvialuktun,
- nēhiyawēwin (Cree)
- Sahtu Dene Kədá (North Slavey)
- Tłıchǫ

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 impact Indigenous languages and culture. Indigenous people in the NWT are working to reclaim and revitalize their unique languages.

The graph below shows that the languages of the NWT are in a critical state, with less than 25 percent of Indigenous people speaking an Indigenous language. Of increasing concern is the fact that less than 50 percent of people in Small Local Communities are speaking their Indigenous language.



Sources: 1989, 1994 and 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey; 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024 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.

With the adoption of official Indigenous languages alongside English and French, it is up to governments, community groups, and educational institutions to urgently commit themselves to restoring the resilience and use of Indigenous languages, so they survive over the long term.

For languages to be spoken, they need to be passed down from parent to child. According to the 2024 NWT Community Survey, among children under 15, only 5.6 percent speak an Indigenous language highlighting a critical intergenerational transmission gap. 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.¹¹

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

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 Apprenticeship Program (MAP);
- Indigenous Languages and Education in NWT Schools;
- Indigenous Language Instructor Employment Plan;
- Indigenous Languages Revitalization Scholarship Program; and
- Interpreter-Translator Funding Program.

¹¹ 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); Diamond Mining in Canada’s Northwest Territories: A Colonial Continuity. R. Hall; Reading mine closure through Tłı̨chǫ self-determination, J. Zoe, et al.; Telling a Story of Change the Dene Way: Indicators for Monitoring in Diamond Impacted Communities, S. Tsetta, et al.

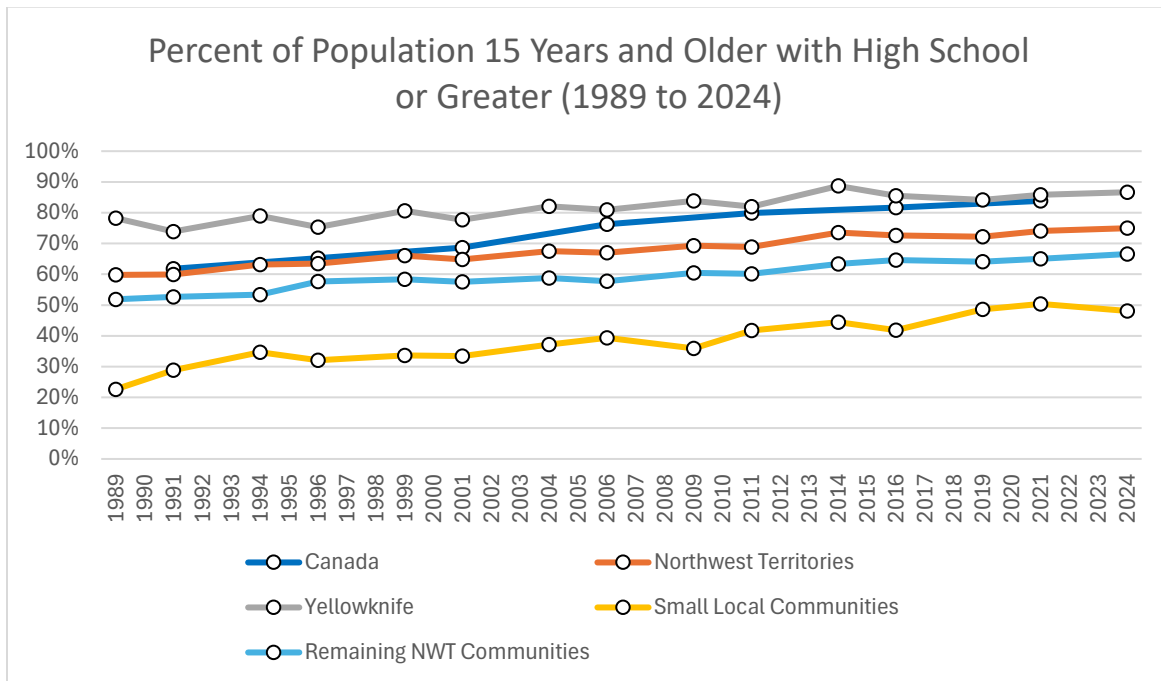
Education

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. There are many factors behind these increases, including significant improvements to the delivery of education programs throughout the NWT.

For instance, prior to the first signing of an SEA in 1996, the percentage of people 15 years and older with high school or greater increased sharply between 1989 and 1994 in SLCs and Remaining NWT Communities. This increase 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, 2019 and 2024 NWT Community Survey; 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

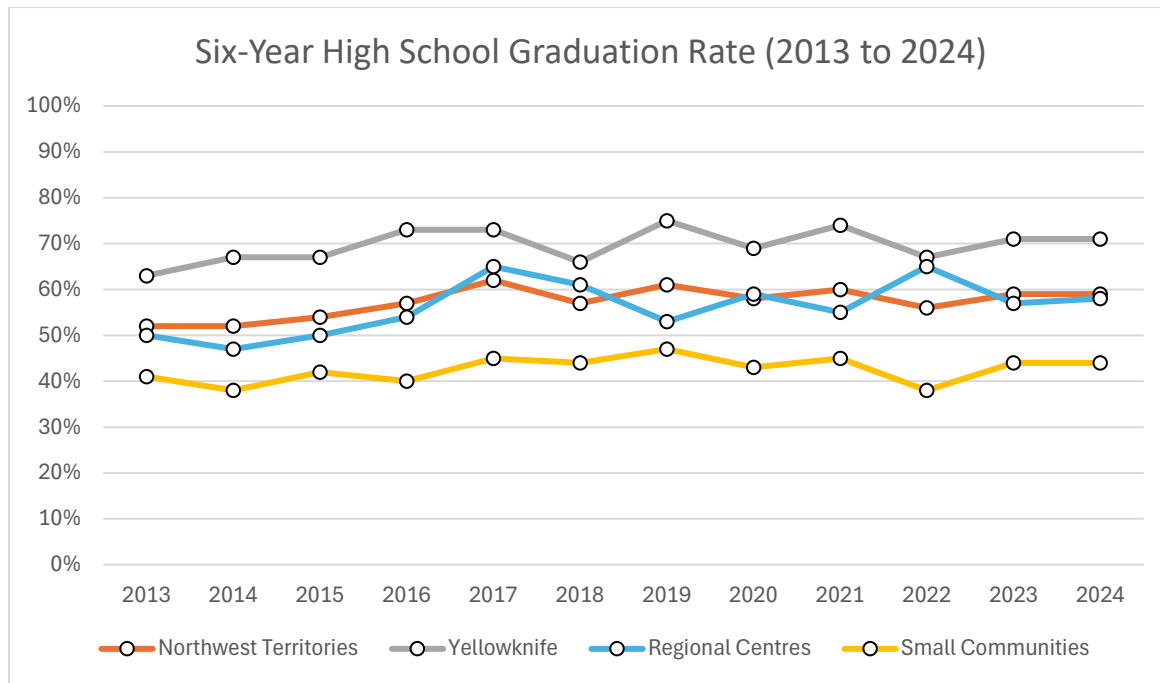
High School Graduation Rates

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.

Overall, graduation rates have been stable and slowly climbing since 2013.

In 2024, the Six-Year Graduation Rate for the NWT¹² showed that 59 percent of students graduated. Over the last 10 years, the gap between Indigenous student and non-Indigenous student graduation rates has remained between 30 and 40 percent. Historically, Yellowknife has had the highest graduation rate and small communities have had the lowest.

Since the graduation rate allows students up to six years to complete high school, the student cohort in the 2024 rate started high school in the 2018-19 academic year. This means the Covid-19 pandemic and other unplanned events such as flood and wildfire evacuations would have impacted years two through six of this cohort’s completion window. Since the graduation rates have remained relatively stable, this could suggest that the pandemic and other events did not greatly impact graduation rates in the NWT.



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

¹² 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. This methodology 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.

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.

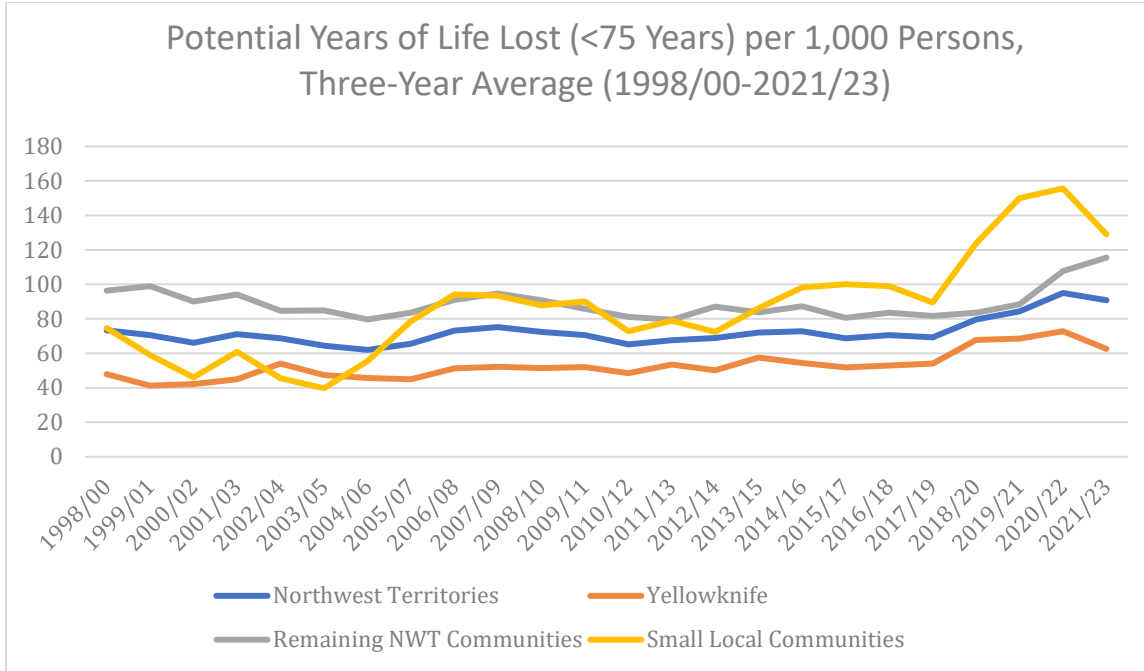
It is difficult to determine a causal relationship between PYLL and NWT mining activity using only trend analysis. There can be large changes in PYLL rates from one year to the next, for a variety of reasons including small population size. A three-year average PYLL is used to look at trends that might be harder to identify using annual data. PYLL is used as a broad indicator of the indirect effects and potential impacts of mining on the longevity of people in communities that are home to mine workers.

Research¹³ suggests that mine work is associated with negative impacts to physical and mental health which may lead to increases in PYLL. These impacts stem from the environmental conditions, rotation schedules and lifestyles associated with mine work, and include traumatic injury, cancer, heart disease (due to silicosis), tuberculosis and pneumonia, sexually transmitted infections (STI), and suicide. The 24-hour nature of mine operations means that workers often work night shifts, which research has shown is associated with poorer sleep quality.

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 remained relatively unchanged since monitoring began in 1998. The sharp rise 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 early deaths has a greater impact on PYLL rate than it does in a larger population (such as the NWT as a whole). This results in greater variability, even when presenting three-year averages, and adds to the difficulty in interpreting causes for changes in their PYLL rates.

¹³ 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>, and Asare, B. Y., Kwasnicka, D., Powell, D., & Robinson, S. (2021). Health and well-being of rotation workers in the mining, offshore oil and gas, and construction industry: a systematic review. *BMJ Global Health*, 6(7), e005112. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005112>.



Source: Statistics Canada Vital Statistics, Statistics Canada, Stats Bureau Population Estimates

Indicator Measurement Notes

PYLL is calculated by the NWT Bureau of Stats 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.

Injuries and Poisonings (Physician-diagnosed)

Physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings are measured by the number of encounters between patients and physicians for injuries and poisonings. (Note: the same patient may be seen more than once for the same injury or poisoning and these appointments would be counted separately).

Injuries and poisonings include broken bones, severe burns, minor cuts or bruises, and poisonings.

Overall, the rate of physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings has been decreasing since 1995-96. This 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.

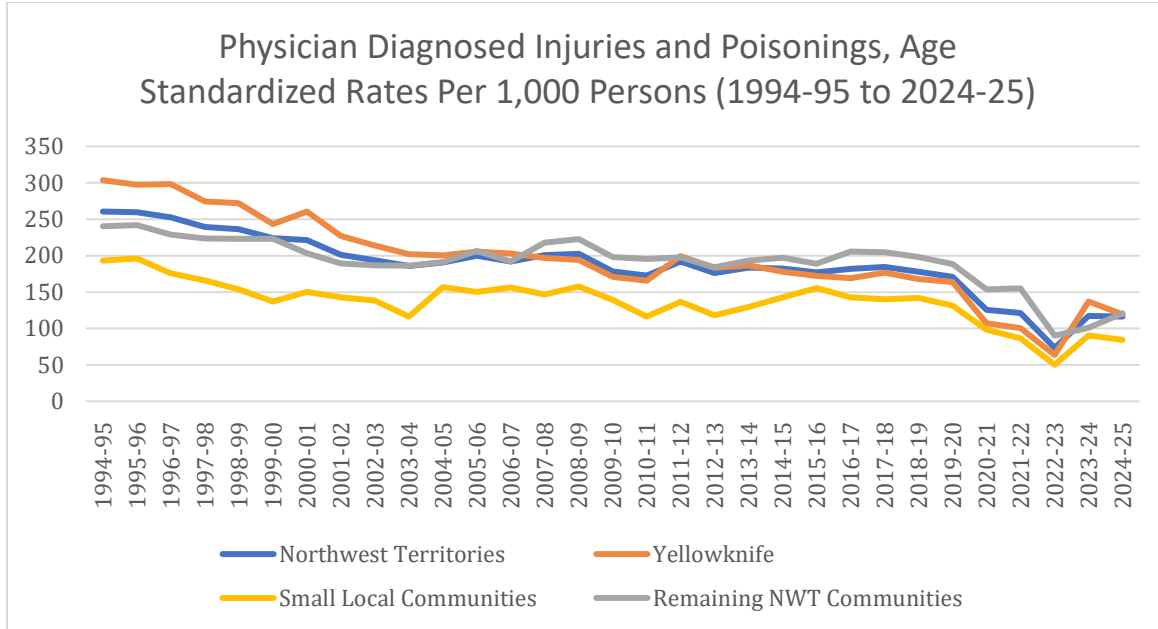
The rate of physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings is generally lower in SLCs than in Yellowknife and the rest of the NWT. In SLCs, most health care is provided by nurses rather than doctors, which may explain this data.

Recent data from 2024-25 indicate a small reduction in injuries and poisonings across the Northwest Territories since 2023-24, with the exception of Remaining NWT communities.

The large reduction in physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings between 2020-21 and 2023-24 may be an artifact of the data used and not an accurate description of physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings during this period.

While the Covid-19 pandemic and the public health response to the pandemic in the NWT may have resulted in a reduction in traumatic injuries, evidence from outside the NWT indicates an overall mixed effect of Covid-19 restrictions on traumatic injuries.

Further, numbers of physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings are based on physician claims made to public health insurance. If there are delays in processing these claims, not all recent injuries and poisonings will appear in the data. It is therefore possible that the decrease in physician-diagnosed injuries in 2022-23 is due to a delay in claims rather than a fundamental change in the number of injuries. The delay in physician claims may be continuing to impact data in 2024-25, which would mean 2024-25 rates are an undercount of physician-diagnosed 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 of injury and poisoning rates. The Health and Social Services system is working to improve reliability and timeliness of data.



Sources: Department of Health and Social Services, Health Management Information System (HMIS), 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.
- Ndiq and Dettah numbers are included in Yellowknife.
- Delay in Physician Claims data starts in 2022-23.
- Numbers include 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.

Indicator Measurement Notes

This dataset does not include nurse- and nurse practitioner-diagnosed injuries and poisonings, which means injuries and poisonings in communities without a physician may be undercounted in this dataset.

Physician-diagnosed injuries and poisonings claims data come from the NWT Health Management Information System. Physicians use this secure system to input notes and data on patients that can then be retrieved under the *Health Information Act* as required. The postal code of a registered patient is used as a proxy for 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.¹⁴

¹⁴ 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)

Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) are reportable diseases under the *Public Health Act*. STI cases require public health follow-up for contact identification, treatment monitoring, and follow-up testing.

Mining work can involve social and structural conditions that may facilitate the spread of STIs, hence the importance of monitoring STI rates as part of SEAs. The evidence that exists seems to suggest that STIs may increase in communities where residents are employed in the resource development sector.¹⁵ While no causal relationship between NWT mines and STIs is identified in this report, research suggests that travel-based work for resource development is associated with increases in STI rates in general.¹⁶ In the NWT, limited research has been conducted looking at how resource development may influence STI rates.

The NWT, along with the other northern territories (Nunavut and the Yukon), have the highest reported STI rates in Canada. Researchers have suggested this high rate is driven by social determinants of health, such as poverty and lack of access to healthcare.

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted access to public health services, which may have contributed to the decrease in reported STIs in 2020 and 2021. While the impact of the pandemic on STIs is not fully known, reduced demand and access to services and testing related to STIs, may have led to fewer reported cases and more transmission by people living with untreated STIs during the pandemic. With demand and access to STI services having returned to pre-pandemic levels, the rising STI incidence post-pandemic may partially reflect the ability of individuals to more easily access services.

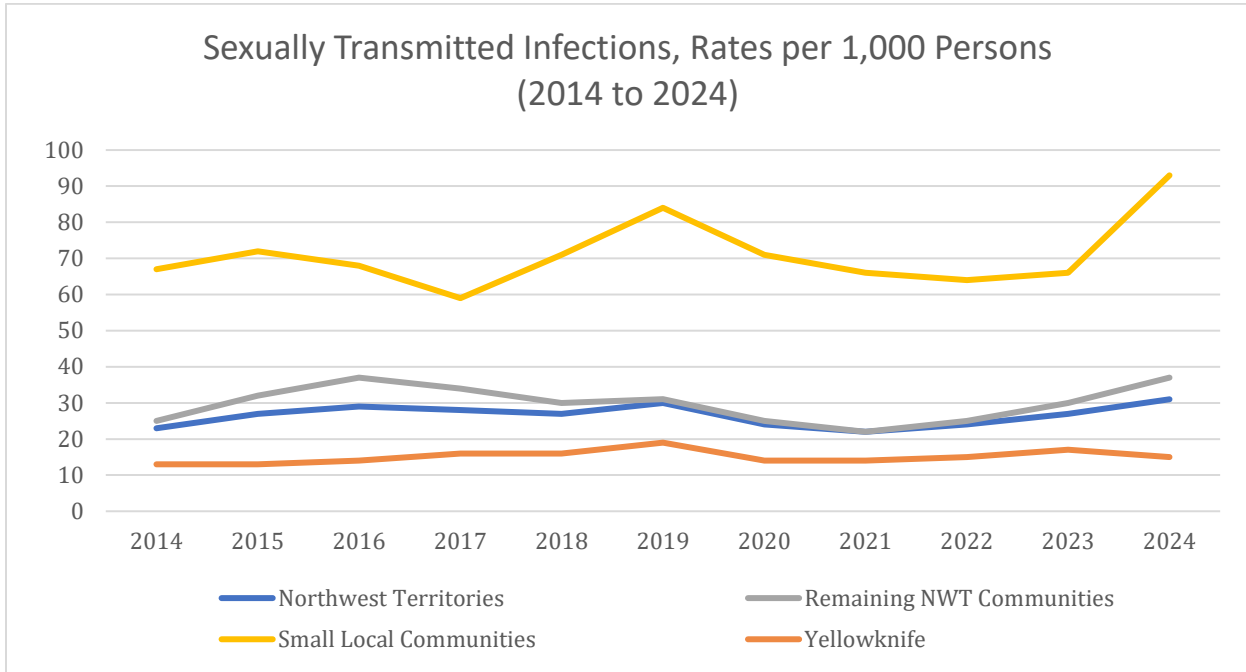
With the exception of Yellowknife, trends indicate an increase in STI rates across the NWT, particularly in SLCs. From 2022 to 2024, STI rates have been increasing outside Yellowknife. STI rates increased by 14.8 percent across the NWT from 2023 to 2024. The sharpest increase between 2023 and 2024 was in SLCs (41 percent). It is notable that this change in trend coincides with the disruptive 2023 NWT wildfires, which resulted in the evacuation of Yellowknife and other NWT communities; a greater increase in SLCs may reflect broader impacts from the wildfires on the mental and physical health of residents in SLCs.

In 2019, the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) declared a syphilis outbreak in the NWT and began working to limit its spread. The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) launched an education and awareness campaign in 2022 to combat the ongoing outbreak of syphilis. Condoms were distributed at no cost to residents and dispensers were installed at health centres and other key locations. “Healthbox” machines—interactive vending machines that offer items such as HIV self-test kits, condoms and other health and wellness resources—have been placed in several NWT

¹⁵ 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 Tłıchǰ Youth in Behchokǰ, Northwest Territories on JSTOR*. *Arctic*, 65(2), 214–228. <https://www.istor.org/stable/41638593?seq=4>.

¹⁶ 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>

communities as another point of access to essential health supplies. There is also ongoing training of frontline staff and outreach to higher-risk groups to support sexual health in the territories. The GNWT also opened a new temporary private STI clinic in Yellowknife on October 1, 2024, to increase access to testing and treatment.



Source: Department of Health and Social Services

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.
- Rates are based on community of residence according to health insurance data, and only individuals with valid Northwest Territories health insurance at the time of diagnosis are included.
- Ndlıq and Dettah numbers are included in Yellowknife.
- STIs include Chlamydia, Chlamydia of the Eye, Gonorrhea, Gonorrhea of the Throat, and Syphilis.

Indicator Measurement Notes

In 2024, a methodological change occurred in the calculation of the STI 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 Northwest Territories health insurance registration. As a result, rates reported before and after 2024 may differ due to this methodological change rather than actual changes in disease occurrence.

This data is available only from 2014 to 2024 due to limitations in historical disease records and Northwest Territories insurance registry information prior to 2014. Data from 1997 to 2022 can be found in the 2023 Social Data Report and are not directly comparable to the data presented in this report due to a methodological change effected in 2024.

Tuberculosis

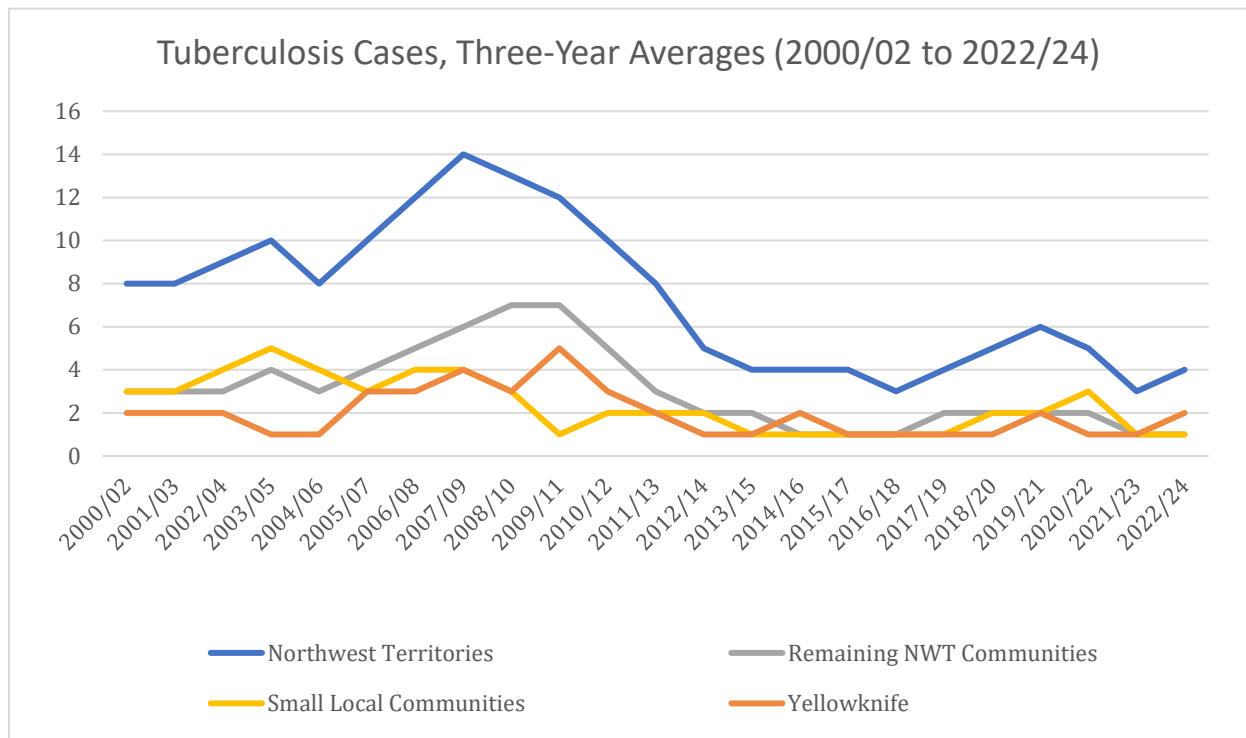
Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious lung disease which can be worsened through inhalation of silica dust in mine, and construction work.

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 SEA was signed with BHP Billiton for the Ekati Diamond Mine, making it important to monitor TB counts across the territory.

TB disproportionately affects Indigenous peoples and foreign-born people in Canada. TB remains a prevalent disease in the NWT. 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.

The annual count of TB in the territory and in SLCs has been relatively low over the last 10 years.

The rolling three-year annual average case count increased by 33.3 percent from 2023 to 2024. This is in large part due to a TB outbreak that was declared in Yellowknife in the summer of 2024, with four cases linked to the outbreak diagnosed in that year. The outbreak can be traced to exposures in 2020 and 2023, illustrating the long surveillance period required for effective case-finding and control.



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.
- Ndiłq and Dettah numbers are included in Yellowknife, as separate postal codes do not exist for each community.

Indicator Measurement Notes

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 Northwest Territories health insurance registration.

Data generated using this new methodology are presented in the above graph. Data from 2000/02 to 2022/24 are included, but due to limitations in historical disease records and Northwest Territories Insurance registry information, data is not provided prior to 2000. Data from 1997 to 2022 can be found in the 2023 Social Data Report and are not directly comparable to the data presented in this report due to a methodological change effected in 2024.

TB tests and case data reported to OCPHO are housed in the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS). Case data from iPHIS is used for monitoring TB disease incidence and trends in the territory. Information from the Northwest Territories health insurance registration is used to determine the community and region of cases. TB case data are 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.

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. 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.

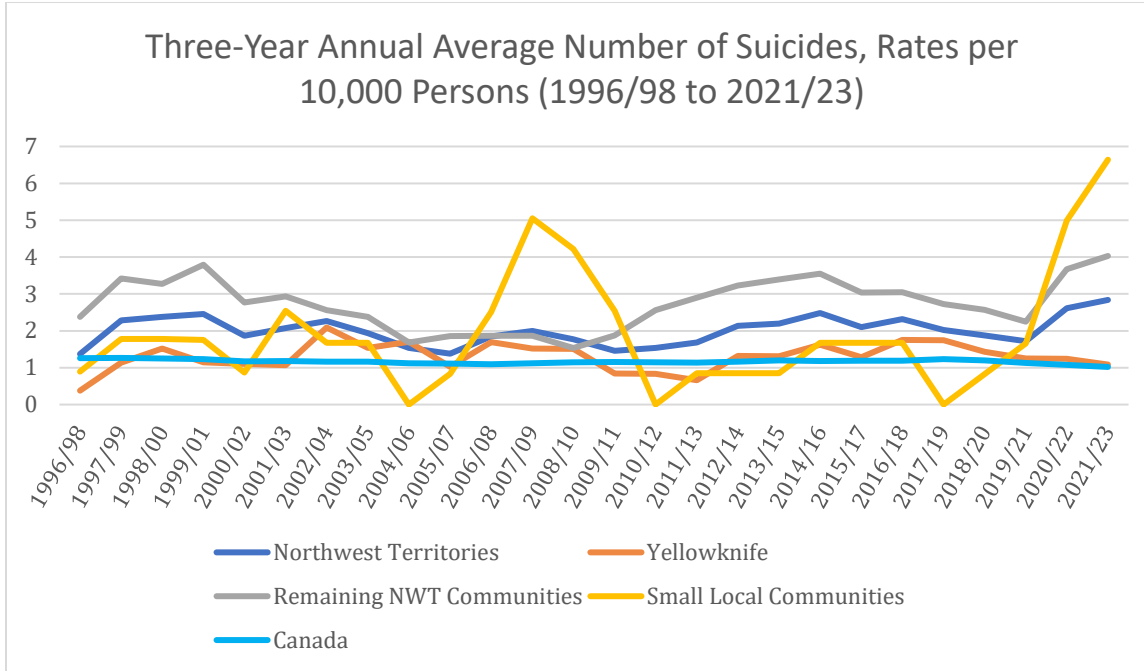
Worldwide, mine workers are at a higher risk of suicide than many other occupations. In Australia, for instance, the disruption to family life caused by shift work has been identified as a strong contributing factor for mine worker suicides.¹⁷ Additionally, the “boom-bust” nature of natural resource 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.¹⁸ 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 2023. 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. The Covid-19 pandemic and unintended consequences from public health measures, including a decrease in health-seeking behaviors, may have contributed to an increase in suicide rates during the pandemic. Decreases in social support systems and increased mental health challenges, including substance abuse have been reported post-pandemic, which could be contributing to ongoing risk for suicide, particularly in smaller communities with less access to support services. Additionally, the highly destructive 2023 wildfire season may have had a broad impact on mental and health and wellness indicators across the NWT, which may be perpetuating high suicide rates into 2023.

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 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. In 2023-24, the Community Suicide Prevention fund increased from \$225,000 to \$725,000 and expanded eligibility requirements for the fund to include a wider variety of projects. The GNWT has also been working to expedite and streamline the application, approval, and reporting requirements for the fund.

¹⁷ 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;

¹⁸ 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.naho.ca/inuit.



Source: Statistics Canada Vital Statistics, Statistics Canada, Stats Bureau NWT Population Estimates.

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

Indicator Measurement Notes

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.

Suicides are measured using Statistics Canada data taken from the Vital Statistics’s 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.

Family Violence

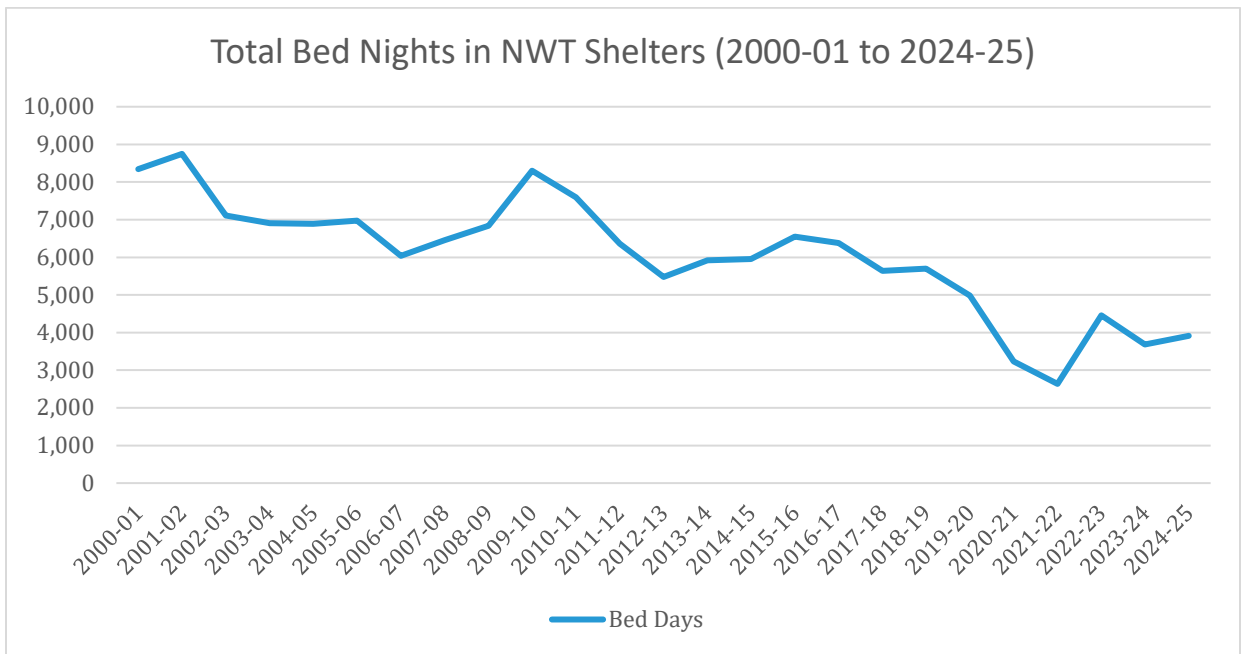
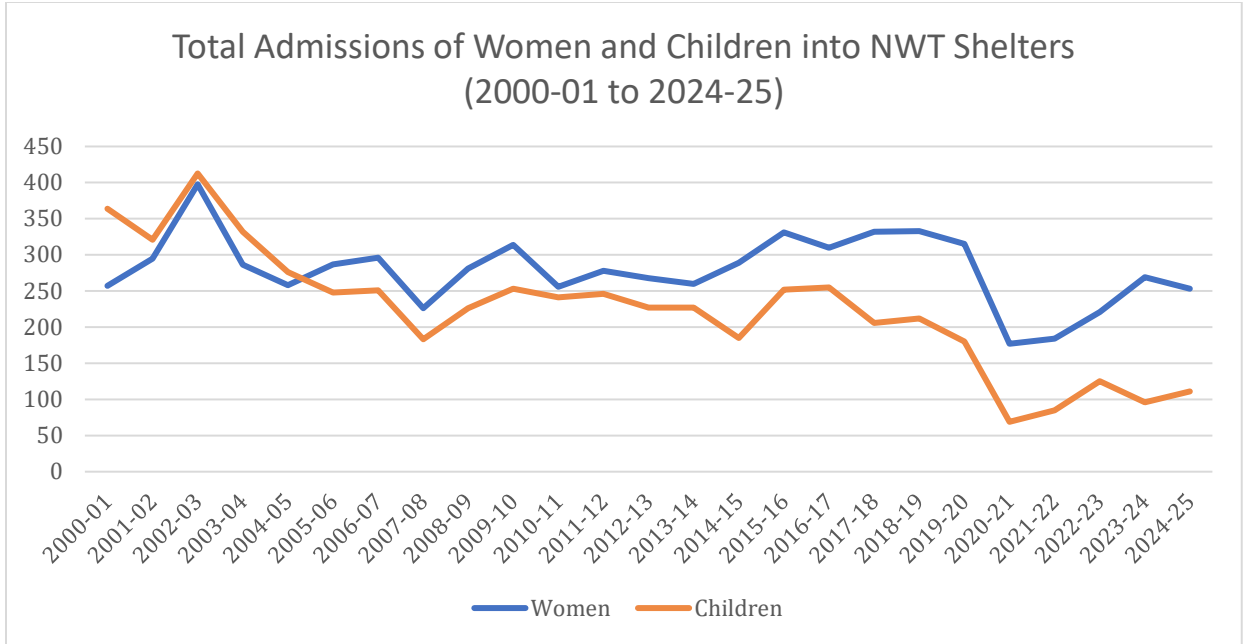
Family violence is defined by the Government of Canada as any form of abuse, including the neglect a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship. According to Statistics Canada, the Northwest Territories ranks second in Canada for its rates of family violence, second only to Nunavut, with 1,203 victims reporting family violence to police. In 2019 (the latest year for which NWT data is available), the rate of police-reported family violence in the NWT was 1,989 per 100,000 residents. In comparison, the national average was 276 per 100,000. This statistic refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law), parents (biological, step, adopted and foster), children (biological, step, adopted and foster), siblings (biological, step, half, adopted and foster) and extended family members (e.g.: grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and in-laws).¹⁹

To address family violence in the territories, there are five 24/7 emergency family violence shelters for women and children in the NWT, located in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik, and Tuktoyaktuk. The NWT Family Violence Shelters Network, a committee made up of the family violence shelter operators, works to increase the capacity and skills of the shelter staff to meet the needs of women and children. Also, the GNWT has launched a strategic framework, entitled “Reclaiming the Capable Person,” to address family violence, emphasizing community consultation, culturally safe practices, and coordinated action.

Data from family violence shelters are presented here as a proxy measure of family violence. These data should not be interpreted as an accurate assessment of the level of family violence occurring in NWT communities, as there are many reasons why individuals may choose to use or not use shelters. People may seek shelter due to homelessness, mental health concerns, or substance use. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting admission of women and children into family violence shelters and total shelter bed nights as indicators of family violence.

Shelter admissions decreased between 2019-20 and 2022-23. This may be due to GNWT policies implemented to reduce the spread of Covid-19. 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 has increased, as have the 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.

¹⁹ References are available to support statements made throughout the Social Data Report. See for example Conroy, S. (2021). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019. Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. ISSN 1209-6393.



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.

Indicator Measurement Notes

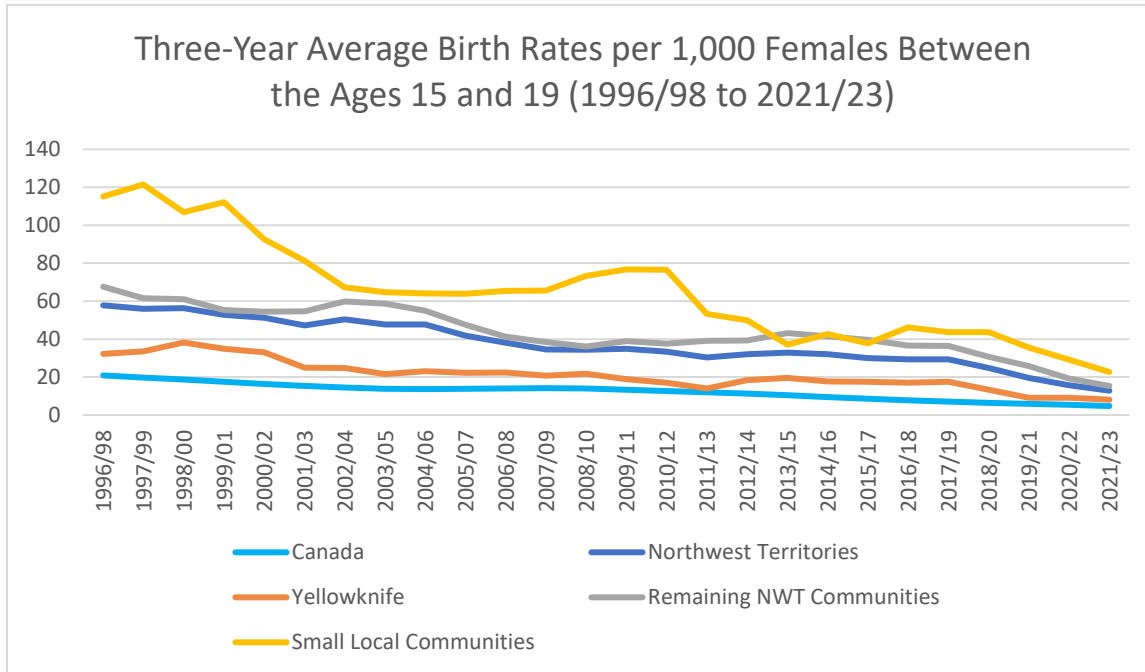
Total admissions of women and children into family violence shelters are recorded by individual shelters, along with an individual's stated location of residence. The shelter records an individual as having stayed at a shelter, along with the start and end date of their stay. This report records both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

Data regarding shelter use is presented in this report at a territory-wide level. Therefore, it is not possible to make a more direct connection to incidence of family violence in SLCs. Combined data from all five family violence 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 from 2020 to 2021.

Teen Births

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

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 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 births 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.

Indicator Measurement Notes

Statistics Canada collects information from all provincial and territorial vital statistics registries on all live births in Canada. Some births to NWT mothers occur outside of the NWT. Statistics Canada adds them to the births that occurred in the NWT and provides the NWT Bureau of Statistics with a complete births file. Teen birth rates are derived from the date of birth of the parent, which is included alongside the birth registration data.

Single-parent Families

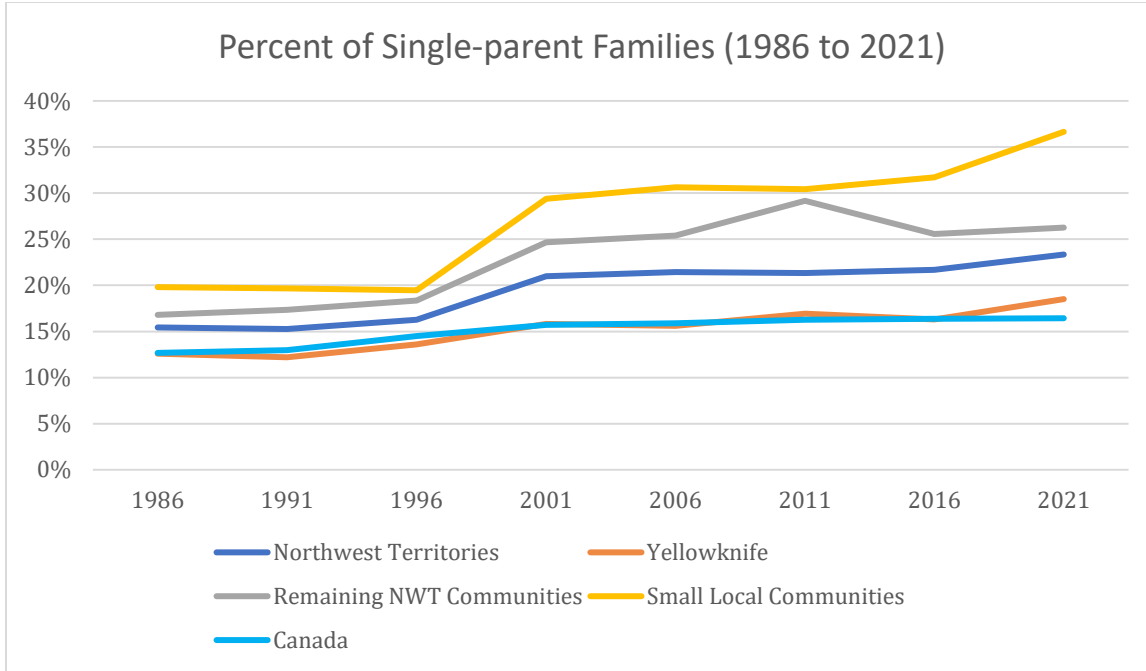
The rate of single-parent families includes the number of households headed by only one adult containing children under the age of 18. Studies have shown that mine work can be high-stress and riskier than other work,²⁰ and transitioning between mine camps and home can make it difficult to maintain consistent 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 a possible 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 anecdotal reports from mine workers, it is likely that mining activities influenced this change. 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 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 31.7 percent to 36.6 percent) in SLCs, the largest increase since 1996, the beginning of current SEA mining operations.

This recent increase may be driven by several contributing factors 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.

²⁰ 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>; Blake, E. (2022, June 8). *Inside the research on fly-in, fly-out work*. Cabin Radio. <https://cabinradio.ca/96226/news/inside-the-research-on-fly-in-fly-out-work/>



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.

Indicator Measurement Notes

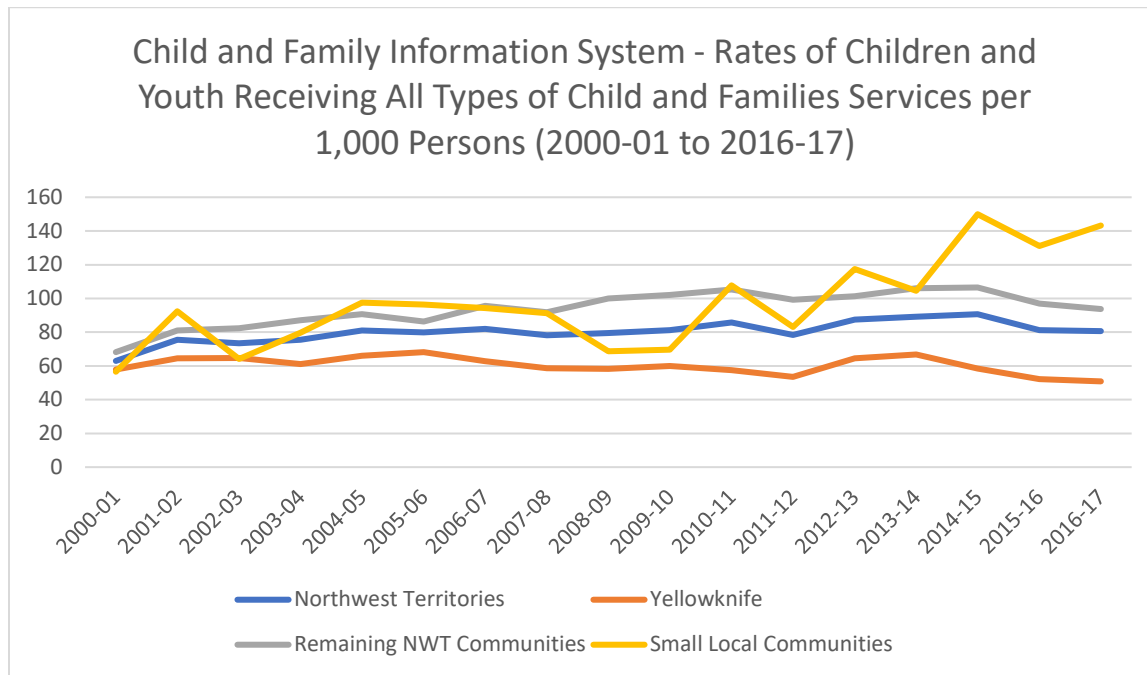
Data on single-parent families are measured by Statistics Canada using the census of the population taken every five years. Single-parent families face broad socio-economic challenges due to lack of dual income and caregiving time available to a single parent.

Note that the most recent data available on single-parent families is from 2021.

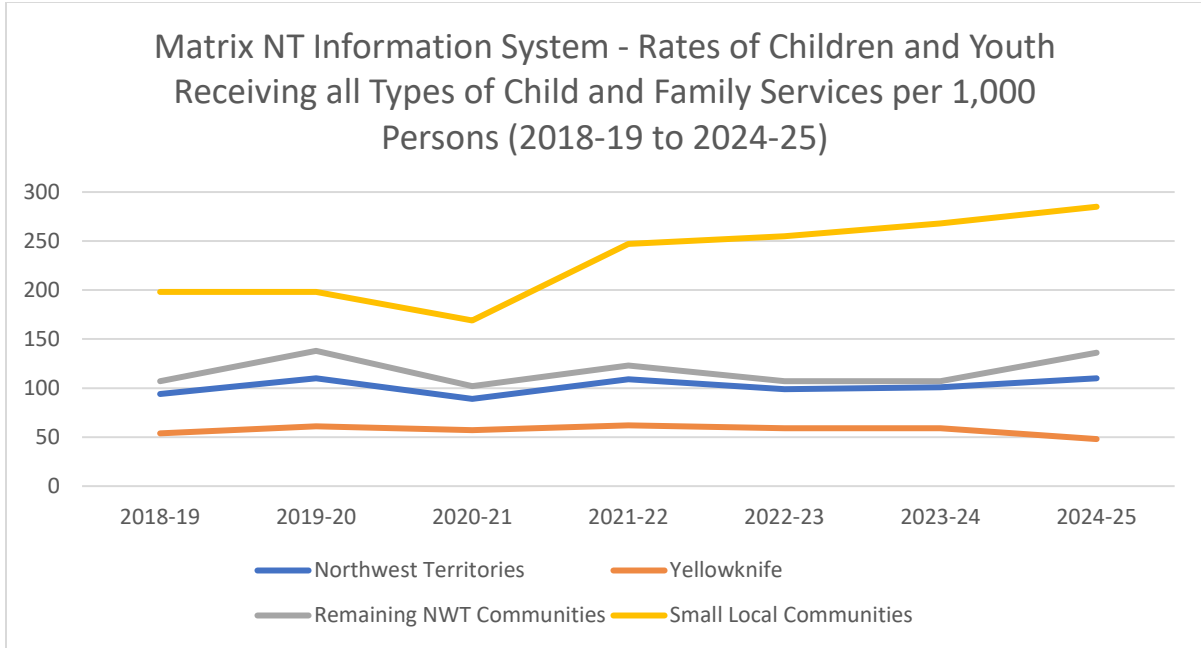
Children, Youth, and Families Receiving Child and Family Services

The graphs show that the rate of children and youth (ages 0 to 18 years) 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 a 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 each year from 2021-22 to 2024-25, the Matrix NT data show an increase in the rate of children/youth receiving services in SLCs. This increase can largely be attributed to a larger number of children and youth receiving prevention services in Behchokò. The rate of children/youth receiving services in Yellowknife has remained relatively stable since 2019, with a decrease in 2024-25. While trends can be identified within the data, these are influenced by many factors, and it is not possible to conclude there is a relationship between CFS in the NWT and mining activity.



Note: Due to the implementation of a new information system (Matrix NT) in October 2017, data from the 2017-18 fiscal year can only represent a partial year. Therefore, the 2017-18 data was removed from the dataset, as comparisons to this year should not be made.



Notes:

- For 2018-19 and 2019-20, some children/youth have missing or blank community fields and were not included in the analyses for Yellowknife, Remaining NWT Communities, and Small Local Communities. Therefore, the total from these three categories will not total the NWT.
- The types of Child and Family Services that were included in the analyses for 2018-19 to 2024-25 include: Voluntary Services Agreement (VSA), Support Services Agreement, Plan of Care Agreements (POCA), Temporary Custody Orders and Permanent Custody Orders.
- With the shift from CFIS to Matrix NT, the number of VSAs and POCAs have increased because reporting practices have changed. VSAs and POCAs 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 POCAs is completed by assigning a VSA or POCA service to each child/youth in the household.
- 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
- Data comparisons from Child and Family Information System and Matrix NT should not be made.
- Due to the implementation of a new information system (Matrix NT) in October 2017, data from the 2017-18 fiscal year can only represent a partial year. Therefore, the 2017-18 data was removed from the dataset, as comparisons to this year should not be made.
- Between 2021/22 and 2024/25, the rise in the rate of children and youth receiving Child and Family Services in Small Local Communities was primarily due to a large increase in the volume of prevention services in Behchokò.

Indicator Measurement Notes

In October 2017, CFS 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.

Housing

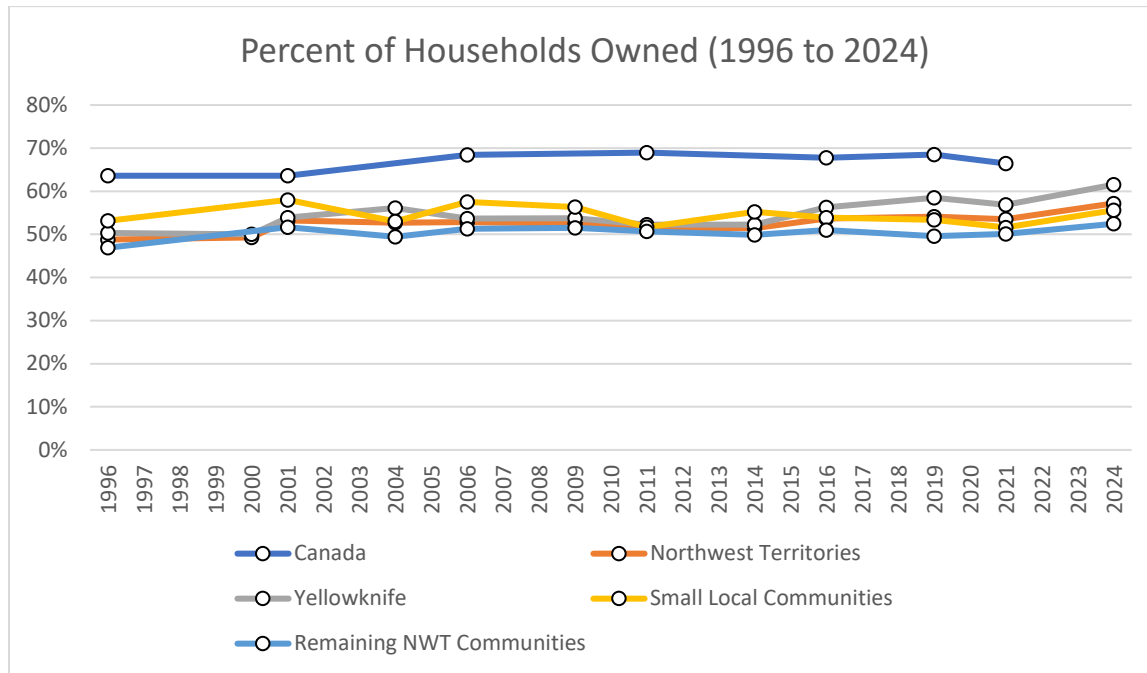
Household Ownership

It is not possible to conclude that there is a relationship between the level of household ownership and mining activity. In SLCs in particular, periods of homeownership growth have often been connected to Housing NWT’s various homeownership support programs in place at certain times.

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 11 percent between 1996 and 2024. In comparison, the percentage of households owned increased by only three percent in Canada from 1996 to 2021. It is worth noting the percentage of households owned has increased slightly in SLCs since the mines opened, with a large variation among individual SLCs.



Sources: Statistics Canada; NWT Bureau of Statistics.

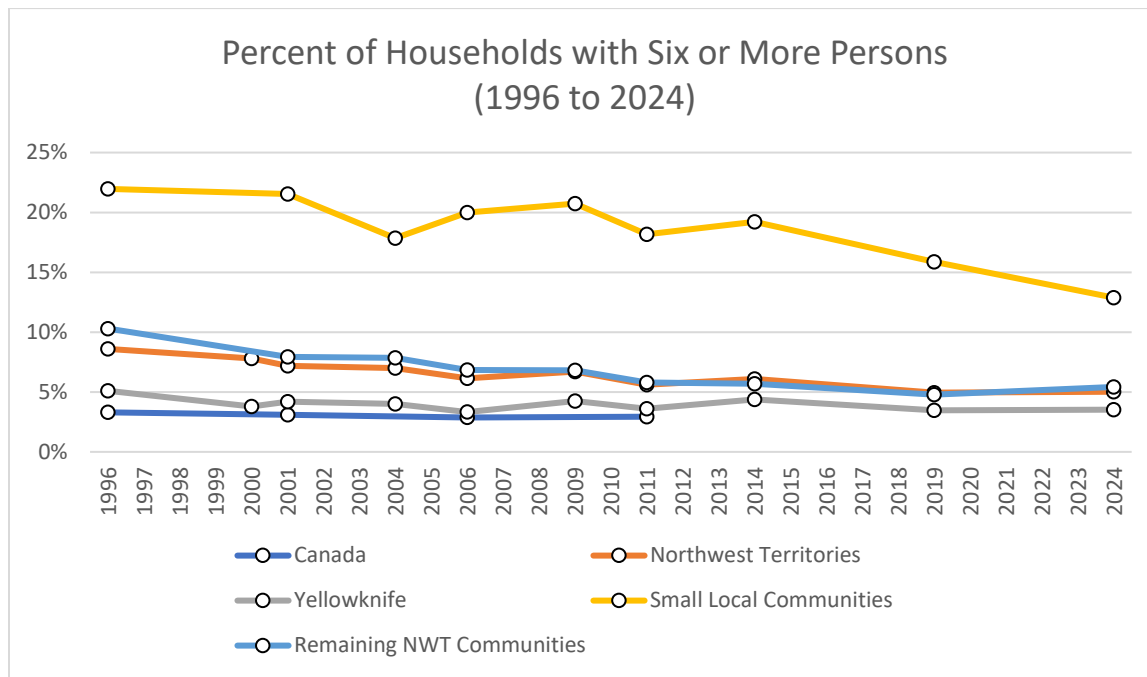
Households with Six or More Persons

It is not possible to 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 2024, 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.

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 2024, the percentage in each of the Tłı̨chǫ communities was over 15 percent, with Behchokǫ at 17 percent. However, the difference between SLCs and the NWT used to be 13 percent or more in 1996; in 2024, it was only seven percent.



Sources: Statistics Canada; NWT Bureau of Statistics.

Note: 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

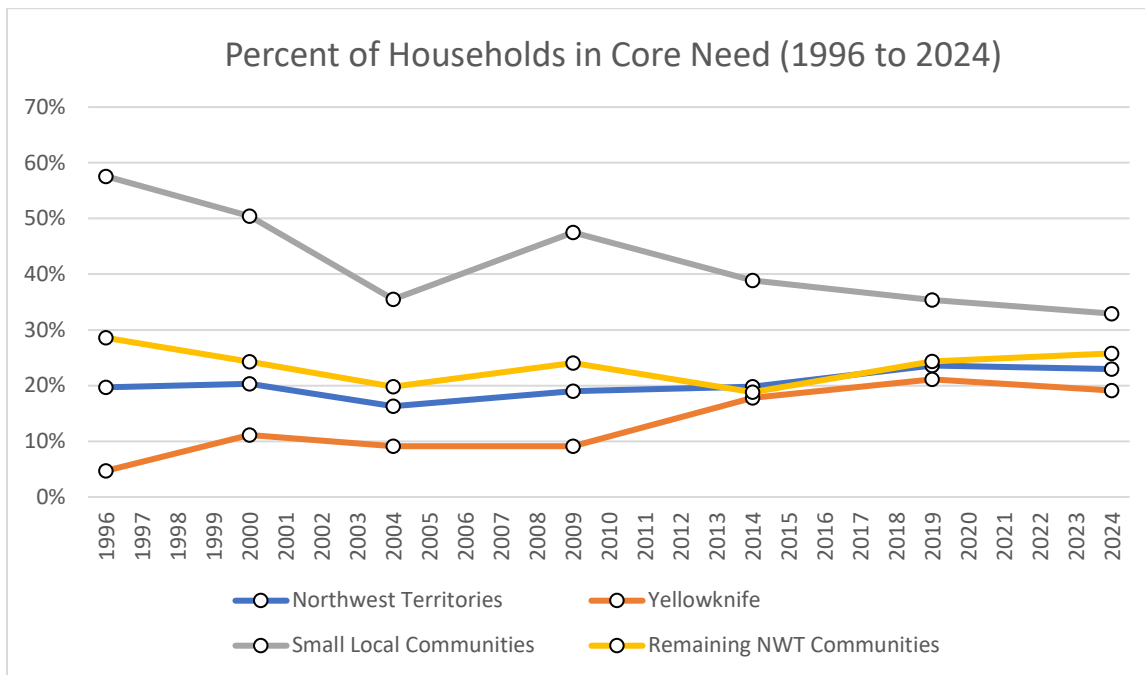
Households in Core Need

It is not possible to conclude that there is a relationship between the level of households in core need and mining activity, although an increase in household income typically alleviates core housing need.

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 alternative local housing that meets all three standards, assuming such housing was available.

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 2024, the percentage of households in core need has 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 2024 by more than 14 percent. This core need in Yellowknife is largely affordability-driven, especially in the case of renters. SLCs have experienced an overall decline of more than 24 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 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (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 2024, the NWT had the highest overall police-reported crime rate and the highest property crime and violent crime rates across Canada, along with the second-highest rate of Other Criminal Code violations. 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 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 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:

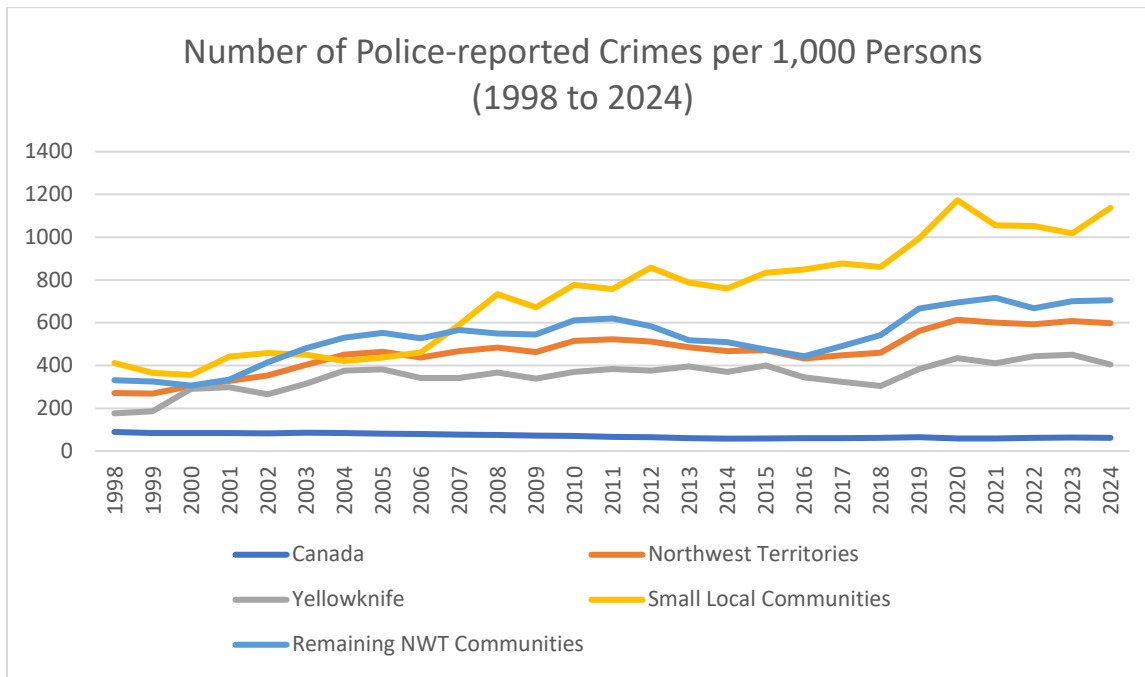
- Dettah and Ndilq, which are patrolled out of Yellowknife;
- Wekweètì, which is patrolled out of Behchokò; and
- Gamètì, which has two dedicated RCMP members based in Behchokò. (Note: Gamètì does report detachment-level data despite lacking a dedicated detachment.)

Police-reported Crimes

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

This report uses police-reported statistics. The overall rate of police-reported crime has been trending upward across the NWT, and the rate per person for SLCs has increased to its second-highest year on record, reversing a previous declining short-term trend. The SLC rate remains substantially higher than the rate of Remaining NWT Communities and more than twice the rate of Yellowknife.

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.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

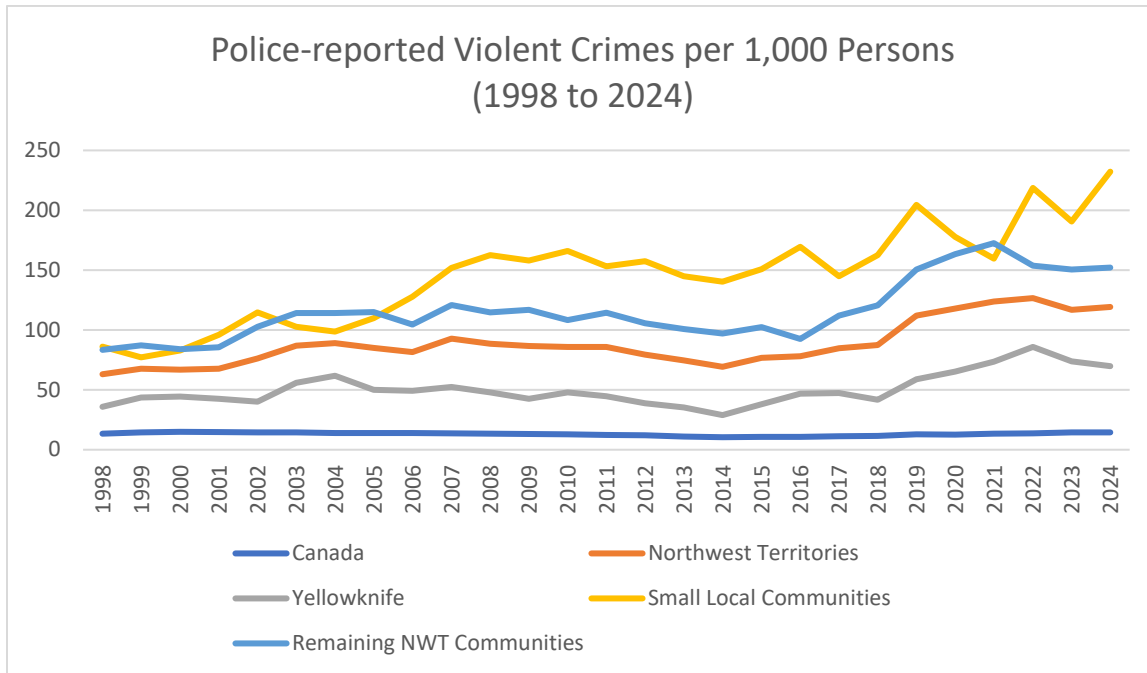
Notes:

- 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 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 increased to 232 per 1,000 persons, the highest on record. Most of this increase occurred in Gamètì and Behchokò, with a smaller increase in Whatì. Remaining NWT Communities saw stability in police-reported violent crime rates from 151 to 152 per 1,000 persons. Yellowknife was also stable, declining slightly from 74 to 70 per 1,000 persons.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

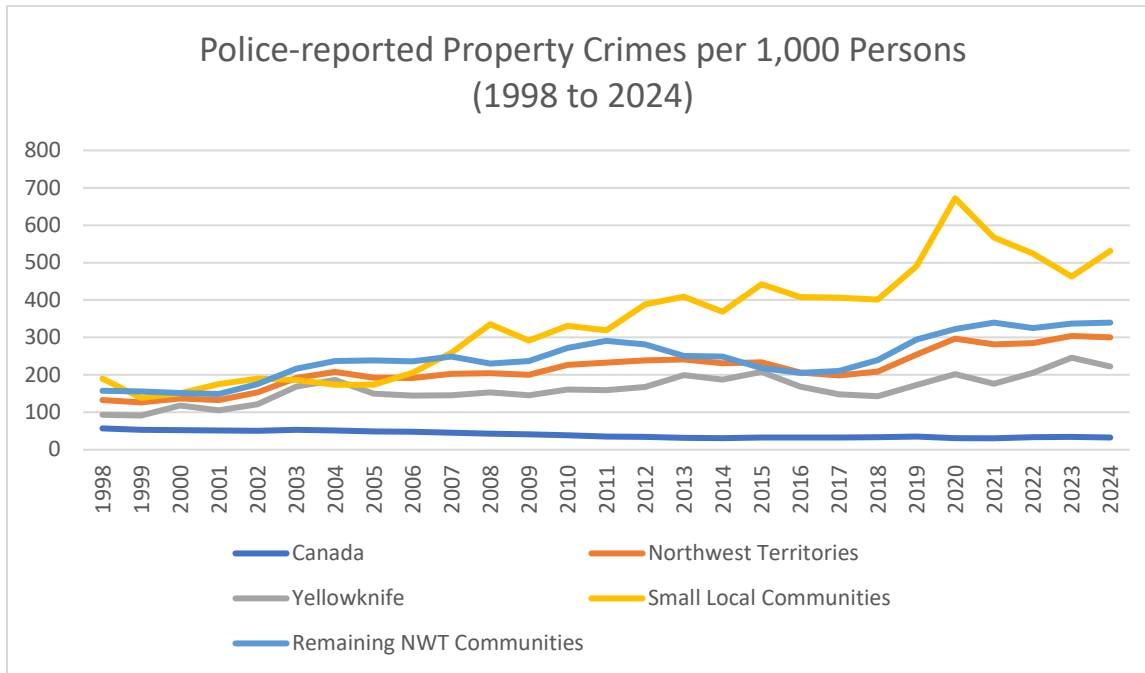
Notes:

- 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 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 reversed in 2024, going from 463 to 531 per 1,000 persons. The rate slightly increased in Remaining NWT Communities from 337 to 340 per 1,000 persons. In 2024, the rate slightly decreased in Yellowknife from 246 to 223 per 1,000 persons, down from the previous highest level recorded in the data series.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Notes:

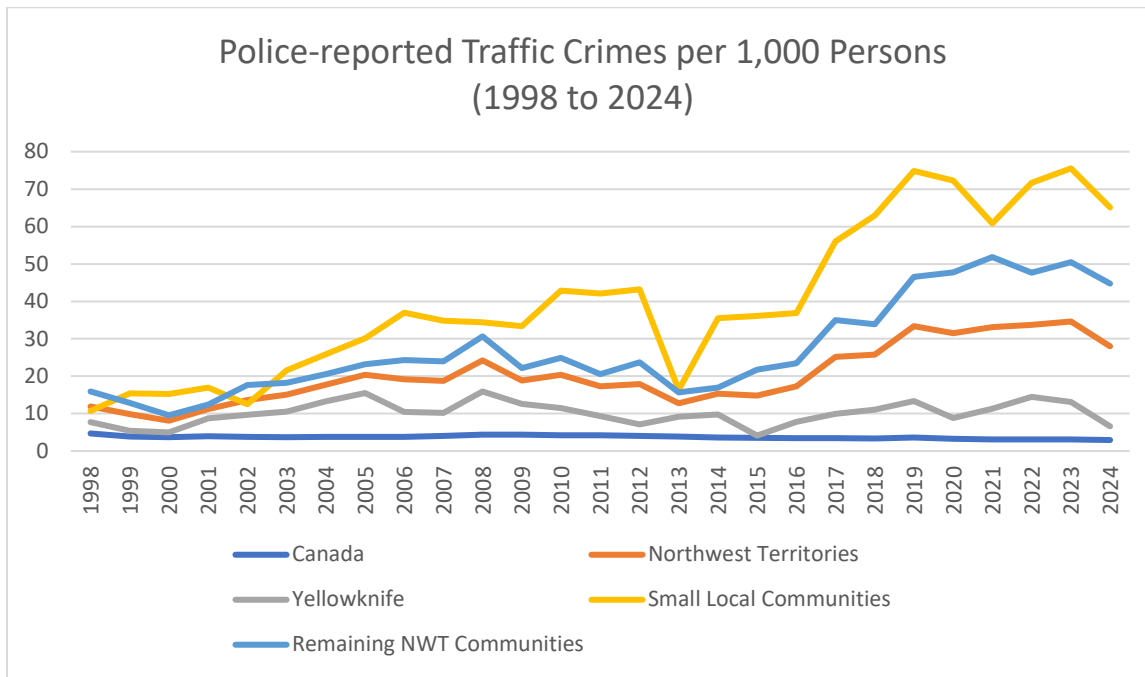
- Criminal incidents and rate statistics are only available by RCMP detachment.
- Detachments are captured in neighbouring community detachments.
- Regional summaries only include statistics from RCMP detachments in that region.

Police-reported Traffic Crimes

It is not possible to 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 over the time series. SLCs experienced their highest rates in 2019, with rates declining in 2021 before increasing again to a new high in 2023. The rates in 2024 are a significant decline from 2023, though it is too soon to say if this is a trend. Remaining NWT Communities reached a spike at a similar time and have also stabilized since, showing a similar decline in 2024.

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



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

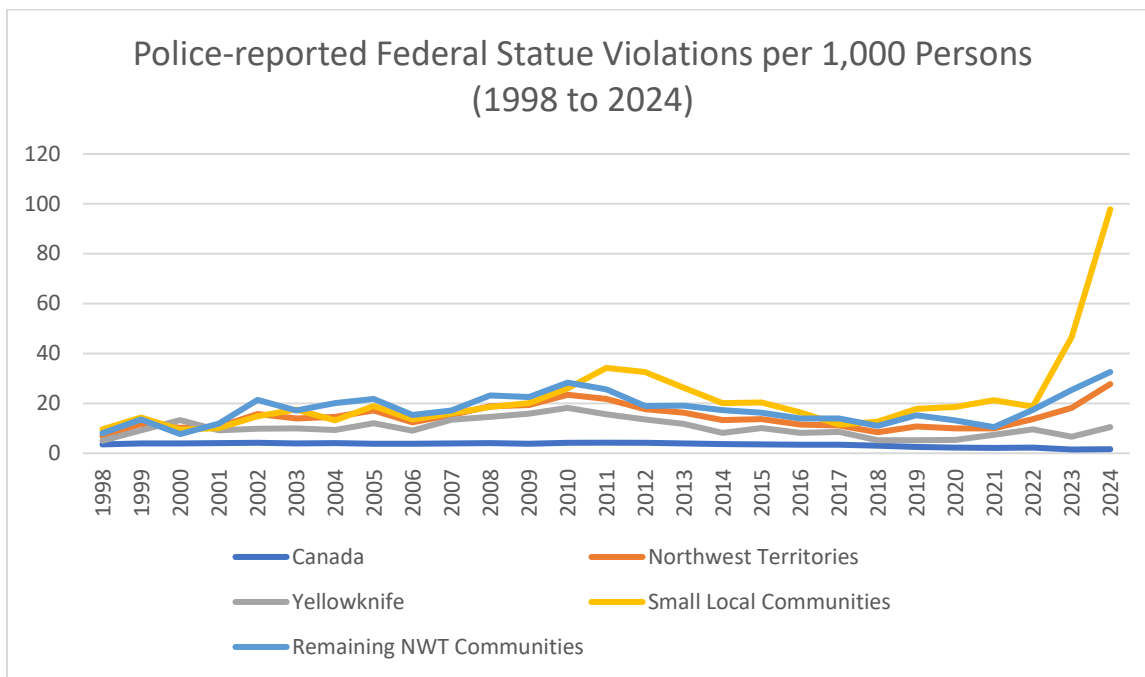
Notes:

- 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 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 2024 continued the large increase observed over the last few years and saw federal statute violations at their highest rate ever for the Northwest Territories. This increase occurred in SLCs and Remaining NWT Communities, despite relative stability in Yellowknife. A significant jump in federal statute violations occurred in SLCs in 2024, surpassing the previous record in 2023. While Łutselk'e and Fort Resolution showed decreases, there were significant increases in all other SLCs, with rates more than doubling in Behchokò and quadrupling in Whatì.



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

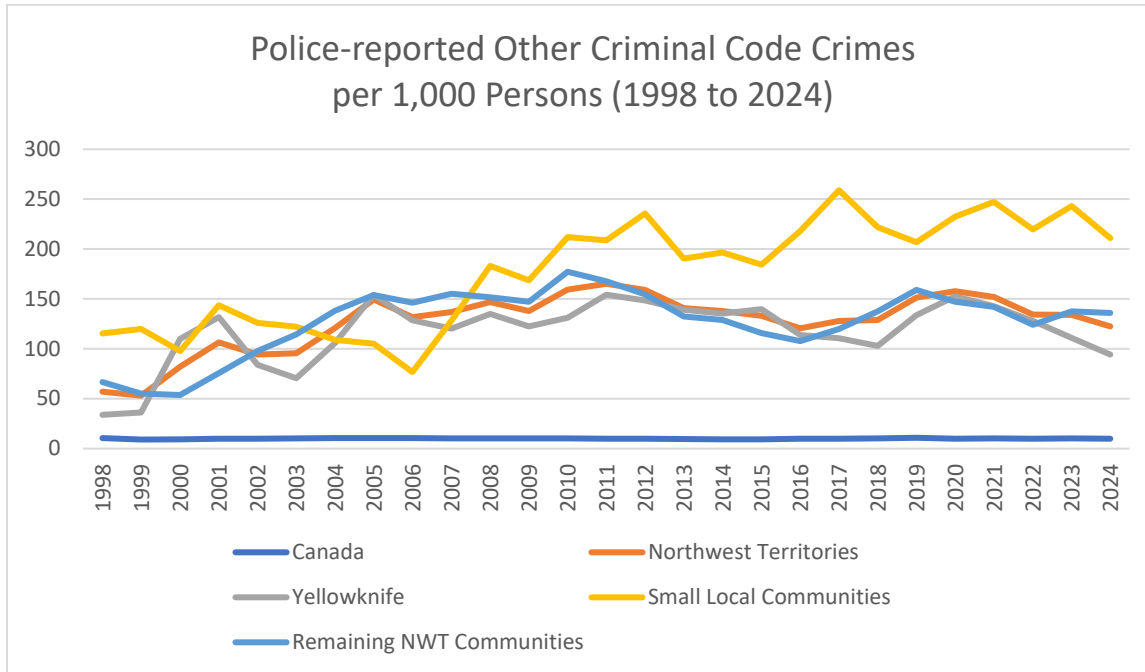
Notes:

- 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 conclude that there is a relationship between the level of police-reported other criminal code crimes violations 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 Yellowknife rate is at its lowest in twenty years. The SLC rate continues to fluctuate within a stable range, remaining 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.