



Northern Territory Police,
Fire and Emergency Services

www.nt.gov.au/pfes

DUMA – 2010 Alcohol, VSA, Offending. Grog or Culture





DUMA SITE COMPARISONS NT.

- In 2007/08 NT ran 2 DUMA Sites – Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Drug use and offending was overshadowed by alcohol use – dramatically.
- Alcohol is still the principle factor in offending.
- Recent National study on National Substance Use Risk Recognition in the law enforcement environment by Dr Adam Windstock & Alison Fettel during the research described Alice Springs and Darwin Watchhouse as “Insane”
- Noting that the population of the NT is only 215,000.



Overview of the DUMA samples

Alice Springs

- 390 police detainees
- 98% Indigenous
- 85% males
- Average age 33yrs (18-67)
- 21% single & 57% married
- 82% educated Yr 10 or less
- 77% unemployed
- 78% reside own house/flat

Darwin

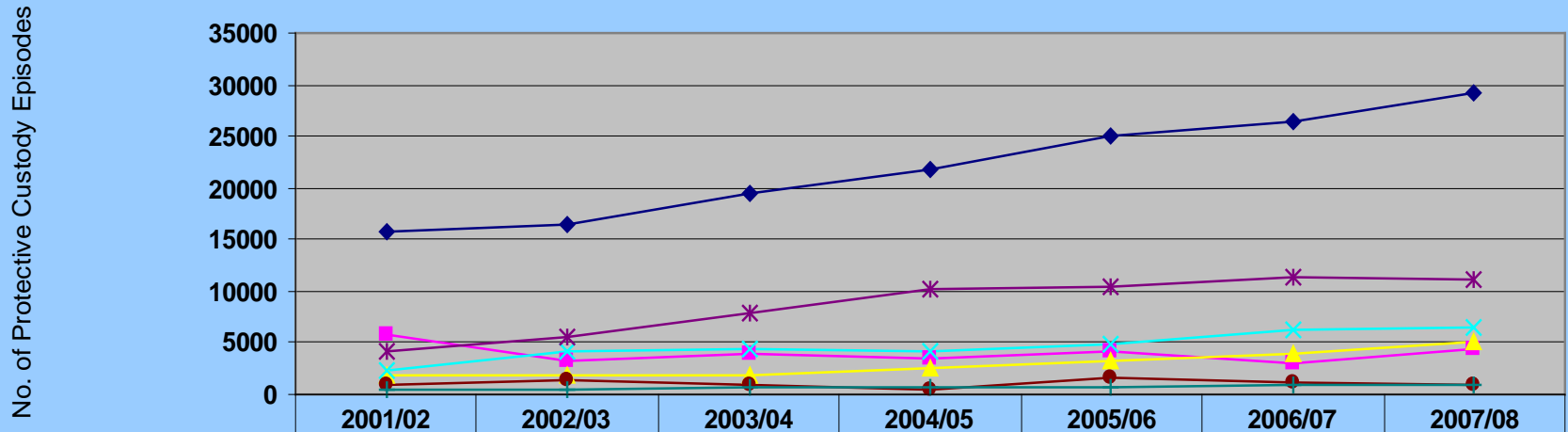
- 275 police detainees
- 68% Indigenous
- 90% males
- Average age 32yrs (18-66)
- 35% single & 44% married
- 56% educated Yr 10 or less
- 57% unemployed
- 29% reside own house/flat



ITS NOT JUST OFFENDING

Number of Protective Custody Episodes

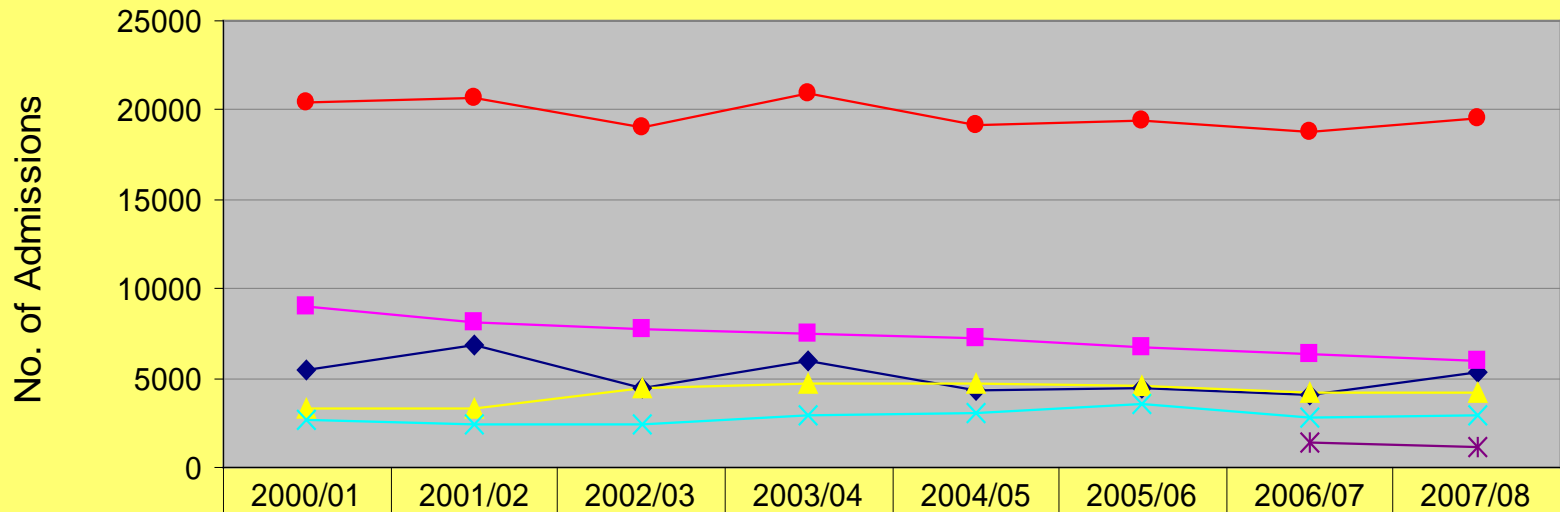
Source: Northern Territory Police



	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
◆ Northern Territory	15736	16442	19453	21863	24927	26448	29139
■ Alice Springs	5726	3166	3896	3516	4111	3046	4481
▲ Tennant Creek	1890	1864	1740	2612	3291	3874	5132
✧ Katherine	2426	4123	4376	4271	4808	6186	6552
✱ Darwin	4145	5509	7783	10244	10511	11417	11172
● Nhulunbuy	1000	1340	1026	573	1567	1070	940

Sobering Up Shelter Admissions

Source: Department of Health and Families, NTG



	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
◆ Alice Springs	5478	6850	4461	5936	4259	4440	4030	5306
■ Darwin	9035	8128	7790	7482	7228	6765	6311	5916
▲ Katherine	3253	3239	4447	4640	4690	4560	4223	4236
✧ Tennant Creek	2640	2405	2355	2897	2988	3615	2753	2918
✱ Nhulunbuy							1419	1203
● NT	20406	20622	19053	20955	19165	19380	18736	19579





DUMA OFFENDERS

DUMA NORTHERN TERRITORY

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
 Australian Institute of Criminology
 2007/8 NT Data Collections

INFOSHEET

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Alcohol Addendums 2007/8

	Darwin non-ATSI n=35	Darwin ATSI n=71	Alice Springs ATSI n=187
Drank alcohol in 24 hours before arrest	57% (n=20)	75% (n=73)	77% (n=144)
Drinking contributed to crime arrested for			
Yes	55% 11 of 20	45% (24 of 53)	66% (94 of=143)
Warrant only	15% (n=3)	36% (n=19)	10% (n=14)
Type alcohol drank			
Light beer	5	2	1
Regular beer	55	51	94
Wine	20	58	3
RTD/mixed drinks	45	24	1
Straight spirits	20	6	6
Port	5	4	0
Number of hours drinking in last session			
1 hour	10	2	18
2-3 hours	10	17	29
4-5 hours	20	11	16
6-7 hours	10	21	14
8-9 hours	20	11	8
10-11 hours	0	15	3
12 hours or more	30	23	12
Average number hours drinking (range)	8 hours (1-20)	8 hours (1-24)	5 hours (1-24)



WHERE WE LIKE TO DRINK

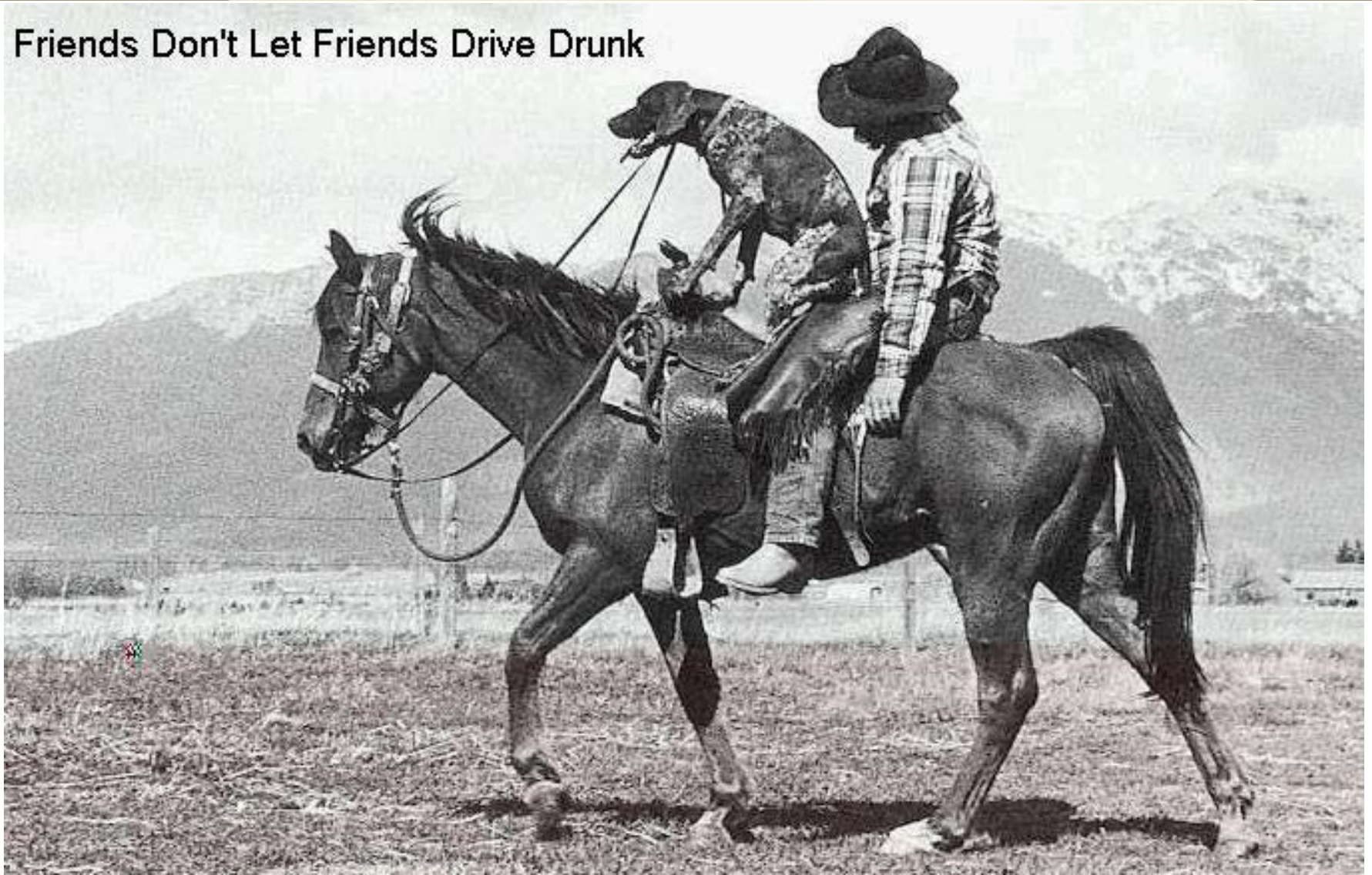
	Darwin Non-ATSI n=20	Darwin ATSI n=53	Alice Springs n=144
Places drank during last drinking session			
Tavern/hotel	20	7	15
Club	5	2	0
Nightclub	15	0	0
At a home	15	17	18
Park/public place	5	55	46
Friend/family home	50	32	32
Passenger car	0	0	3
Bowling alley	1	1	0
Boat	2	0	0

Where purchase the alcohol			
Tavern	0	2	0
Supermarket	29	46	33
Bottle shop stand alone	21	4	0
Drive through bottle shop	36	34	29
Service/Petrol station	0	0	2
Someone else bought it	14	14	36
Denied service licensed premises - drunk (%)	0	0	9
Asked leave licensed premises - drunk (%)	0	0	9
Drinking with other people (%)	90	89	93

NORTHERN TERRITORY



Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk



AND HOW MUCH

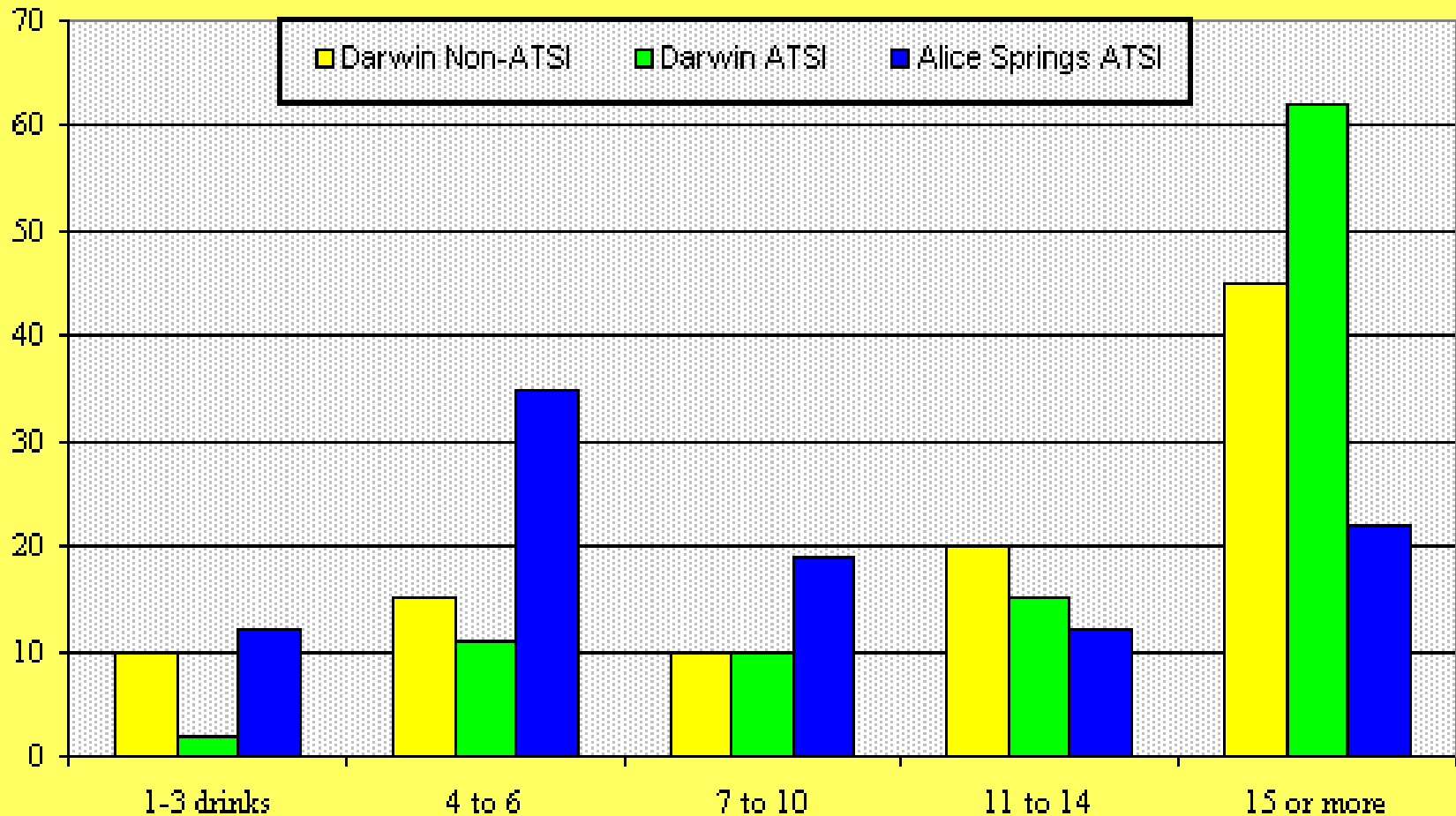


Figure 1: Number of drinks in last drinking session (%)



WHAT WE DO WHEN DRINKING

DUMA 2007/8 Northern Territory

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia
 Australian Institute of Criminology
 2007/8 Northern Territory Data Collections

INFOSHEET

14

Criminal Justice History

	Darwin n=275	Alice Springs n=390
Average age first arrested (range)	20 years (8-60)	21 years (5-54)
Charged with offence/s last 12 months (%)	50% (n=130)	58% (n=224)
Average number charges last 12 months	4 charges	2 charges
Range	(1-48 charges)	(1-17 charges)
Charges last 12 months (%)		
Manslaughter	0	0.5
Aggravated assault	5	13 ←
Non-aggravated assault	14	21 ←
Aggravated sexual assault	2	0
Non-aggravated sexual assault	1	0
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	5	40 ←
Dangerous driving	0.4	0
Other danger/negligent acts endanger persons	0	0
Aggravated robbery	0.4	4
Unlawful entry intent/burglary, break and enter	4 ←	1
Theft of a motor vehicle	1	0.5
Illegal use of a motor vehicle	1	4
Theft from person	0.4	0
Theft from retail premises	5	0

Receiving or handing proceeds of crime	0.4	1	
Deal/traffic illicit drugs commercial quantity	0.4	0	
Deal/traffic illicit drugs non- commercial quantity	1	0	
Possess illicit drug	3	0.5	
Prescription drug fraud	0	1	
Misuse of regulated weapons/explosives	2	4	
Sell, possess &/or use prohibited weapons/explosives	1	0	
Property damage	5	4	←
Trespass	2	2	
Offensive behaviour	2	0.5	
Disorderly conduct	3	8	←
Driving while licence suspended	0	6	←
Driving without a licence	0.4	1	
Registration offences	0	0.5	
Roadworthiness offences	0	0	
Exceed speed limit	1	1	
Regulatory driving offences	1	1	
Resist/hinder police officer or justice official	0.4	0.5	
Offences against justice procedures	0.4	3	
Breach of bail	0	13	←
Breach of other restraining order	12	2	←
Breach of justice order	2	0.5	
Liquor and tobacco offences	0	0.3	



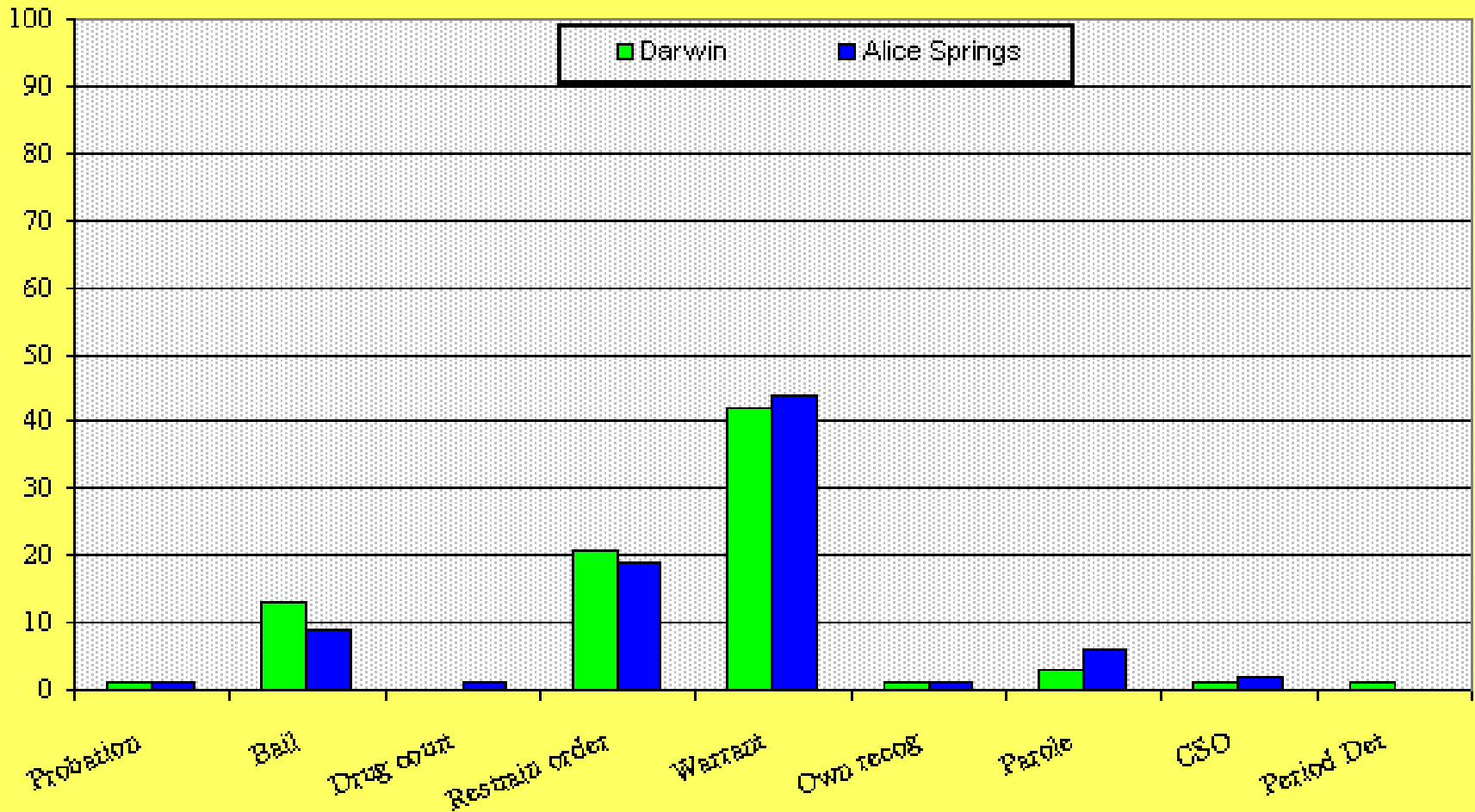
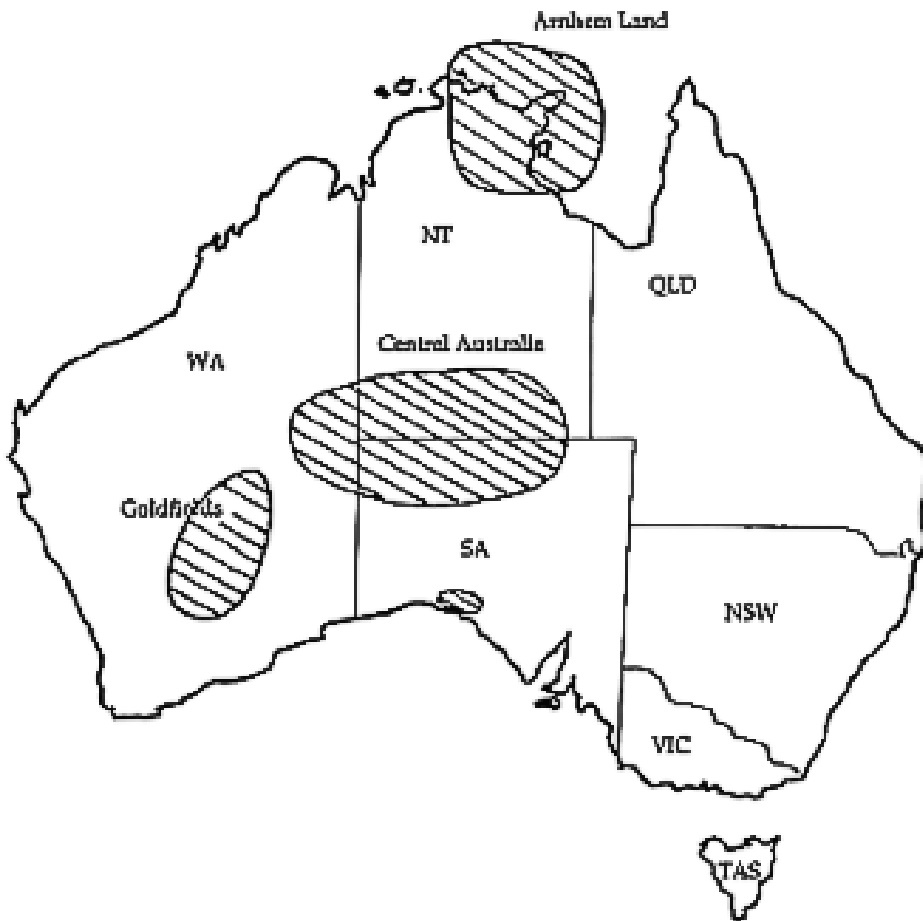


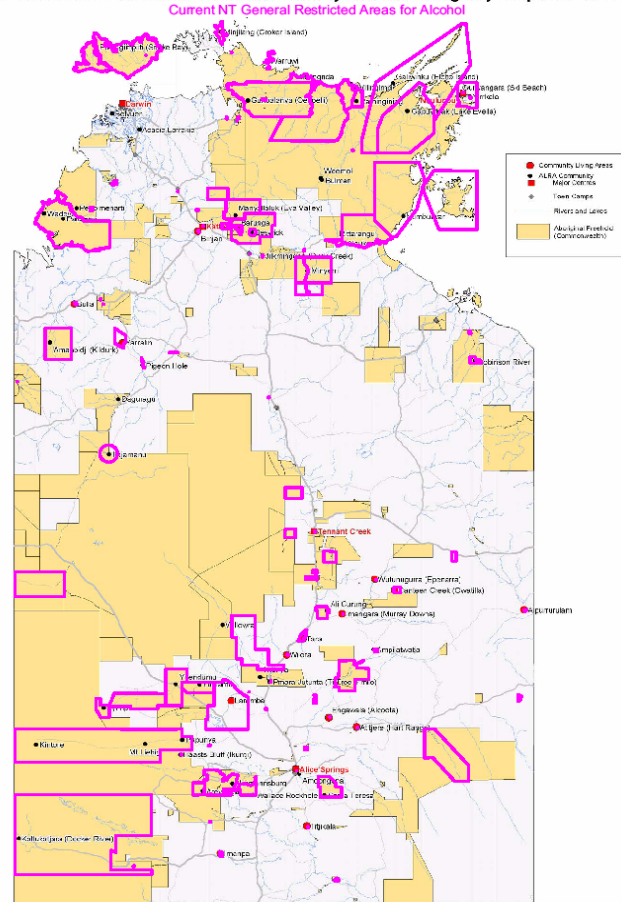
Figure 1: Proportion of each sample detained for a breach



VOLATILE SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Prescribed Areas under Clause 4 Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007



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- In Australia prior to World War II there was no evidence of petrol sniffing. It had been reported as a practice among children and adolescents in the USA as early as 1934.
- Brady reported the first documented use of petrol amongst Top End Aboriginals in 1950 at two sawmills, whilst in Central Australia the practice seemed to have begun in the 1940s. Brady was unable to find any evidence that US Army personnel introduced the practice.



- Petrol sniffing occurs principally amongst remote Indigenous communities throughout the world, though all this may mean is that we do not know enough about VSA in urban communities.
- The prevalence is hard to quantify. It is often a clandestine activity and occurs at night. Brady (in 1992) reported that it was present in 56 out of 837 Aboriginal communities throughout Australia.
- Its usage tends to come and go in communities; a chronic sniffer may collect recruits and then be moved on by the community, imprisoned for delinquent behaviour or an intervention occurs and the practice is temporarily extinguished.



- Prior to the introduction of Opal, Comgas (Avgas rebranded, from Aviation Gas) has been used in the 1990s in many communities to discourage misuse of fuel as an inhalant; however, unlike Opal, Avgas contains lead and was not accepted by communities due to doubts about its suitability.
- All petrol stations in Alice Springs now sell the new fuel. Opal fuel is subsidised by the federal government to sell at the same price, costing about AUD 4 million a year.
- 62 Indigenous communities across the states of NT, WA, SA and QLD use Opal fuel with 24 roadhouses and service stations supplying it.





Comparison sniffable vs. non-sniffable fuel

Fuel comparison

Property	Opal	Avgas	Unleaded
Colour:	yellow	blue or green	purple/bronze
Aromatics:	5%	20%	< 48%, typ. 25%
Benzene:	1%	< 3..5%	< 5%
Lead:	< 0.005 g/L	< 0.56 g/L	< 0.005 g/L
Sulphur:	150 ppm	500 ppm	< 500 ppm
Sniffable:	no	yes	yes





CULTURE CLASH

- The Pintupi Nine is a group of nine Pintupi people who lived a traditional hunter-gatherer desert-dwelling life in Australia's Gibson Desert until 1984, when they made contact with their relatives near Kiwirrkura. They are sometimes also referred to as "the lost tribe".
- They are believed to be the last Aborigines to have been living this way. They roamed between waterholes near Lake Mackay, near the Western Australia-Northern Territory border, naked except for their hairstring belts and armed with 2m-long wooden spears and intricately carved boomerangs. Their diet was dominated by goanna and rabbit as well as bush food native plants.
- The group is a family, consisting of four brothers (Warlimpirnga, Walala, Thomas and Yari Yari), three sisters (Yardi, Yikultji and Tjakaraia) and two mothers (Nanyanu and Papalanyanu). The boys were aged between 14 and 20, and the girls were all in their teens (although no one knows their exact age). The mothers were in their late 30s.



"I couldn't believe it," Warlinipirri said through an interpreter.

"I thought he was the devil, a bad spirit. He was the colour of clouds at sunrise."

His sister, Yardi, thought the white fella was a "punishment spirit" -- sent to chastise her for something she had done wrong.

"I was very frightened," Yardi said.

None of the family had any concept of white men. They still speak only Pintupi.



- How has the lost tribe fared since coming out of the wilderness 22 years ago?
- All the brothers and sisters are artists. A painting by Warlinipirri has sold for \$85,000; others are in the National Gallery in Canberra and the National Gallery of Victoria. One even hangs in a Paris gallery.
- Large works by Walala and Thomas sell for at least \$6000 in Alice Springs and \$9500 in the swank galleries in Melbourne and Sydney.
- The artistic brothers like a beer, but still seem reasonably healthy.
- Reports that Walala is a chronic alcoholic seem untrue. In fact, he is the most prolific painter of the brothers and can earn \$2000 a day.
- Yikuljti is in Alice Springs Hospital with kidney problems and one of the mothers has died.



FROM THIS TO THIS





Pintubi boys at Ngutjul





Ngutjul

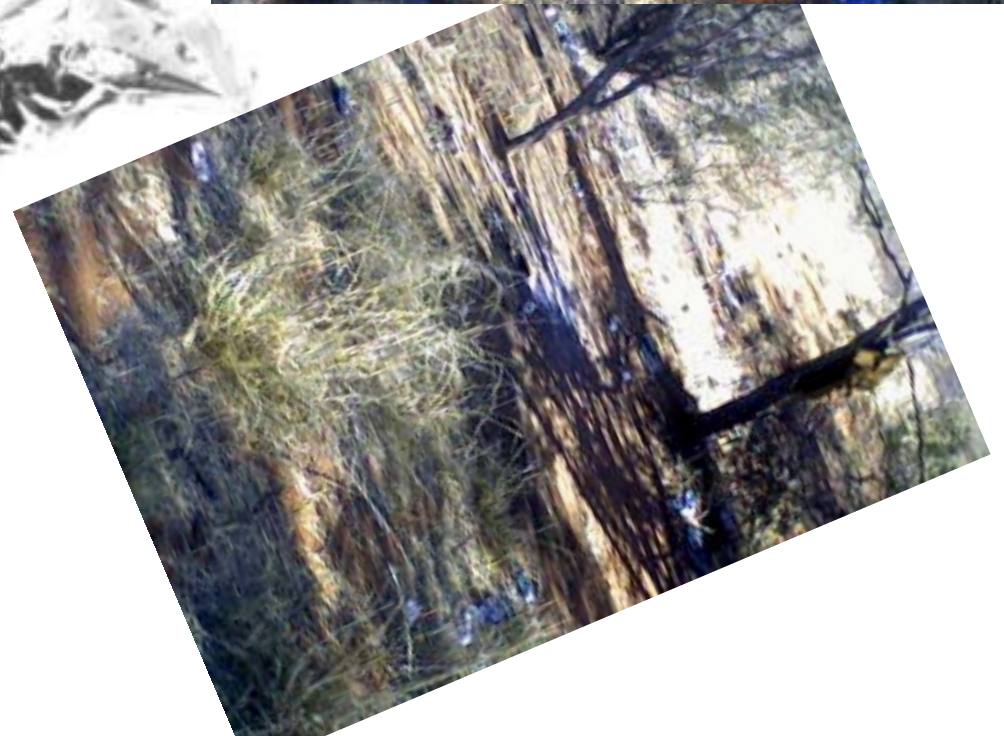
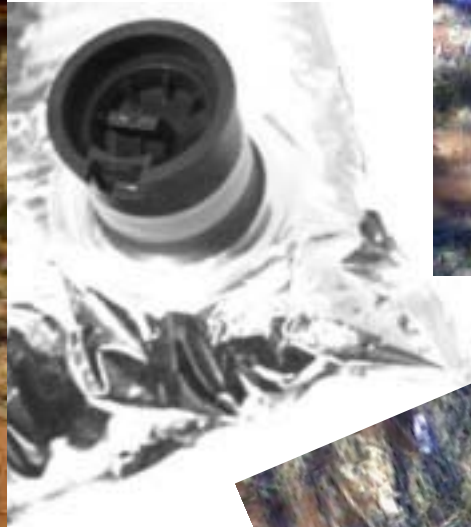
**Near
Waluguaru**







To This



Aileron – the Thin Pink Line



NORTHERN TERRITORY



POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES



Cannabis spp.
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Scene from
the Movie
“Yolngu Boy”