

Population health profile of the Shoalhaven

Division of General Practice

Population Profile Series: No. 19

PHIDU

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The data in this report are designed to be used for needs assessment and planning purposes: while they are based on the best available data and analytic processes, data available by postcode or Statistical Local Area, as used in this report, cannot be precisely translated to Division. Division totals in the report should, therefore, be seen as estimates. Interpretation of differences between data in this profile and similar data from other sources needs to be undertaken with care as such differences may be due to the use of different methodology to produce the data.

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This publication, the maps and supporting data, together with other publications on population health, are available from the PHIDU website (www.publichealth.gov.au).

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Population health profile

of the Shoalhaven Division of General Practice

Introduction

This profile has been designed to provide a description of the population of the Shoalhaven Division of General Practice, and aspects of their health. Its purpose is to provide information to support a population health approach, which aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce health inequalities among population groups: a more detailed discussion of a population health approach is provided in the supporting information, page 18.

Contents

The profile includes a number of tables, maps and graphs to profile population health in the Division and provides comparisons with other areas (eg. New South Wales and Australia). Specific topics covered include:

- a socio-demographic profile (pages 2-5);
- GP workforce data (page 8);
- immunisation rates (page 8);
- rates of premature death (page 9); and
- estimates of the prevalence of chronic disease and selected risk factors (pages 10-14).

Key indicators

Location: New South Wales

Division number: 220

Population‡:	No.	%
Total	90,981	
65+	18,033	19.8%
<25	27,931	30.7%
Indigenous	3,368	3.9%

Disadvantage score¹: 966

GP services per head of population:

Division‡	4.3
Australia	4.7

Population per FTE GP:

Division‡	1,512
Australia	1,403

Premature death rate²:

Division‡	319.3
Australia	290.4

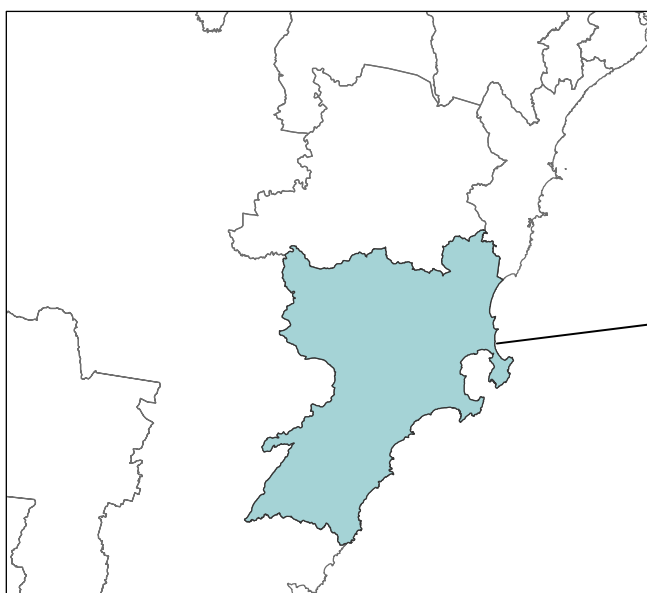
¹ Numbers below 1000 (the index score for Australia) indicate the Division is relatively disadvantaged

² Deaths at ages 0 to 74 years per 100,000 population

³ ‡ See note "Data converters and mapping" re calculation of Division Total

Shoalhaven Division of General Practice

NSW Divisions of General Practice



Shoalhaven DGP by SLA

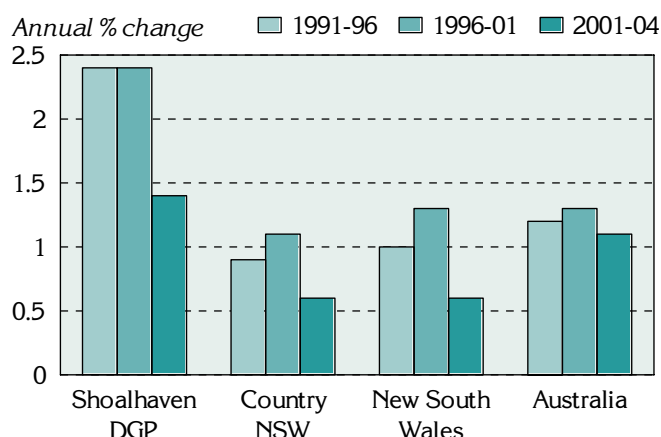


Sociodemographic profile

Population

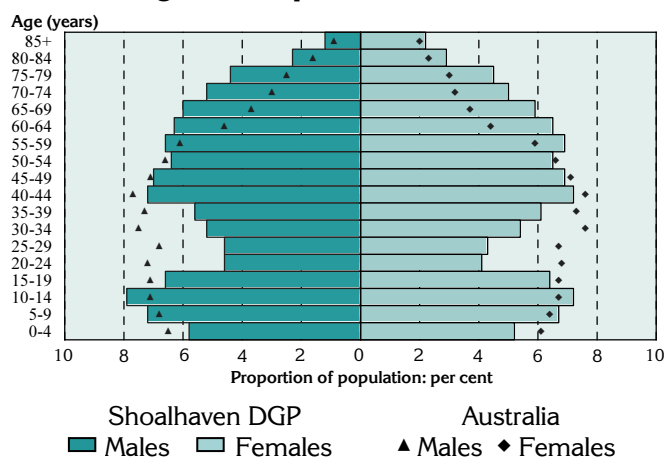
The Shoalhaven DGP had an Estimated Resident Population of 90,981 at 30 June 2004.

Figure 1: Annual population change, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales¹, New South Wales and Australia, 1991 to 1996, 1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2004



Over the five years from 1991 to 1996, the Division's population increased by 2.4% on average each year, higher than for country New South Wales (0.9%), New South Wales (1.0%) and Australia as a whole (1.2%). From 1996 to 2001, the annual percentage increase in the Division (2.4%) was again higher than for the other areas. The lower growth rate of 1.4% per year from 2001 to 2004 was still higher than for country New South Wales (0.6%), New South Wales (0.6%) and Australia (1.1%).

Figure 2: Population in Shoalhaven DGP‡ and Australia, by age and sex, 2004



The most notable differences in the age distribution of the Division's population (when compared to Australia overall) are:

- at younger ages – lower proportions of children aged 0 to 4 years, and young people aged 15 to 19 years, and higher proportions at ages 5 to 14 years;
- from 20 to 39 years - notably lower proportions of both males and females;
- at older ages - higher proportions of both males and females aged 55 years and over (notably higher at some ages).

Table 1: Population by age, Shoalhaven DGP‡ and Australia, 2004

Age group (years)	Shoalhaven DGP		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
0-14	18,132	19.9	3,978,751	19.8
15-24	9,800	10.8	2,762,769	13.8
25-44	20,791	22.9	5,881,048	29.3
45-64	24,226	26.6	4,864,037	24.2
65-74	10,076	11.1	1,374,792	6.8
75-84	6,412	7.0	934,505	4.7
85+	1,545	1.7	295,602	1.5
Total	90,981	100.0	20,091,504	100.0

As shown in the age-sex pyramid above, the Shoalhaven DGP had smaller proportions of young people aged 15 to 24 years (10.8%), and people aged 25 to 44 years (22.9%), than Australia as a whole (with 13.8% and 29.3%). The 45 years and over age groups had higher proportions compared to Australia, particularly at ages 65 to 74 years (11.1%, compared to 6.8%).

The Shoalhaven DGP comprised 4.1% of people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more (Table 2), consistent with the proportion for country New South Wales (4.1%). Recent arrivals (those resident in Australia for less than five years) from non-English speaking countries comprised 0.2% of the Division's population (compared to 0.5% in country New South Wales).

¹References to 'country New South Wales' relate to New South Wales excluding the Sydney Statistical Division.

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals on this page

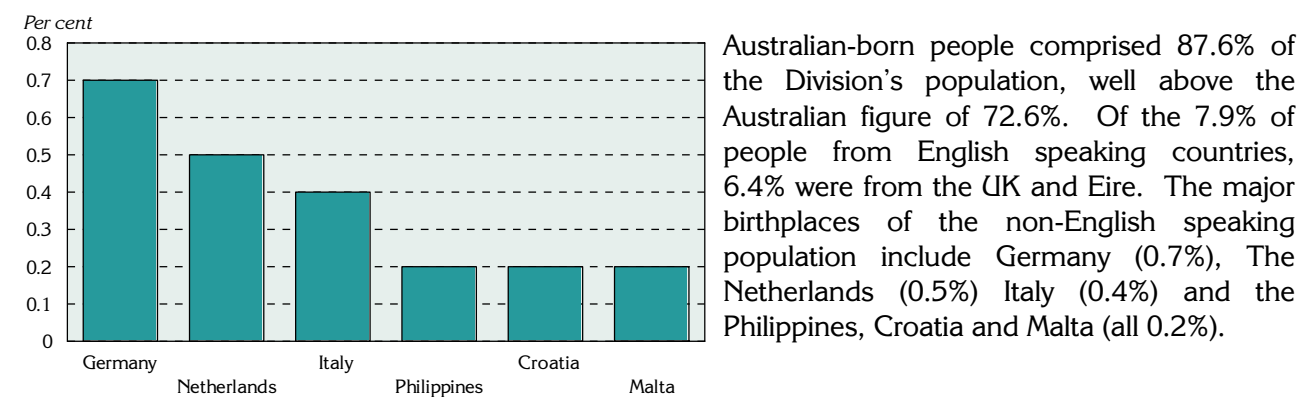
Of these non-English born residents aged five years and over, 0.4% had poor proficiency in English (determined when people born overseas in predominantly non-English speaking countries reported in the Census speaking another language and speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all'), a lower proportion than in country New South Wales (0.6%), and New South Wales (3.2%).

Table 2: Non-English speaking born, Shoalhaven DGP, country New South Wales, New South Wales and Australia, 2001

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries	Shoalhaven DGP		Country NSW		New South Wales		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Resident in Australia for five years or more	3,399	4.1	97,983	4.1	803,824	12.7	2,019,410	10.8
Resident in Australia for less than five years	206	0.2	12,392	0.5	182,972	2.9	408,074	2.2
Poor proficiency in English ¹	280	0.4	13,587	0.6	189,874	3.2	425,399	2.4

¹ Calculated on persons aged 5 years and over who reported speaking another language and speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all'

Figure 3: Major non-English speaking birthplaces, Shoalhaven DGP, 2001



Socioeconomic status: Total population

The indicators presented in this section describe geographic variations in the distribution of the population for a number of key socioeconomic influences, which impact on the health and wellbeing of populations.

The Shoalhaven DGP had similar proportions of single parent families (11.9%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (3.9%), compared to country New South Wales as a whole (with 11.7% and 3.7%, respectively) (Figure 4, Table 3).

Full-time secondary school education participation of 16 year olds living in the Division (69.2%) was lower than for country New South Wales (73.4%).

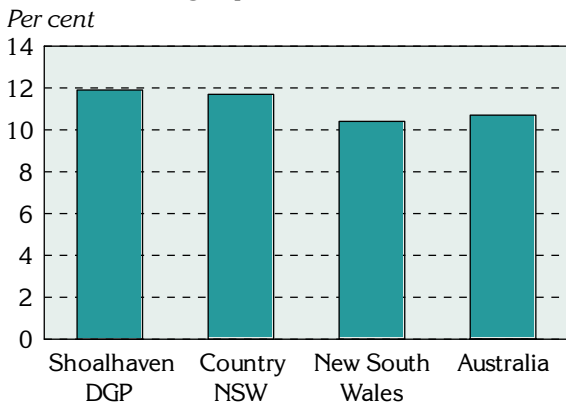
A slightly higher proportion of the Division's households received rent assistance from Centrelink (20.1%) compared to country New South Wales (18.3%), but there were fewer dwellings rented from the State housing authority (3.8%, compared to 4.6%). The proportion of dwellings with no access to a motor vehicle (8.9%) was slightly lower than that for country New South Wales (10.2%).

The Division had similar proportions of the population who reported using, at home, a computer (37.0%) and the Internet (22.3%), compared to country New South Wales (37.0% and 22.2%, respectively).

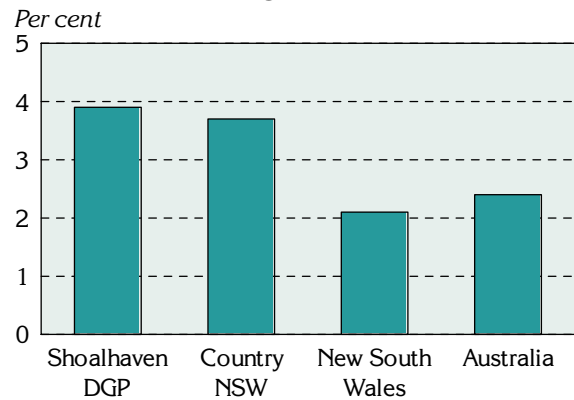
Figure 4: Socio-demographic indicators, Shoalhaven DGP, country New South Wales, New South Wales and Australia, 2001

Note the different scales

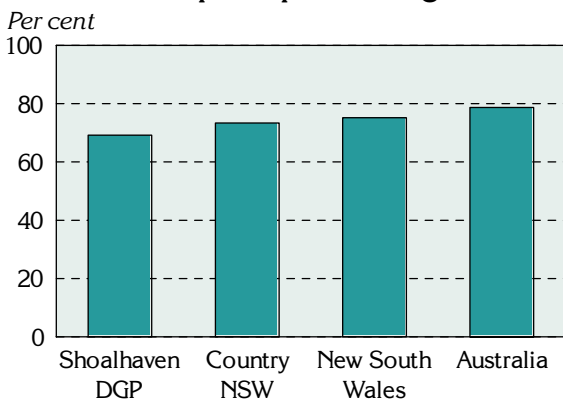
Single parent families



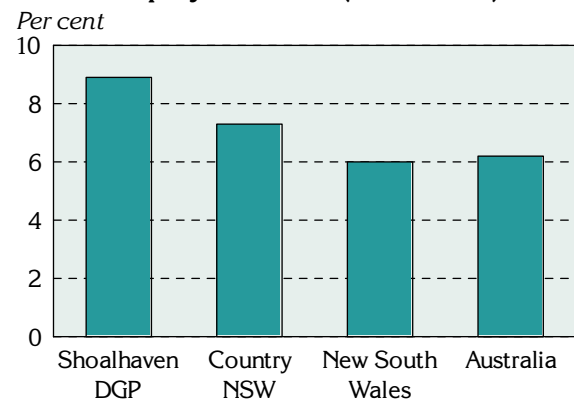
Indigenous‡



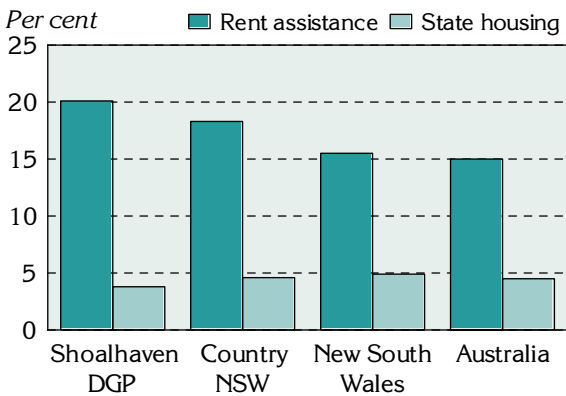
Education participation at age 16‡



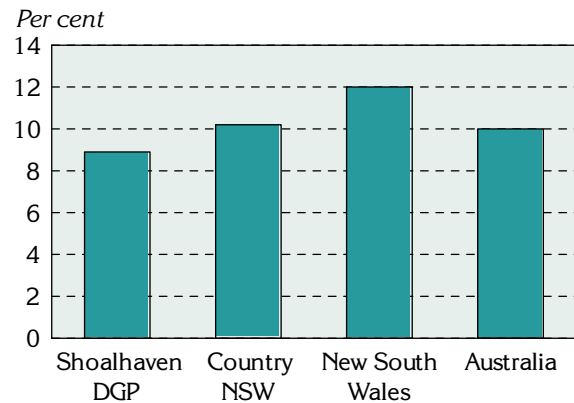
Unemployment rate (June 2003)‡



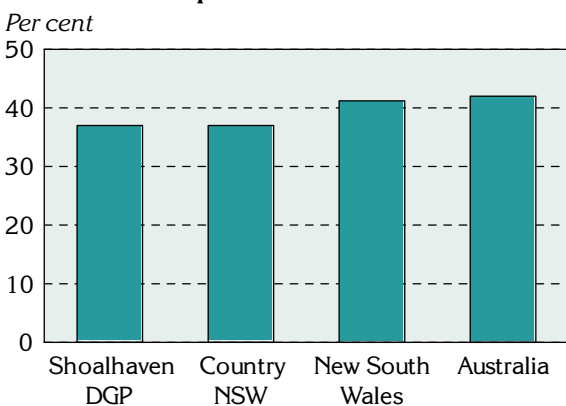
Households receiving rent assistance & Dwellings rented from State housing authority



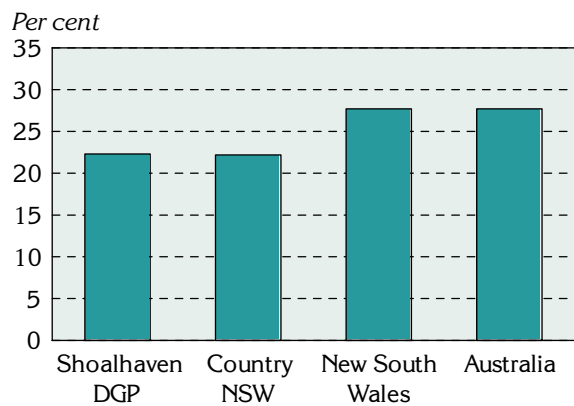
Dwellings with no motor vehicle



Computer use at home



Internet use at home



‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Table 3: Sociodemographic indicators, Shoalhaven DGP, country New South Wales, New South Wales and Australia, 2001

Indicator	Shoalhaven DGP		Country NSW		NSW		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single parent families	2,762	11.9	73,805	11.7	172,199	10.4	529,969	10.7
Indigenous‡	3,368	3.9	91,036	3.7	134,886	2.1	458,261	2.4
Full-time secondary school education at age 16‡	826	69.2	24,254	73.4	65,205	75.2	130,198	78.7
Households: rent assistance	3,754	20.1	156,074	18.3	343,540	15.5	1,006,599	15.0
Dwellings rented from the State housing authority	1,242	3.8	41,406	4.6	114,130	4.9	317,171	4.5
Dwellings: no motor vehicle	2,955	8.9	92,576	10.2	280,434	12.0	708,073	10.0
Computer use at home	30,626	37.0	874,207	37.0	2,600,257	41.2	7,881,983	42.0
Internet use at home	18,714	22.3	523,994	22.2	1,751,626	27.7	2,019,410	27.7

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division total

The unemployment rate of 8.9% in Shoalhaven DGP was notably higher than the rates for country New South Wales (7.3%) and New South Wales (6.0%) (Figure 4, Table 4). The labour force participation rate (60.2%) was notably lower than country New South Wales (72.3%), and New South Wales (74.6%). The female labour force participation rate (63.4%) was lower than that for country New South Wales (66.8%) and New South Wales (69.0%).

Table 4: Unemployment and labour force, Shoalhaven DGP, country New South Wales, New South Wales and Australia, 2003

Labour force indicators	Shoalhaven DGP		Country NSW		NSW		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unemployment rate‡	2,890	8.9	83,231	7.3	198,946	6.0	623,791	6.2
Labour force participation‡	32,394	60.2	1,142,496	72.3	1,015,487	74.6	10,038,147	75.2
Female labour force participation (2001)	11,023	63.4	361,345	66.8	1,093,243	69.0	3,306,521	69.7

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division total

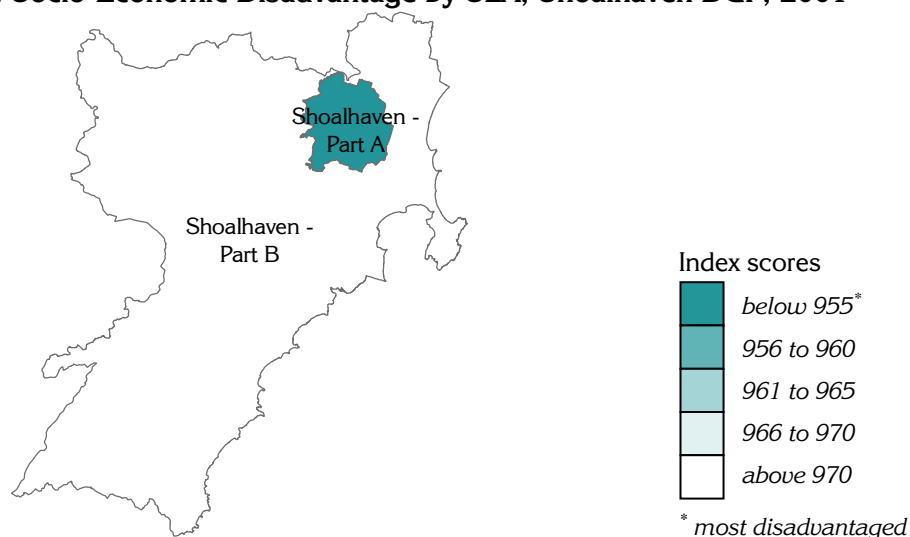
Summary of the socioeconomic ranking of the Shoalhaven DGP

Following the 2001 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced four socioeconomic indexes for areas (SEIFA) which describe various aspects of the socioeconomic profile of populations in areas. Scores for these indexes for each Statistical Local Area (SLA) or part SLA in Shoalhaven DGP are shown in the supporting information in Table 12, page 18: SLAs are described on page 19.

The Shoalhaven DGP's SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) score is 966, 3.4% below the average score for Australia (1000), and below country New South Wales (973); this highlights the near-average socioeconomic status profile of the Division's population, relative to Australia as a whole. Variations in the IRSD within the Division are shown in Map 1 at the SLA level: the populations of the SLAs are shown in Table 13.

Map 1: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by SLA, Shoalhaven DGP, 2001

See note under 'Methods' re Data converters and mapping concerning SLAs mapped to the Division. This is of particular relevance where part of an SLA is mapped to the Division.



Socioeconomic status: Indigenous population

At the 2001 Census, 3.9% of the population of the Shoalhaven DGP were estimated to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, consistent with the proportion for country New South Wales (3.7%). The majority (53.3%) of the Indigenous population lived in Shoalhaven – Part A (an estimated 1,796 people), with the remainder in Shoalhaven – Part B (1,572 people, 46.7% of the Indigenous population).

Table 5: Population by Indigenous status*, SLAs in Shoalhaven DGP‡, 2001

Statistical Local Area	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Shoalhaven - Part A	1,796	53.3	28,372	34.1	30,168	34.9
Shoalhaven - Part B	1,572	46.7	54,754	65.9	56,326	65.1
Total	3,368	100.0	82,126	100.0	86,494	100.0

* Experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ABS 2001

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

The proportion of Indigenous single parent families in the Division (26.7%) was consistent with that for the Indigenous population in country New South Wales (27.5%), but was more than twice that of the Division's non-Indigenous population (11.3%) (Table 6).

Less than half (47.1%) of Indigenous 16 year olds in the Division were involved in full-time secondary school education, lower than the Indigenous participation rate in country New South Wales (52.5%), and substantially lower than that for the Division's non-Indigenous population (73.3%).

The proportion of the Division's Indigenous population who lived in dwellings rented from the State housing authority (21.6%) was marginally higher than for the Indigenous population in country New South Wales (19.7%), and six times that of the non-Indigenous population in the Division (3.4%).

A slightly higher proportion of the Indigenous population in Shoalhaven DGP reported using a computer at home (22.0%) compared to the Indigenous population in country New South Wales (18.4%), but the rate was substantially lower than that for the Division's non-Indigenous population (39.0%). Similarly, the rate of home internet use by Indigenous people in the Division (8.6%) was marginally higher than the Indigenous rate for country New South Wales (8.0%), but only one third of the rate of the Division's non-Indigenous population (23.9%).

Table 6: Socio-demographic indicators, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2001

Indicator	Shoalhaven DGP‡		Country NSW		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Population						
- Indigenous	3,368	3.9	91,036	3.7	458,261	2.4
- Non-Indigenous	83,126	96.1	2,355,909	96.3	18,952,407	97.6
Single parent families						
- Indigenous	223	26.7	5,881	27.5	26,587	25.8
- Non-Indigenous	2,517	11.3	67,924	11.2	503,382	10.4
Full-time secondary school education at age 16						
- Indigenous	33	47.1	938	52.5	5,997	50.5
- Non-Indigenous	779	73.3	24,828	76.5	327,055	80.3
Dwellings rented from State housing authority						
- Indigenous	208	21.6	4,868	19.7	23,974	20.8
- Non-Indigenous	1,001	3.4	35,585	4.4	284,502	4.5
People who used a computer at home						
- Indigenous	655	22.0	14,924	18.4	73,636	18.0
- Non-Indigenous	29,674	39.0	854,211	38.9	7,761,390	44.1
People who used the Internet at home						
- Indigenous	257	8.6	6,454	8.0	35,384	8.6
- Non-Indigenous	18,169	23.9	518,491	23.6	5,135,445	29.2

Note: The 'Total population' data are based on the experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; the remaining data are based on ABS Census data

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

The Shoalhaven DGP Indigenous population's unemployment rate of 30.8% was higher than the Indigenous unemployment rate for country New South Wales (26.9%), and almost three times the rate of the non-Indigenous population in the Division (10.6%).

Taking into account the Indigenous population receiving payments as part of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme (effectively an Aboriginal work-for-the-dole scheme), the 'real' Indigenous unemployment rate was 34.9%, which was consistent with the 'real' Indigenous unemployment rate for country New South Wales (34.1%).

The Division's Indigenous labour force participation rate (51.1%) and the Indigenous female labour force participation rate (43.9%) were consistent with the rates for the Indigenous population in country New South Wales (50.4%, and 44.3%), but both rates were notably lower than the rates for the non-Indigenous population in the Division (64.2%, and 64.6%).

Table 7: Unemployment and labour force participation, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2001

Labour force indicators	Shoalhaven DGP‡		Country New South Wales		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unemployment rate						
- Indigenous	249	30.8	6,155	26.9	24,930	20.0
- Non-Indigenous	3,088	10.6	87,454	9.0	624,337	7.3
Labour force participation*						
- Indigenous	806	51.1	22,902	50.4	124,517	52.4
- Non-Indigenous	29,114	64.2	972,088	69.5	8,609,525	72.9
Female labour force participation*						
- Indigenous	329	43.9	9,403	44.3	52,981	46.6
- Non-Indigenous	11,844	64.6	390,835	67.2	3,564,409	69.8
Indigenous unemployment rate						
- excluding CDEP	249	30.8	6,155	26.9	24,930	20.0
- CDEP	33	4.1	1,650	7.2	17,662	14.2
- Total (including CDEP)	282	34.9	7,805	34.1	45,592	34.2

* Includes people paid through Community Development Employment Projects

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

General medical practitioner (GP) supply

A total of 59.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs and 69.0 full-time workload equivalent (FWE²) GPs worked in the Shoalhaven DGP in 2003/04 (Table 8). Of the FWE GPs, 20.3% were female, and 22.1% were over 55 years of age (compared to 26.4% and 33.4%, respectively, for New South Wales).

Apart from the estimated day-time population, the rates of population per FTE GP varied, depending on the population measure used, from a high of 1,512 per GP (calculated on the average Estimated Resident Population (ERP) as at 30 June 2003 and 30 June 2004), to a low of 1,431 people per GP (calculated on the 1 August 2001 Census count – all people counted in the Division on Census night, including visitors from Australia and overseas). The rates of population per FWE were lower, ranging from 1,238 (calculated on the Census count) to 1,308 (calculated on the ERP). When calculated on the estimated day-time population, the rates of population per GP in the Division were 3.7% below the Usual Resident Population (usual residents of the Division counted in Australia on Census night).

Based on the ERP, the rates of population per GP in Shoalhaven DGP were higher than the rates for New South Wales and Australia, indicating a lower level of provision of GP services in the Division.

Table 8: Population per GP in Shoalhaven DGP, New South Wales and Australia, 2003/04

Population measure	Population	GPs		Population per GP	
		FTE	FWE	FTE	FWE
Shoalhaven DGP					
Census count (adjusted)*	85,403	59.7	69.0	1,431	1,238
Usual Resident Population (URP) (adjusted)*	86,487	..	..	1,449	1,254
Estimated Resident Population (ERP)	90,235	..	..	1,512	1,308
Day Time Population (estimated on URP)* ‡	83,252	..	..	1,395	1,207
New South Wales (ERP)	6,706,674	4,819	5,969	1,392	1,124
Australia (ERP)	19,989,303	14,246	16,872	1,403	1,185

* The Census count, Usual Resident Population and Day-time population were adjusted to reflect population change between 2001 and 2003/2004, as measured by the ERP

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Immunisation

Data from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register show that 93.9% of children in the Division in 2002 were fully immunised at age one, consistent with the Australian proportion of 94.2%.

Immunisation by provider type for children between the ages of 0 to 6 is shown in Table 9. The majority of children in the Division were immunised by a general practitioner (84.5%), compared to 70.0% for Australia, with 15.4% immunised by a local government council.

Table 9: Childhood immunisation at ages 0 to 6 by provider type, Shoalhaven DGP and Australia, 2003/04

Provider	Shoalhaven DGP	Australia
	%	%
General practitioners	84.5	70.0
Local government council	15.4	16.6
Community health centre/ worker	0.0	9.8
Public hospital	0.1	2.1
Aboriginal health service/ worker	0.0	0.9
Other*	0.0	0.6
Total: Per cent	100.0	100.0
Number	15,125	3,843,610

* Includes immunisations in/ by State Health Departments, RFDS and private hospitals

² The FWE value is calculated for each GP location by dividing the GP's total Medicare billing (Schedule fee value of services provided during the reference period) by the mean billing of full-time doctors in that derived major speciality for the reference period. Thus, a GP earning 20% more than the mean billing of full-time doctors is shown as 1.2 FWE: this differs from full-time equivalent (FTE) counts, where the FTE value of any GP cannot exceed 1.0.

Premature mortality

Deaths at ages below 75 years are used as an indicator of health status, as they largely reflect premature deaths, given the current levels of life expectancy in Australia.

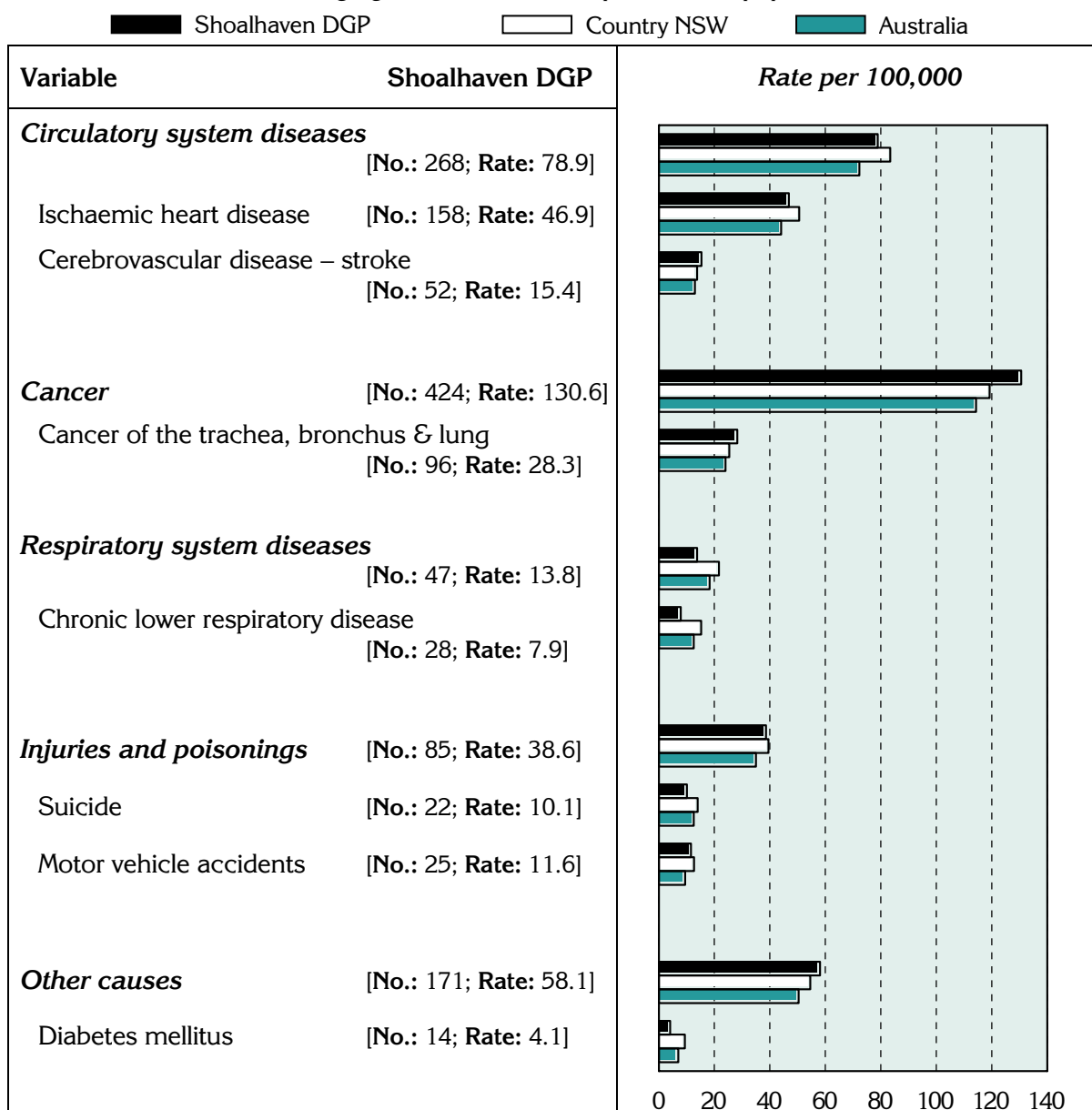
The 'all causes' death rate in the Division at ages 0 to 74 years (319.3 deaths per 100,000 population) is similar to that for country New South Wales (318.3) and higher than for Australia (290.4): the rates have been age standardised to allow for comparisons between areas, regardless of differences in age profiles between the Division and Australia.

The major causes of premature mortality in the Division, as for country New South Wales and Australia as a whole are cancer and diseases of the circulatory system (Figure 5). With the exception of respiratory diseases, suicide and Diabetes mellitus, death rates in the Division for all of the major conditions shown were higher than for those for Australia. Conversely, the Division's death rates were lower than those for country New South Wales for all major conditions except cancer, stroke and the 'other causes' group.

The data on which the following chart is based are in Table 14.

Figure 5: Deaths before 75 years of age by major condition group and selected cause, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2000-02*

Indirectly age standardised rate per 100,000 population



* 'No.' is the total number of deaths for the 2000-02 period; 'Rate' is an annual rate, based on the 3 year average

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Chronic diseases and risk factors

The term “chronic disease” describes health problems that persist across time and require some degree of health care management (WHO 2002). Chronic diseases tend to have complex causes, are often long lasting and persistent in their effects, and can produce a range of complications (Thacker et al. 1995). They are responsible for a significant proportion of the burden of disease and illness in Australia and other westernised countries. Given the ageing of the population, this trend is likely to continue.

At different life stages, risk factors for chronic diseases and their determinants include genetic predisposition; poor diet and lack of exercise; alcohol misuse and tobacco smoking; poor intra-uterine conditions; stress, violence and traumatic experiences; and inadequate living environments that fail to promote healthy lifestyles (NPHP 2001). Risk factors are also more prevalent in areas of low socioeconomic status, and in communities characterised by low levels of educational attainment; high levels of unemployment; substantial levels of discrimination, interpersonal violence and exclusion; and poverty. There is a higher prevalence of risk factors among Indigenous communities, and other socioeconomically disadvantaged Australians (NPHP 2001).

Background

In this section, estimates of the prevalence of selected chronic diseases and risk factors, and two summary measures of health, are shown for the Division‡, and for SLAs within the Division: note that the estimates have been predicted from self-reported data, and are not based on clinical records or physical measures. The chronic diseases and risk factors are those for which sufficiently reliable estimates can be made for the Division from national survey data. The process by which the estimates have been made, and details of their limitations, are described in the Notes section, pages 16-17. The data on which the following charts are based are in Table 15.

The estimates provide information of relevance to a number of the National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs – asthma; cardiovascular health; diabetes mellitus; injury prevention and control; mental health; and arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions: estimates have not been made for cancer control, the other NHPA). The risk factors for which estimates have been made are those which are accepted as being associated with these important chronic conditions. They are overweight (not obese), obesity, smoking, lack of exercise and high-risk alcohol use.

The numbers are estimates for an area, not measured events as are death statistics: they should be used as indicators of likely levels (and not actual levels) of a condition or risk factor in an area.

Prevalence estimates: chronic disease‡

It is estimated that, with the exceptions of musculoskeletal system diseases and osteoporosis (females), more people in Shoalhaven DGP reported having any of the selected chronic conditions than in Australia as a whole Figure 6; that is, the prevalence rates per 1,000 population were higher. The generally higher rates are consistent with the socioeconomic status profile of the population of the Division.

Prevalence estimates: self-reported health‡

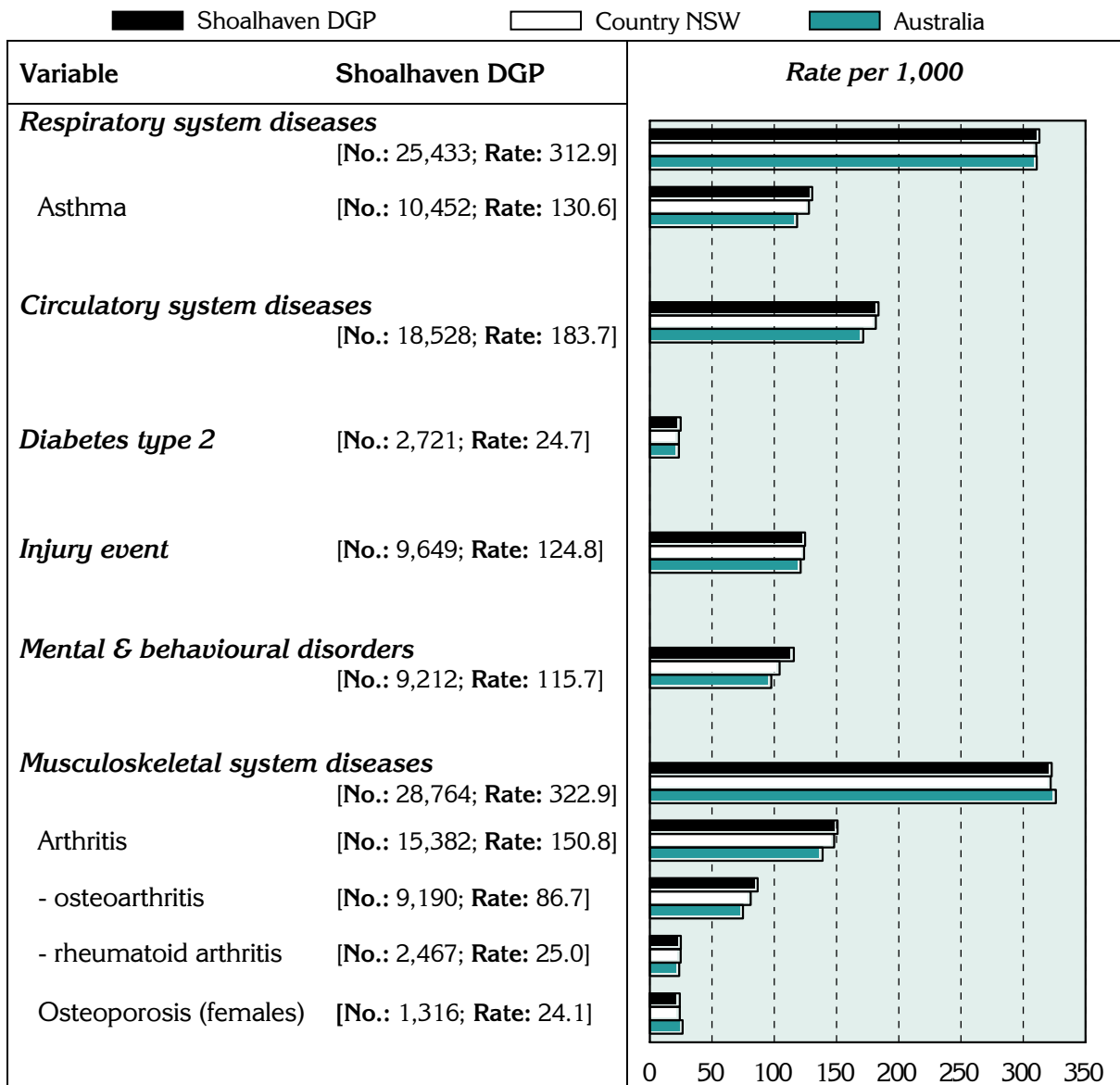
The NHS includes two measures of self-reported health. One is the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale-10 items (K-10). This is a scale of non-specific psychological distress based on 10 questions about negative emotional states in the four weeks prior to interview, asked of respondents 18 years and over (ABS 2002). The other asks respondents aged 15 years and over to rate their health on a scale from ‘excellent’, through ‘very good’, ‘good’ and ‘fair’, to ‘poor’ health.

The population of the Division aged 18 years and over is estimated to have relatively more people with very high psychological distress levels as measured by the K-10 (Figure 7) compared to Australia. The proportion of the population aged 15 years and over estimated to have reported their health as ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ is also above the national average.

‡ See note under ‘Data converters and mapping’ re calculation of Division totals

Figure 6: Estimates* of chronic disease and injury, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2001

Indirectly age standardised rate per 1,000 population

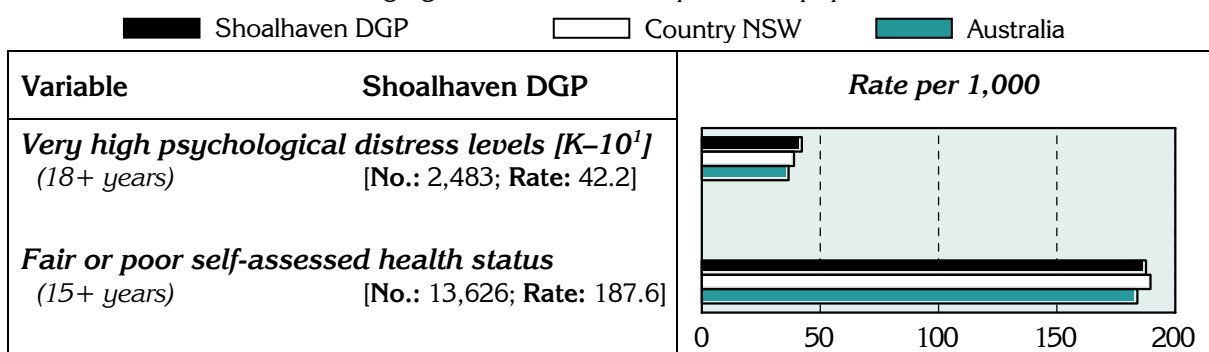


* 'No.' is a weighted estimate of the number of people in Shoalhaven DGP reporting each chronic condition and is derived from synthetic predictions from the 2001 NHS

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Figure 7: Estimates* of measures of self-reported health, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2001

Indirectly age standardised rate per 1,000 population



* 'No.' is a weighted estimate of the number of people in Shoalhaven DGP reporting under these measures and is derived from synthetic predictions from the 2001 NHS

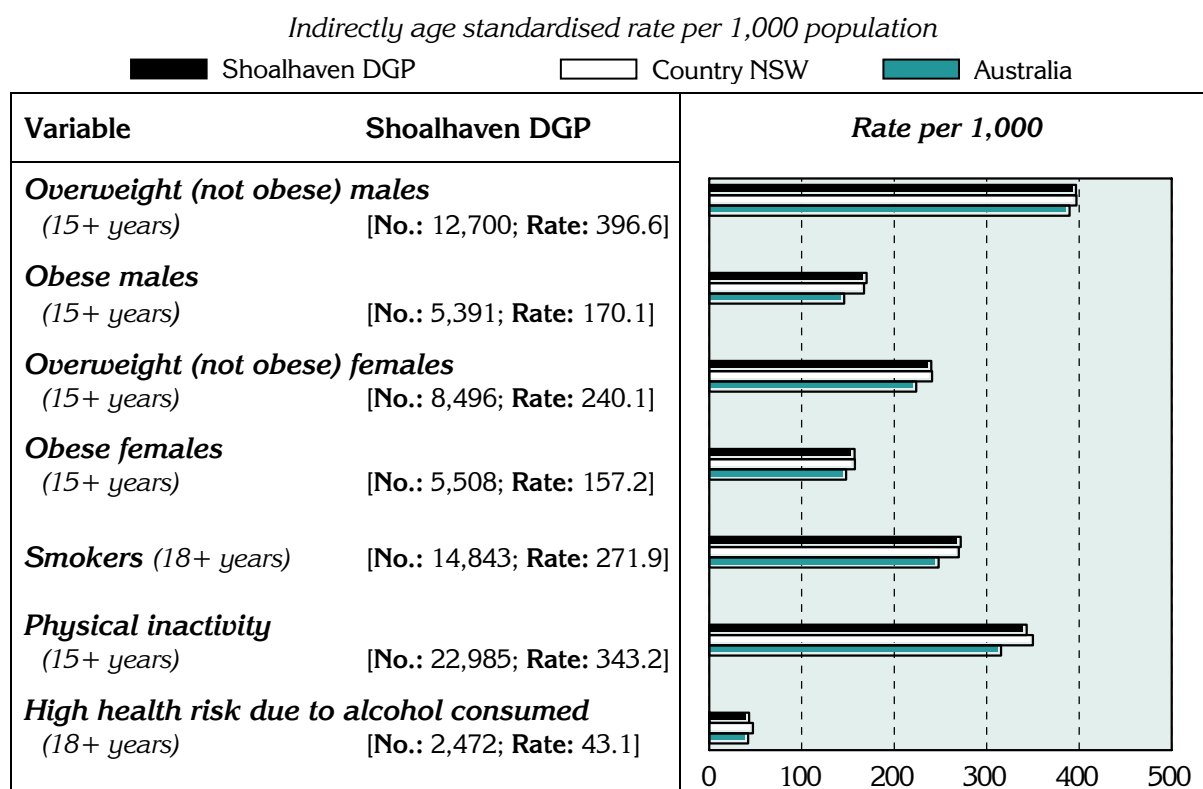
¹ Kessler 10

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Prevalence estimates: risk factors‡

The Shoalhaven DGP had higher rates (when compared to the Australian population) for all of the selected risk factors (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Estimates* of selected risk factors, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2001



* 'No.' is a weighted estimate of the number of people in Shoalhaven DGP with these risk factors and has been predicted using data from the 2001 NHS and known data for the Division

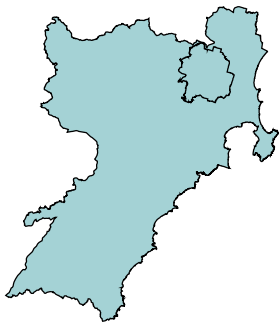
‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

The following maps provide details of the geographic distribution, at the SLA level, of the estimated prevalence of chronic disease (Map 2), self-reported health (Map 3) and risk factors associated with chronic disease (Map 4).

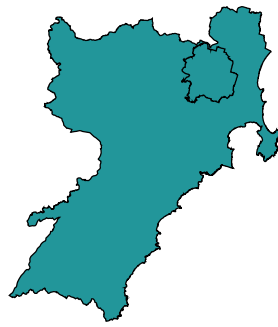
In the following maps, users should note that the estimates shown for part SLAs in the Division (see Table 13, page 19, for the per cent of SLA population in the Division) represent the estimates for the whole SLA, and not just the part shown. However, SLAs with only a small proportion of their population in the Division are likely to have little influence on the total estimates for the Division, which have been based on the percentage of the SLA population in the Division.

Map 2: Estimates* of chronic disease and injury by SLA, Shoalhaven DGP, 2001

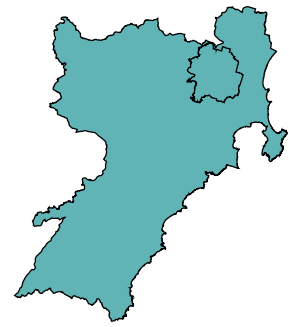
Respiratory system diseases



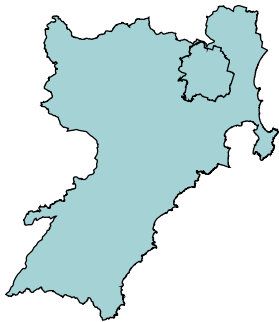
Respiratory system diseases: Asthma



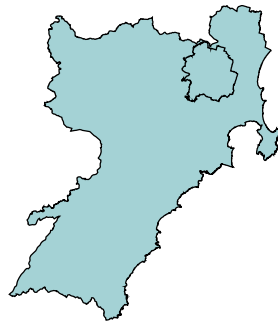
Circulatory system diseases



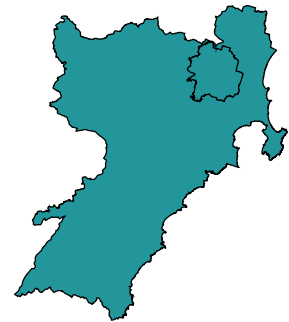
Diabetes type 2



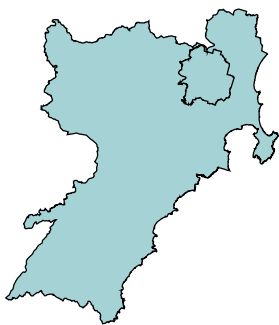
Injury event



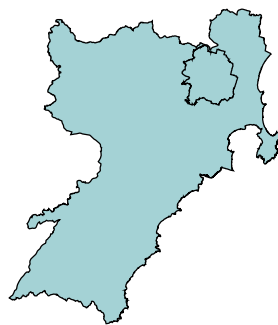
Mental & behavioural disorders



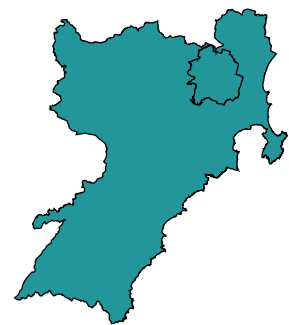
Musculoskeletal system diseases



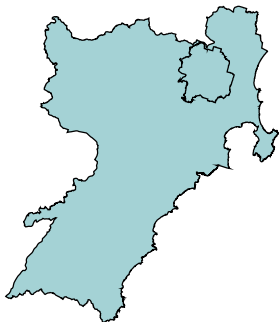
Musculoskeletal system diseases: Arthritis



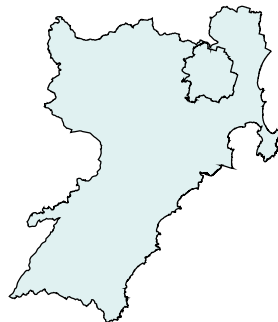
Arthritis: Osteoarthritis



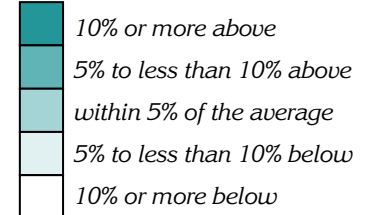
Arthritis: Rheumatoid arthritis



Osteoporosis (females)



Per cent difference from Australian average

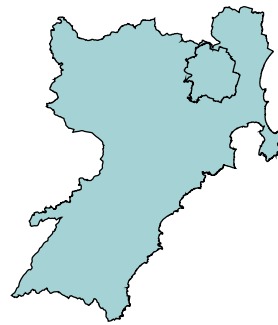
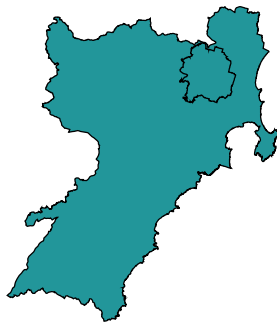


* The estimates are synthetic predictions of the prevalence of these conditions: see Notes on the data.

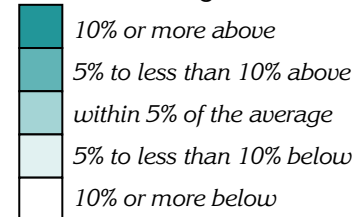
Map 3: Estimates* of measures of self-reported health by SLA, Shoalhaven DGP, 2001

Very high psychological distress levels [K-10¹] (18+ years)

Fair or poor self-assessed health status (15+ years)



Per cent difference from Australian average



* The estimates are synthetic predictions of the prevalence of these conditions: see Notes on the data.

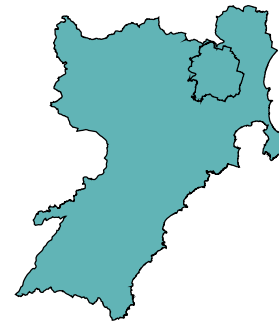
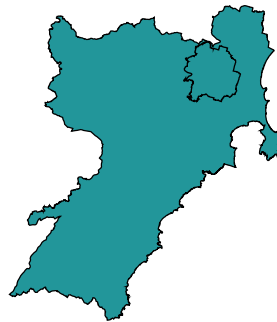
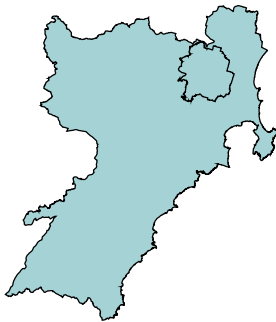
¹ Kessler 10

Map 4: Estimates* of selected risk factors by SLA, Shoalhaven DGP, 2001

Overweight (not obese) males (15+ years)

Obese males (15+ years)

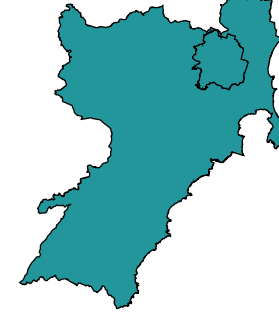
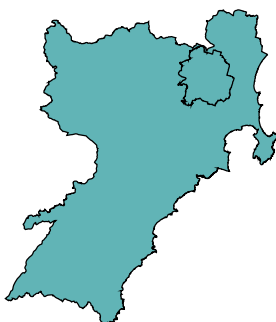
Overweight (not obese) females (15+ years)



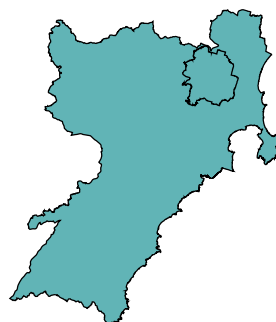
Obese females (15+ years)

Smokers (18+ years)

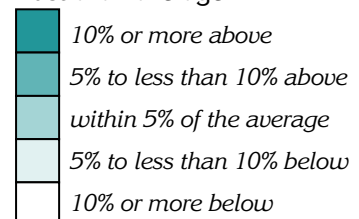
Physical inactivity (15+ years)



High health risk due to alcohol consumed (18+ years)



Per cent difference from Australian average



* The estimates are synthetic predictions of the prevalence of these conditions: see Notes on the data.

Notes on the data

Data sources and limitations

General

References to 'country New South Wales' relate to New South Wales, excluding Sydney Statistical Division.

Data sources

Table 10 details the data sources for the material presented in this profile.

Table 10: Data sources

Section	Source
Key indicators	
GP services per head of population	GP services data supplied by Department of Health and Ageing, 2003/04 Population data: Estimated Resident Population, ABS, mean of 30 June 2003 and 30 June 2004 populations
Socio-demographic profile	
Figures 1 and 2; Table 1 Tables 2, 3 and 4; Figures 3 and 4	Estimated Resident Population, ABS, 30 June for the periods shown Data were extracted by postal area from the ABS Population Census 2001 ¹ , except for the following indicators: - <i>Indigenous</i> – Experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ABS 2001 (unpublished) - <i>Full-time secondary education participation at age 16</i> – Census 2001 (unpublished) - <i>Households receiving rent assistance</i> – Centrelink, December Quarter 2001 (unpublished) - <i>Unemployment rate / Labour force participation</i> – extracted from <i>Small Area Labour Markets Australia</i> , June Quarter 2003, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Map 1; Table 12 Tables 5, 6 and 7	ABS SEIFA package, Census 2001 For all indicators, data were from the ABS Population Census 2001 (unpublished), except for the data in <i>Table 5</i> and the <i>Total population</i> figures which were based on the Experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ABS 2001 (unpublished)
General medical practitioner (GP): supply	
Table 8	GP data supplied by Department of Health and Ageing, 2003/04 Population estimates used in calculating the population per GP rates are the: - Census count ² , ABS Population Census 2001, scaled to 2003/04 - Usual Resident Population ³ , ABS Population Census 2001, scaled to 2003/04 - Day-time population: calculated from journey to work data, ABS Population Census (JRP) 2001 (unpublished); and 2001 Census JRP, scaled to 2003/04 - Estimated Resident Population, ABS, June 2003/2004
Immunisation	
Text comment: 1 year olds Table 9	National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, 2002 Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, Health Insurance Commission, 2003/04 (unpublished)
Premature mortality	
Figure 5; Table 14	ABS Deaths, 2000 to 2002
Chronic diseases and associated risk factors⁴	
Figures 6, 7 and 8; Maps 2, 3 and 4; Table 15	Estimated from 2001 National Health Survey (NHS), ABS (unpublished)

¹ All data extracted from Usual Residents Profile, except for data variables only released in the Basic Community Profile

² *Census count* - those counted in the Division on Census night, including tourists, business people and other visitors

³ *Usual Resident Population* - those who usually live there and who were in Australia at the time and would have provided details in the Census at the address where they were counted

⁴ See notes below

Chronic diseases and associated risk factors

The data for chronic conditions and risk factors for SLAs have been estimated from the 2001 National Health Survey (NHS), conducted by the ABS: see note below on synthetic estimates. The NHS sample includes the majority of people living in private households, but excludes the most remote areas of Australia. These areas cover 86.4% of Australia's land mass and comprise just 3% of the total population, however, 28% of Australia's Indigenous population live in these areas. Thus it has not been possible to produce these estimates for Divisions with relatively high proportions of their population in the most remote areas of Australia.

The data for chronic conditions and risk factors are self-reported data, reported to interviewers in the 2001 NHS. Table 11 includes notes relevant to this data.

Table 11: Notes on estimates of chronic diseases and associated risk factors

Indicator	Notes on the data
Estimates of chronic disease and injury (Figure 6 and Map 2)	
Long term conditions	- Respondents were asked whether they had been diagnosed with any long term health condition (a condition which has lasted or is expected to last for 6 months or more), and were also asked whether they had been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma, cancer, heart and circulatory conditions, and/or diabetes
Injury event	- Injuries which occurred in the four weeks prior to interview
Estimates of measures of self-reported health (Figure 7 and Map 3)	
Very high psychological distress levels (K10)	- Derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale-10 items (K-10), which is a scale of non-specific psychological distress based on 10 questions about negative emotional states in the 4 weeks prior to interview. 'Very high' distress is the highest level of distress category (of a total of four categories)
Fair or poor self-assessed health status	- Respondent's general assessment of their own health, against a five point scale from excellent through to poor – 'fair' or 'poor' being the two lowest in the scale
Estimates of selected risk factors (Figure 8 and Map 4)	
Overweight (not obese)	- Based on self-reported height and weight; BMI calculated and grouped into categories (to allow reporting against both WHO and NHMRC guidelines) - overweight: 25.0 to less than 30.0
Obese	- Based on self-reported height and weight; BMI calculated and grouped into categories (to allow reporting against both WHO and NHMRC guidelines) – obese: 30.0 and greater
Smokers	- Respondent's undertaking regular (or daily) smoking at the time of interview
Physical inactivity	- Did not exercise in the two weeks prior to interview through sport, recreation or fitness (including walking) – excludes incidental exercise undertaken for other reasons, such as for work or while engaged in domestic duties
High health risk due to alcohol consumed	- Respondents estimated average daily alcohol consumption in the seven days prior to interview (based on number of days and quantity consumed). Alcohol risk levels were grouped according to NHMRC risk levels for harm in the long term, with 'high risk' defined as a daily consumption of more than 75 ml for males and 50 ml for females

Note: For a full description, refer to *ABS 2001 National Health Survey, Cat. No. 4364.0* and *ABS 2001 Health Risk Factors, Cat. No. 4812.0*

Methods

Synthetic estimates

The estimates of the prevalence of chronic disease and associated risk factors have been predicted for a majority of SLAs across Australia, using modelled survey data collected in the 2001 ABS National Health Survey (NHS) and known characteristics of the area. A synthetic prediction can be interpreted as the likely value for a 'typical' area with those characteristics: the SLA is the area level of interest for this project (where SLAs had small populations they were grouped to larger areas). This work was undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, as they hold the NHS unit record files: the small area data were compiled by PHIDU.

The approach used is to undertake an analysis of the survey data for Australia to identify associations in the NHS data between the variables that we wish to predict at the area level (eg. prevalence of chronic conditions and risk factors) and the data we have at the area level (eg. socioeconomic status, use of health services). The relationship between these variables for which we have area level data (the predictors) and the reporting of chronic conditions in the NHS is also a part of the model that is developed by the ABS. For example, such associations might be between the number of people reporting specified chronic conditions in the NHS and:

- the number of hospital admissions (in total, to public and to private hospitals, by age, sex and diagnosis),
- socioeconomic status (as indicated by Census data, or for recipients of government pensions and benefits), and
- the number of visits to a general medical practitioner.

The results of the modelling exercise are then applied to the SLA counts of the predictors. The prediction is, effectively, the likely value for a typical area with those characteristics. The raw numbers were then age-standardised, to control for the effects of differences in the age profiles of areas.

The numbers are estimates for an area, not measured events as are death statistics: they should be used as indicators of likely levels of a condition or risk factor in an area.

Premature deaths

Details of deaths by SLA were purchased from the ABS. The raw numbers were then age-standardised, by the indirect method, to control for the effects of differences in the age profiles of areas.

Data converters and mapping

[Conversion to Division of data available by postcode](#)

The allocation of postcodes to Divisions was undertaken using information from the Department of Health and Ageing's web site, which shows the proportion of a postcode in a Division (see page 19).

[Conversion to Division of data available by SLA](#)

(marked in this profile as ‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division total)

Where the data presented in these profiles were only available by SLA they have been converted to Division of General Practice areas using a concordance based on data at the 2001 Census. A copy of the concordance is included in the Population data: A Guide for Divisions of General Practice: it is also available from the Divisions' data area on PHIDU web site.

In brief, the concordance splits the data (eg number of deaths) for each SLA across one or more Divisions. The proportion of an SLA's data that is allocated to each Division was calculated from (a) CD level Census 2001 data that splits SLAs across approximations to postcodes (referred to as postal areas) and (b) data on the DoHA website that splits postcodes across Divisions. This concordance can be adjusted to meet any new configuration of Division boundaries based on the 2001 Collection Districts, or combinations thereof.

The estimated population of each SLA in this Division is shown in Table 13.

[Mapping](#)

In some Divisions the maps may include a very small part of an SLA which has not been allocated any population, or either has a population of less than 100 or has less than 1% of the SLA's total population: these areas are mapped with a pattern.

Supporting information

This and other information is also available at www.publichealth.gov.au

A definition of population health

Population health, in the context of general practice, has been defined¹ as:

“The prevention of illness, injury and disability, reduction in the burden of illness and rehabilitation of those with a chronic disease. This recognises the social, cultural and political determinants of health. This is achieved through the organised and systematic responses to improve, protect and restore the health of populations and individuals. This includes both opportunistic and planned interventions in the general practice setting.”

The key determinants of health are social support networks, employment and working conditions, social environments, physical environments, geographical isolation, personal health practices, healthy child development, ageing and disability, biology and genetic endowment, health services, gender and culture.

In the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context this means that a population health approach to health services will assist in ensuring “that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy a healthy life equal to that of the general population, that is enshrined by a strong living culture, dignity and justice”.² This recognises the importance of achieving improvements to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and respects the particular health issues facing Indigenous people.

¹ “The role of general practice in population health – A Joint Consensus Statement of the General Practice Partnership Advisory Council and the National Public Health Partnership Group” (Joint Advisory Group on General Practice and Population Health 2001)

² As defined in the Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

SEIFA scores

Following the 2001 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced four socioeconomic indexes for areas (SEIFA). The indexes describe various aspects of the socioeconomic make-up of populations in areas, using data collected in the 2001 Census. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (labelled ‘Disadvantage’ in Table 12) includes all variables that either reflect or measure disadvantage. The Index of Advantage/Disadvantage is used to rank areas in terms of both advantage and disadvantage: any information on advantaged persons in an area will offset information on disadvantaged persons in the area. The Index of Economic Resources and the Index of Education and Occupation were targeted towards specific aspects of advantage/disadvantage.

For further information on the composition and calculation of these indexes see the ABS Information Paper ABS Cat No. 2039.0 available on the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au. The scores for these indexes for each Statistical Local Area (SLA) or part SLA in Shoalhaven DGP are shown in Table 12.

In using this table, users should note that the index score shown for SLAs with less than 100 per cent in the Division represents the score for the whole SLA, and not just the part shown. However, SLAs with small proportions may have little influence on the average index score for the Division which has been based on the postcodes in the Division.

Table 12: SEIFA scores by SLA, Shoalhaven DGP, 2001

SLA code	SLA name (% per cent of SLA in the Division)	Index score			
		Disadvantage	Advantage	Economic Resources	Education & Occupation
16951	Shoalhaven - Part A (100.0)	955	955	949	956
16952	Shoalhaven - Part B (98.0)	975	928	907	949
91009	Jervis Bay Territory (100.0)				

* Proportions are approximate and are known to be incorrect in some cases, due to errors in the concordance used to allocate CDs to form postal areas

Statistical geography of the Shoalhaven DGP

The Shoalhaven DGP covers 4,556 square kilometres, based on 2001 SLA data.

The postcodes in the Division (all 100%) are: 2535, 2538, 2539, 2540, and 2541³.

Source: Department of Health and Ageing web site:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pcd-programs-divisions-divspc.htm>

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) are defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to produce areas for the presentation and analysis of data. In this Division the Local Government Area (LGA) of Shoalhaven has been split into two SLAs, Part A (all in the Division) and Part B (a majority of which is in the Division). These SLA s comprise the Division (Table 13).

Table 13 SLAs in Shoalhaven DGP by 2001 boundaries

SLA code	SLA name	Per cent of the SLA's population in the Division*	Estimate of the SLA's 2004 population in the Division
16951	Shoalhaven - Part A	100.0	32,008
16952	Shoalhaven - Part B	98.0	58,415
91009	Jervis Bay Territory	100.0	558

* Proportions are approximate and are known to be incorrect in some cases, due to errors in the concordance used to allocate CDs to form postal areas

Supporting data

The data used in Figure 5 to illustrate the rates of premature mortality in the Division are shown below in Table 14.

Table 14: Deaths before 75 years of age by major condition group and selected cause, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2000-02*

Indirectly age standardised rate per 100,000 population

Variable	Shoalhaven DGP‡		Country NSW		Australia	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Circulatory system diseases	264	78.9	6,468	83.4	38,357	72.3
Ischaemic heart disease	158	46.9	3,929	50.6	23,364	44.1
Cerebrovascular disease – stroke	52	15.4	1,080	13.8	6,920	13.0
Cancer	424	130.6	9,113	119.2	60,603	114.3
Cancer of the trachea, bronchus & lung	96	28.3	1,980	25.4	12,715	24.0
Respiratory system diseases	47	13.8	1,700	21.7	9,726	18.3
Chronic lower respiratory disease	28	7.9	1,209	15.3	6,657	12.6
Injuries and poisonings	85	38.6	2,541	39.5	18,573	35.0
Suicide	22	10.1	888	14.0	6,706	12.6
Motor vehicle accidents	25	11.6	809	12.7	5,014	9.5
Other causes	171	58.1	3,998	54.6	26,735	50.4
Diabetes mellitus	14	4.1	442	9.4	3,734	7.0

* 'No.' is the total number of deaths for the 2000-02 period; 'Rate' is an annual rate, based on the 3 year average

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

³ As per the Department of Health and Ageing web site (accessed online version as at February 2005): <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pcd-programs-divisions-divspc.htm>

The rates used to illustrate the prevalence estimates of chronic disease (Figure 6), measures of self-reported health (Figure 7), and selected risk factors (Figure 8), are shown in Table 15 below.

Table 15: Estimates of chronic disease and associated risk factors, Shoalhaven DGP‡, country New South Wales and Australia, 2001

Indirectly age standardised rate per 1,000 population

Variable	Shoalhaven DGP‡	Country NSW	Australia
Chronic disease and injury (Figure 6)			
Respiratory system diseases	312.9	310.4	310.8
Asthma	130.6	127.9	118.3
Circulatory system diseases	183.7	181.6	171.5
Diabetes type 2	24.8	23.4	23.4
Injury event	124.8	124.0	121.2
Mental & behavioural disorders	115.7	104.3	97.6
Musculoskeletal system diseases	322.9	322.0	326.2
Arthritis	150.8	148.1	138.8
- Osteoarthritis	86.7	81.1	74.9
- Rheumatoid arthritis	25.0	24.8	23.6
Osteoporosis (females)	24.1	24.1	26.4
Measures of self-reported health (Figure 7)			
Very high psychological distress levels (18+ years)	42.2	38.9	36.6
Fair or poor self-assessed health status (15+ years)	187.6	189.5	184.0
Risk factors (Figure 8)			
Overweight (not obese) males (15+ years)	396.6	397.0	389.7
Obese males (15+ years)	170.1	167.5	145.9
Overweight (not obese) females (15+ years)	240.1	240.9	223.9
Obese females (15+ years)	157.2	157.5	148.0
Smokers (18+ years)	271.9	269.8	248.0
Physical inactivity (15+ years)	343.2	349.9	315.5
High health risk due to alcohol consumed (18+ years)	43.1	47.4	42.1

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

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Further developments and updates

Subject to agreement and funding, a number of developments could be undertaken:

- Details of hospitalisations potentially avoidable through ambulatory care interventions are currently being prepared and will be forwarded to Divisions (and posted on the PHIDU web site) when they are available. Other enhancements will be considered as appropriate datasets become available.

The profiles could be updated as the data are updated. For example:

- Population estimates, avoidable hospitalisations, immunisation, and GP activity and workforce data – annually;
- Chronic disease estimates – three-yearly;
- Census data – five-yearly.

Any developments would be informed by consultation, including with Divisions.

PHIDU contact details

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