

Population health profile of the Melbourne

Division of General Practice

Population Profile Series: No. 38

PHIDU

November 2005



© Commonwealth of Australia 2005

This work may be reproduced and used subject to acknowledgement of the source of any material so reproduced.

National Library of Australia Cataloguing in Publication entry

Population health profile of the Melbourne Division of General Practice.

Bibliography.

ISBN 0 7308 9446 0.

1. Public health - Victoria - Melbourne - Statistics. 2. Health status indicators - Victoria - Melbourne - Statistics. 3. Health service areas - Victoria - Melbourne. 4. Melbourne (Vic.) - Statistics, Medical. I. Public Health Information Development Unit (Australia). II. Australia. Dept. of Health and Ageing. III. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (Series : Population profile series, 1833-0452 ; no. 38).

362.1099451

ISSN 1833-0452 Population Profile Series

Public Health Information Development Unit, The University of Adelaide
A Collaborating Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

This profile was produced by PHIDU, the Public Health Information Development Unit at The University of Adelaide, South Australia. The work was funded under a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The views expressed in this profile are solely those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Department of Health and Ageing or the Minister for Health and Ageing.

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.

Suggested citation:

PHIDU. (2005) *Population health profile of the Melbourne Division of General Practice*. Population Profile Series: No. 38. Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), Adelaide.

Enquiries about or comments on this publication should be addressed to:

PHIDU, The University of Adelaide, South Australia 5005
Phone: 08-8303 6237 or e-mail: PHIDU@publichealth.gov.au

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

Published by Public Health Information Development Unit, The University of Adelaide

Contributors: Anthea Page, Sarah Ambrose, Liz Fisher, Kristin Leahy and John Glover

Population health profile of the Melbourne Division of General Practice

Introduction

This profile has been designed to provide a description of the population of the Melbourne 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 16.

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. Melbourne and Australia). Specific topics covered include:

- a socio-demographic profile (pages 2-5);
- GP workforce data (page 6);
- immunisation rates (page 6);
- rates of premature death (page 7); and
- estimates of the prevalence of chronic disease and selected risk factors (pages 8-12).

Key indicators

Location:	Victoria	
Division number:	301	
Population‡:	No.	%
Total	180,237	
65+	18,410	10.2%
<25	55,654	30.9%
Indigenous	722	0.4%

Disadvantage score¹: 1004

GP services per head of population:

Division‡	7.5
Australia	4.7

Population per FTE GP:

Division‡	799
Australia	1,403

Premature death rate²:

Division‡	275.4
Australia	290.4

¹ Numbers above 1000 (the index score for Australia) indicate the Division is relatively advantaged

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

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

Melbourne Division of General Practice

Melbourne Divisions of General Practice



Melbourne DGP by SLA



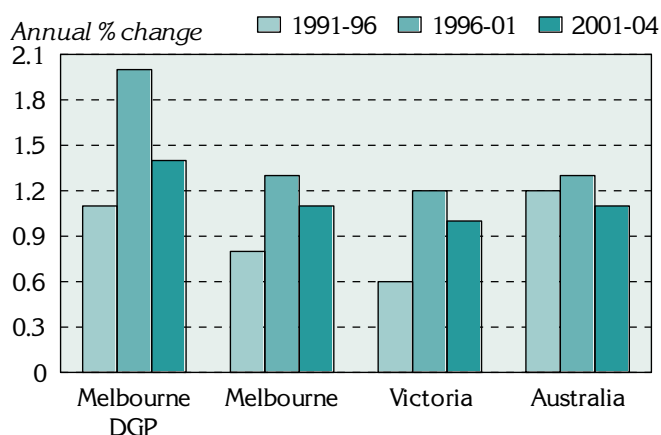
— Melbourne Divisions of General Practice
 — Melbourne Statistical Division

Socio-demographic profile

Population

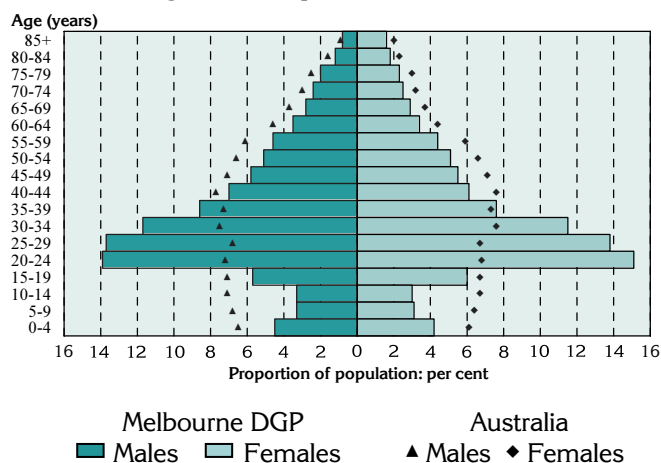
The Melbourne Division had an Estimated Resident Population of 198,225 at 30 June 2004.

Figure 1: Annual population change, Melbourne DGP‡, Melbourne, Victoria 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 1.1% on average each year, higher than in Melbourne (0.8%) and Victoria (0.6%) but similar to Australia (1.2%). From 1996 to 2001, the annual percentage increase was 2.0%, higher than for Melbourne (1.3%) and Victoria (1.2%). From 2001 to 2004 the Division's population increased by 1.3%, higher than the annual increases of 1.1% for Melbourne and 1.0% for Victoria.

Figure 2: Population in Melbourne 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 – markedly lower proportions of children and young people aged 0 to 19 years;
- from 20 to 39 years – substantially higher proportions of both males and females; and
- at older ages – lower proportions of both males and females aged 40 years and over.

Table 1: Population by age, Melbourne DGP‡ and Australia, 2003

Age group (years)	Melbourne DGP		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
0-14	22,548	11.4	3,978,751	19.8
15-24	39,332	19.8	2,762,769	13.8
25-44	77,613	39.2	5,881,048	29.3
45-64	37,843	19.1	4,864,037	24.2
65-74	10,880	5.5	1,374,792	6.8
75-84	7,345	3.7	934,505	4.7
85+	2,665	1.3	295,602	1.5
Total	198,225	100.0	20,091,504	100.0

As shown in the age-sex pyramid above, the Melbourne DGP had relatively fewer children than Australia as a whole, with 11.4% at ages 0 to 14 years (compared to 19.8%), but more young people aged 15 to 24 years (19.8%, compared to 13.8%) (Table 1). The proportion of the Division's population aged 25 to 44 years (39.2%) was substantially higher than for Australia (29.3%), while there were comparatively fewer people in the 45 years and over age groups.

The Melbourne DGP comprised 16.9% of people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more (Table 2), which is marginally less than the proportion for Melbourne (17.5%). Recent arrivals (those resident in Australia for less than five years) from non-English speaking countries comprised 8.1% of the Division's population, substantially higher than for Melbourne (3.1%).

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

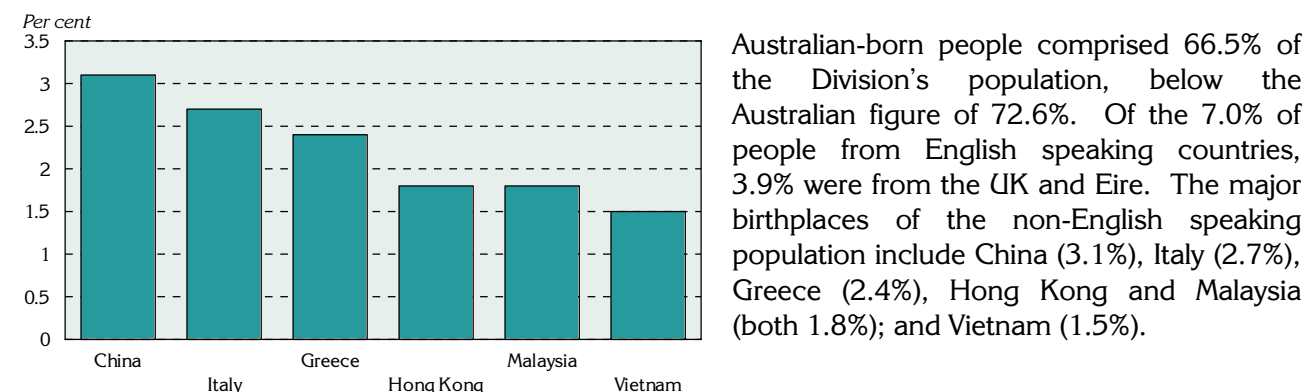
Of these residents, 7.2% had poor proficiency in English (determined when people aged five years and over born overseas in predominantly non-English speaking countries reported in the Census speaking another language and speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all'), compared to much lower proportions in Melbourne (4.4%), Victoria (3.4%), and Australia (2.4%).

Table 2: Non-English speaking born, Melbourne DGP, Melbourne, Victoria and Australia, 2001

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries	Melbourne DGP		Melbourne		Victoria		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Resident in Australia for five years or more	28,247	16.9	587,954	17.5	644,806	13.8	2,019,410	10.8
Resident in Australia for less than five years	13,540	8.1	104,747	3.1	110,557	2.4	408,074	2.2
Poor proficiency in English ¹	11,401	7.2	140,109	4.4	147,394	3.4	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, Melbourne DGP, 2001



Socioeconomic status

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 Melbourne DGP had higher proportions of single parent families (11.1%) and a lower rate of full-time secondary school education participation of 16 year olds (71.2%) compared to Melbourne as a whole (with 9.6% and 81.8%, respectively). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Division (0.4%) was the same as in Melbourne as a whole (Figure 4, Table 3).

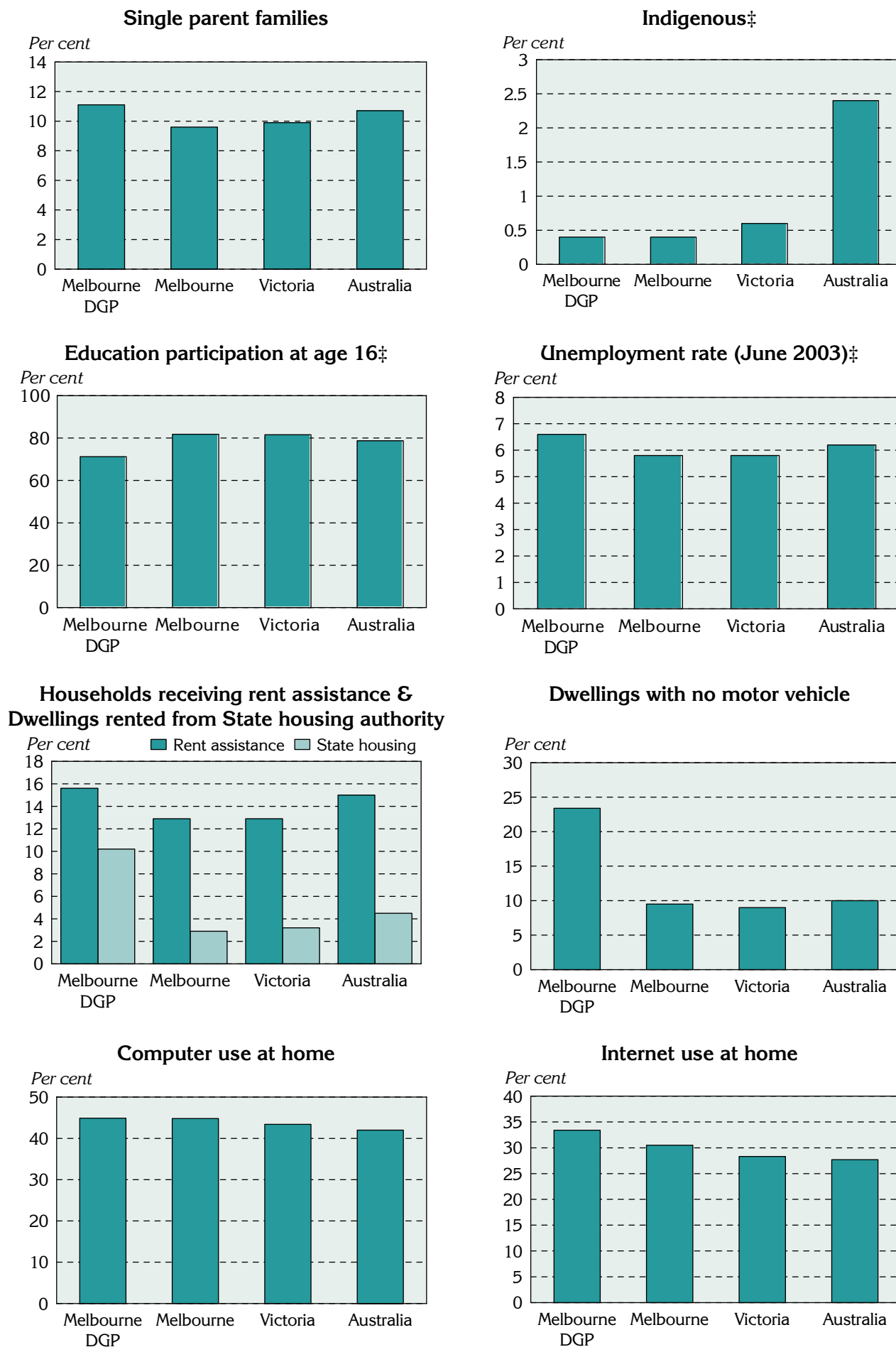
A higher proportion of the Division's households received rent assistance from Centrelink (15.6%) compared to Melbourne and Victoria (12.9%). Similarly, there were substantially more dwellings rented from the State housing authority (10.2% compared to 2.9% for Melbourne). The proportion of dwellings with no access to a motor vehicle (23.4%) was much higher than for Melbourne (9.5%).

The proportions of the Division's population who reported using, at home, a computer (44.9%), and the Internet (33.4%) were similar to those for Melbourne (44.8% and 30.5%).

These socioeconomic indicators show the Division to comprise a population of average levels of socioeconomic status when compared to Melbourne: see also the note on page 5 (Summary of socioeconomic ranking).

Figure 4: Socio-demographic indicators, Melbourne DGP, Melbourne, Victoria and Australia, 2001

Note the different scales



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

Table 3: Socio-demographic indicators, Melbourne DGP, Melbourne, Victoria and Australia, 2001

Indicator	Melbourne DGP		Melbourne		Victoria		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single parent families	3,932	11.1	84,483	9.6	120,824	9.9	529,969	10.7
Indigenous‡	722	0.4	12,716	0.4	27,846	0.6	458,261	2.4
Full-time secondary school education at age 16‡	945	71.2	38,340	81.8	54,494	81.6	130,198	78.7
Households: rent assistance	10,672	15.6	150,482	12.9	212,587	12.9	1,006,599	15.0
Dwellings rented from the State housing authority	7,692	10.2	35,953	2.9	54,805	3.2	317,171	4.5
Dwellings: no motor vehicle	17,660	23.4	118,190	9.5	155,728	9.0	708,073	10.0
Computer use at home	78,930	44.9	1,495,506	44.8	2,001,169	43.4	7,881,983	42.0
Internet use at home	55,685	33.4	587,954	30.5	644,806	28.3	2,019,410	27.7

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

Melbourne DGP had a relatively high unemployment rate of 6.6% compared to 5.8% for Melbourne (Figure 4, Table 4). The labour force participation rate (75.2%) was similar to the rates for Melbourne and Victoria (both 75.3%), while the female labour force participation rate of 72.0% was slightly higher than the rates for Melbourne (71.1%) and Victoria (70.6%).

Table 4: Unemployment and labour force participation, Melbourne DGP, Melbourne, Victoria and Australia, 2003

Labour force indicators	Melbourne DGP		Melbourne		Victoria		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unemployment rate ‡	6,985	6.6	103,501	5.8	144,584	5.8	623,791	6.2
Labour force participation‡	105,075	75.2	1,787,899	75.3	2,492,980	75.3	10,038,147	75.2
Female labour force participation (2001)	39,061	72.0	633,724	71.1	840,995	70.6	3,306,521	69.7

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

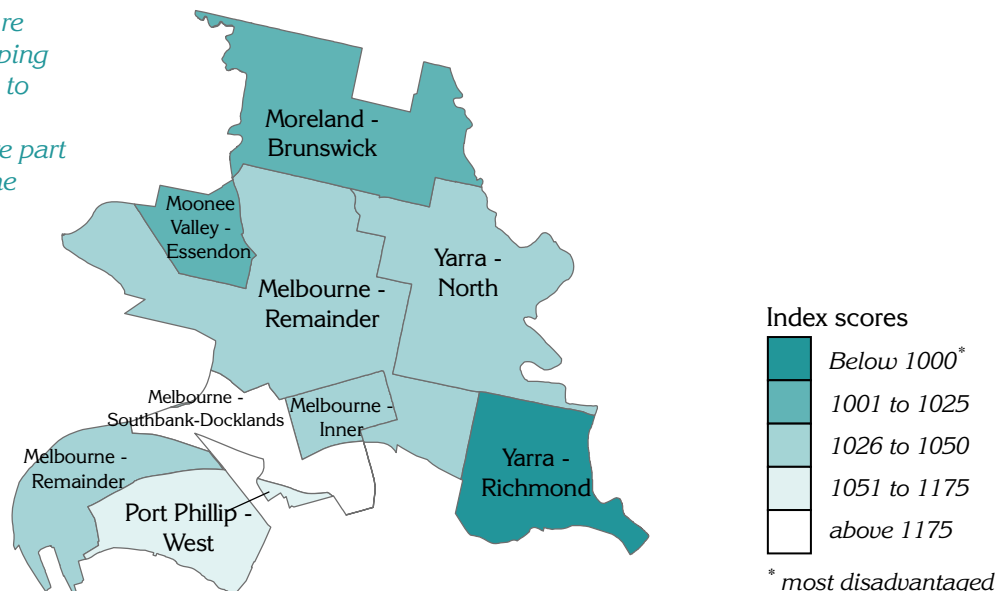
Summary of the socioeconomic ranking of the Melbourne DGP

Following the 2001 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced four socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA) which describe various aspects of the socioeconomic profile of populations in areas. The scores for these indexes for each Statistical Local Area (SLA) or part SLA in Melbourne DGP are shown in the supporting information Table 9, page 16: SLAs are described on page 17.

The Melbourne DGP area’s Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) score is 1004, just (0.4%) above the score for Australia (1000), and below that for Melbourne (1021); this highlights the average socioeconomic status profile of the Division’s population. Variations in the IRSD at the SLA level are shown in Map 1.

Map 1: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by SLA, Melbourne 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.



General medical practitioner (GP) supply

A total of 223.9 full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs, and 258.5 full-time workload equivalent (FWE¹) GPs worked in the Melbourne DGP in 2003/04 (Table 5). Of the FWE GPs, 29.4% were female, and 34.0% were over 55 years of age (compared to 25.6% and 28.3%, respectively, for Victoria).

There was minimal variation in the rates of population per FTE and FWE GP for the population measures shown, other than for the estimated day-time population, for which rates were substantially (152.0%) above those calculated on the Usual Resident Population (usual residents of the Division counted in Australia on Census night), reflecting the significant net movement of people into the Division during the day for employment. The rates of population per FWE GP were lower than the FTE rates.

Based on the average Estimated Resident Population, the rates of population per GP in Melbourne DGP were notably lower than the rates for Victoria and Australia, indicating a much higher level of provision of GP services in the Division.

Table 5: Population per GP in Melbourne DGP, Victoria and Australia, 2003/04

Population measure	Population	GPs		Population per GP	
		FTE	FWE	FTE	FWE
Melbourne DGP					
Census count (adjusted)*	181,193	223.9	258.5	809	701
Usual Resident Population (URP) (adjusted)*	172,056	..	..	769	666
Estimated Resident Population (ERP)	178,810	..	..	799	692
Day-time population (estimated on the URP)* ‡	433,537	..	..	1,937	1,677
Victoria (ERP)	4,942,102	3,575	4,157	1,382	1,189
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 94.6% 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 6. The proportion of children in the Division who were immunised by a general practitioner was relatively low (41.6%) compared to Australia (70.0%), with 36.8% immunised at a local government council, and 18.5% at a public hospital.

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

Provider	Melbourne DGP	Australia
	%	%
General practitioners	41.6	70.0
Local government council	36.8	16.6
Community health centre/ worker	1.3	9.8
Public hospital	18.5	2.1
Aboriginal health service/ worker	1.8	0.9
Other*	0.0	0.6
Total: Per cent	100.0	100.0
Number	34,072	3,843,610

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

¹ The FWE value is calculated for each GP location by dividing the GPs 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.

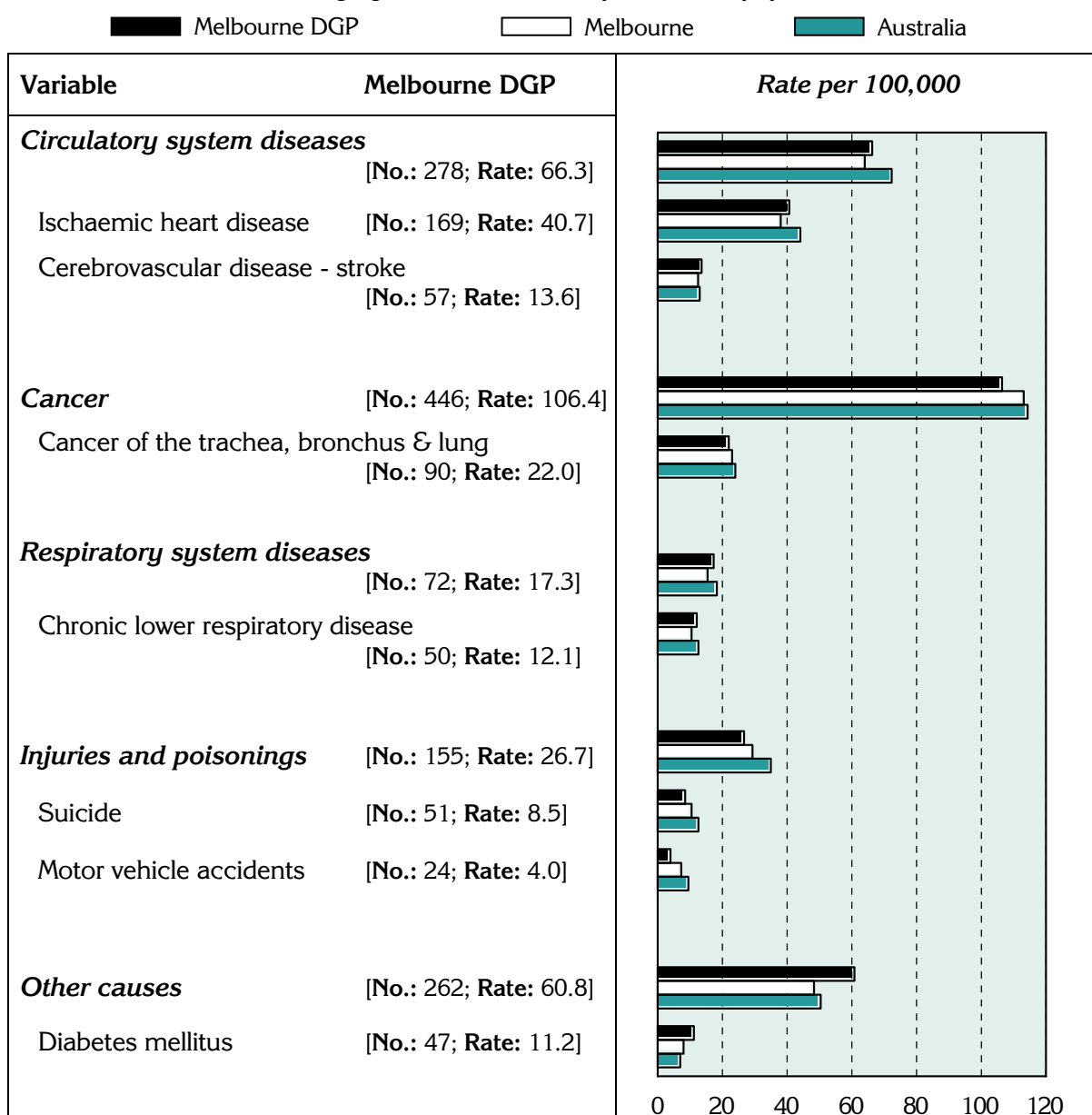
The 'all causes' death rate in the Division at ages 0 to 74 years (275.4 deaths per 100,000 population) is higher than for Melbourne (269.9), and lower than for Australia (290.4): the rates have been age standardised to allow for comparisons between areas, regardless of differences in age profiles between the Division and Australia.

The major causes of premature mortality in the Division, as for Melbourne and Australia as a whole, are cancer and diseases of the circulatory system (Figure 5). For all of the major conditions shown, with the exception of the 'other causes' group and Diabetes mellitus, death rates in the Division were similar to or lower than those for Australia. The death rates for respiratory diseases, 'other causes' and Diabetes mellitus were higher than those for Melbourne.

The data on which the following chart is based are in Table 11.

Figure 5: Deaths before 75 years of age by major condition group and selected cause, Melbourne DGP‡, Melbourne 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, not 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, is described in the Notes section, page 15. The data on which the following charts are based are in Table 12.

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 include overweight (not obese), obesity, smoking, lack of exercise and high levels of alcohol intake.

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 exception of diabetes type 2, similar, or smaller proportions of the population in Melbourne 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 lower.

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.

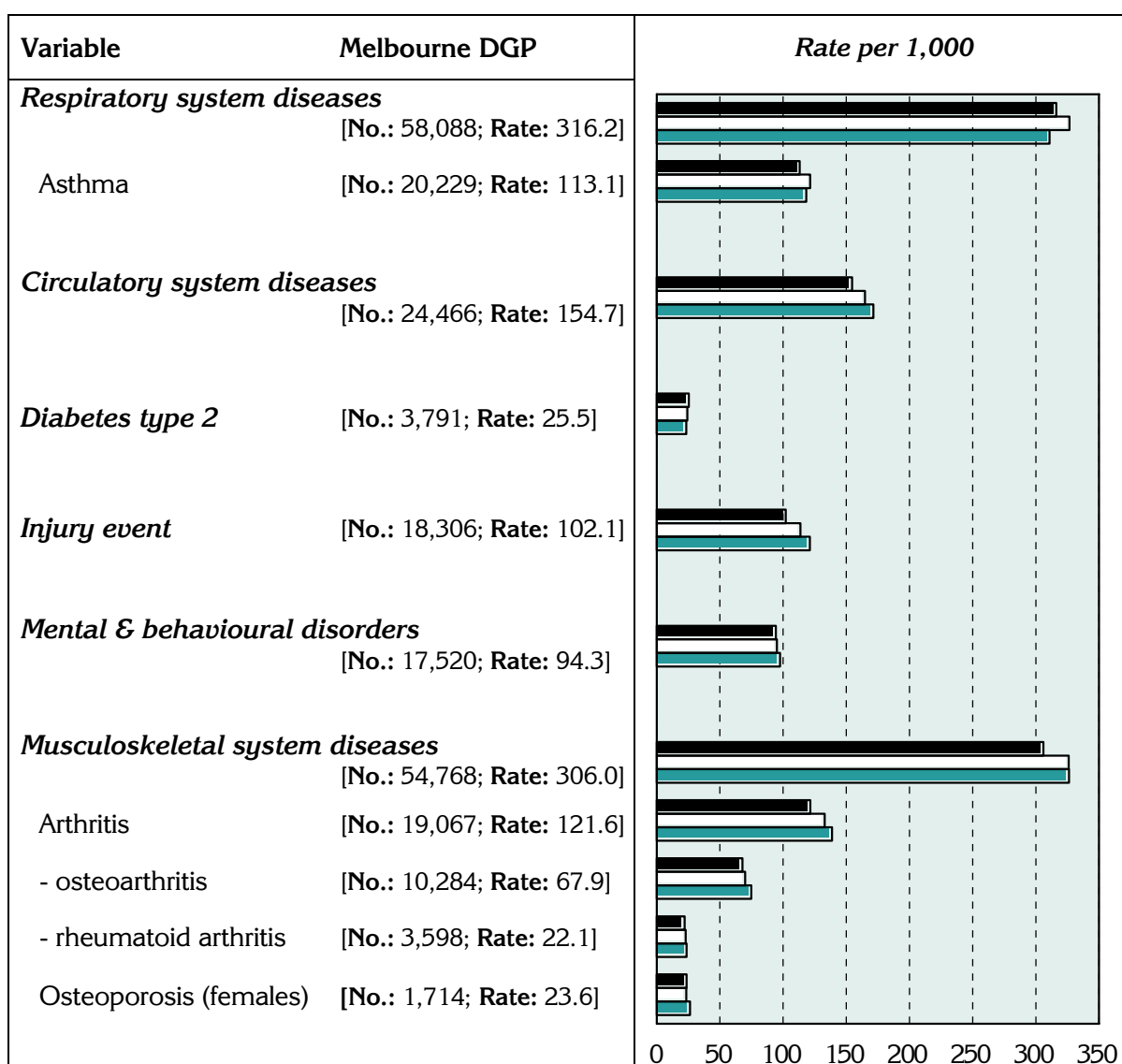
The population of the Division aged 18 years and over is estimated to have marginally fewer people with very high psychological distress levels as measured by the K–10 (Figure 7) compared to Australia as a whole. The proportion of the population aged 15 years and over estimated to have reported their health as ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ is consistent with the national rate.

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

Figure 6: Estimates* of chronic disease and injury, Melbourne DGP‡, Melbourne and Australia, 2001

Indirectly age standardised rate per 1,000 population

■ Melbourne DGP □ Melbourne ■ Australia



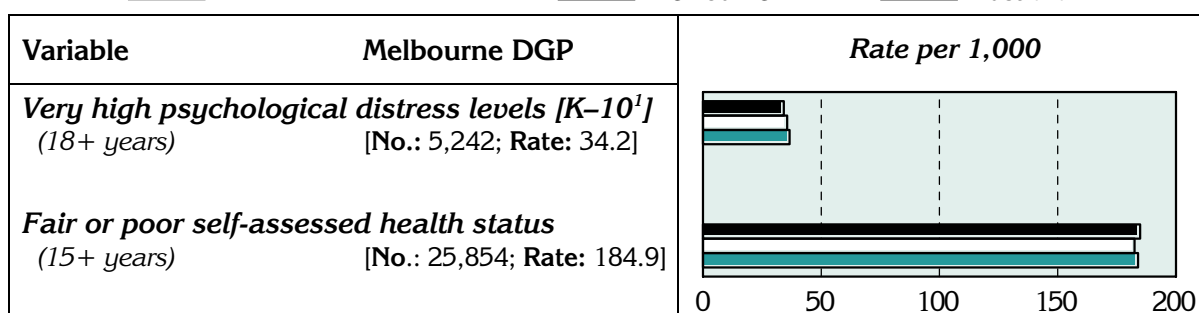
* 'No.' is a weighted estimate of the number of people in Melbourne DGP reporting each chronic condition and is derived from synthetic predictions from the 2001 NHS

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

Figure 7: Estimates* of measures of self-reported health, Melbourne DGP‡, Melbourne and Australia, 2001

Indirectly age standardised rate per 1,000 population

■ Melbourne DGP □ Melbourne ■ Australia



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

¹ Kessler 10

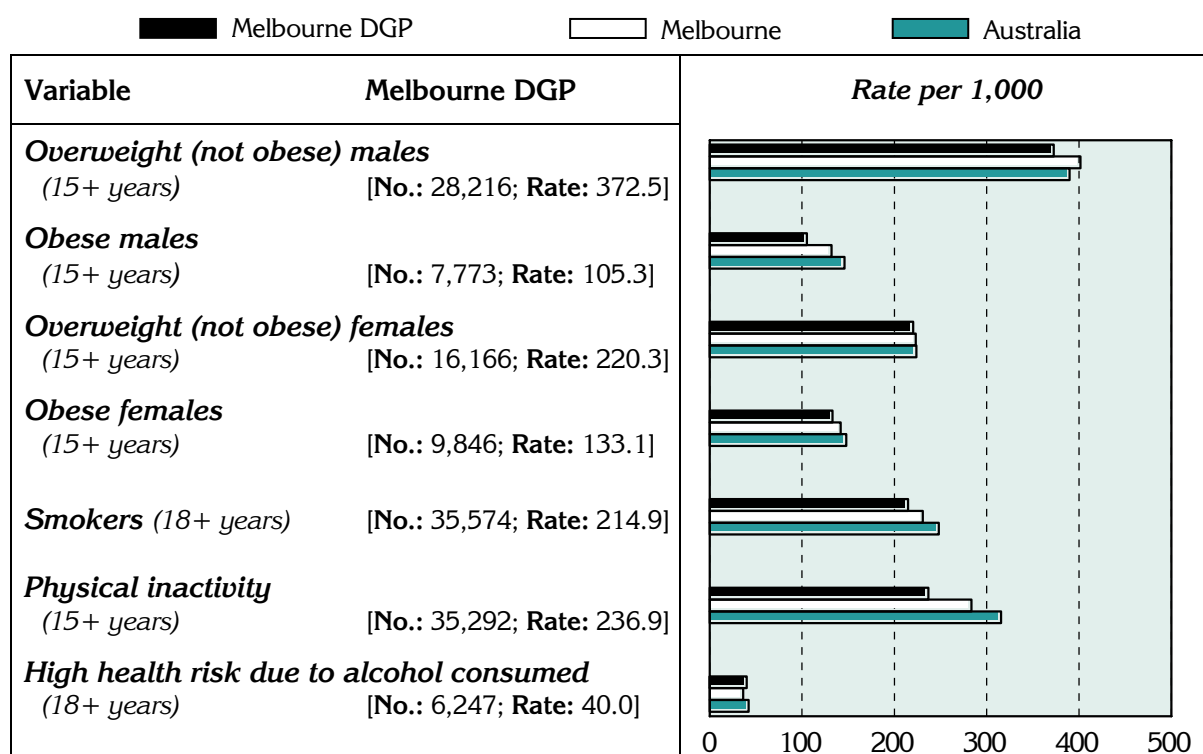
‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Prevalence estimates: risk factors‡

The relatively lower rates (when compared with the Australian population) for all the listed risk factors (Figure 8) are consistent with the socioeconomic status profile of the area.

Figure 8: Estimates* of selected risk factors, Melbourne DGP, Melbourne‡ and Australia, 2001

Indirectly age standardised rate per 1,000 population



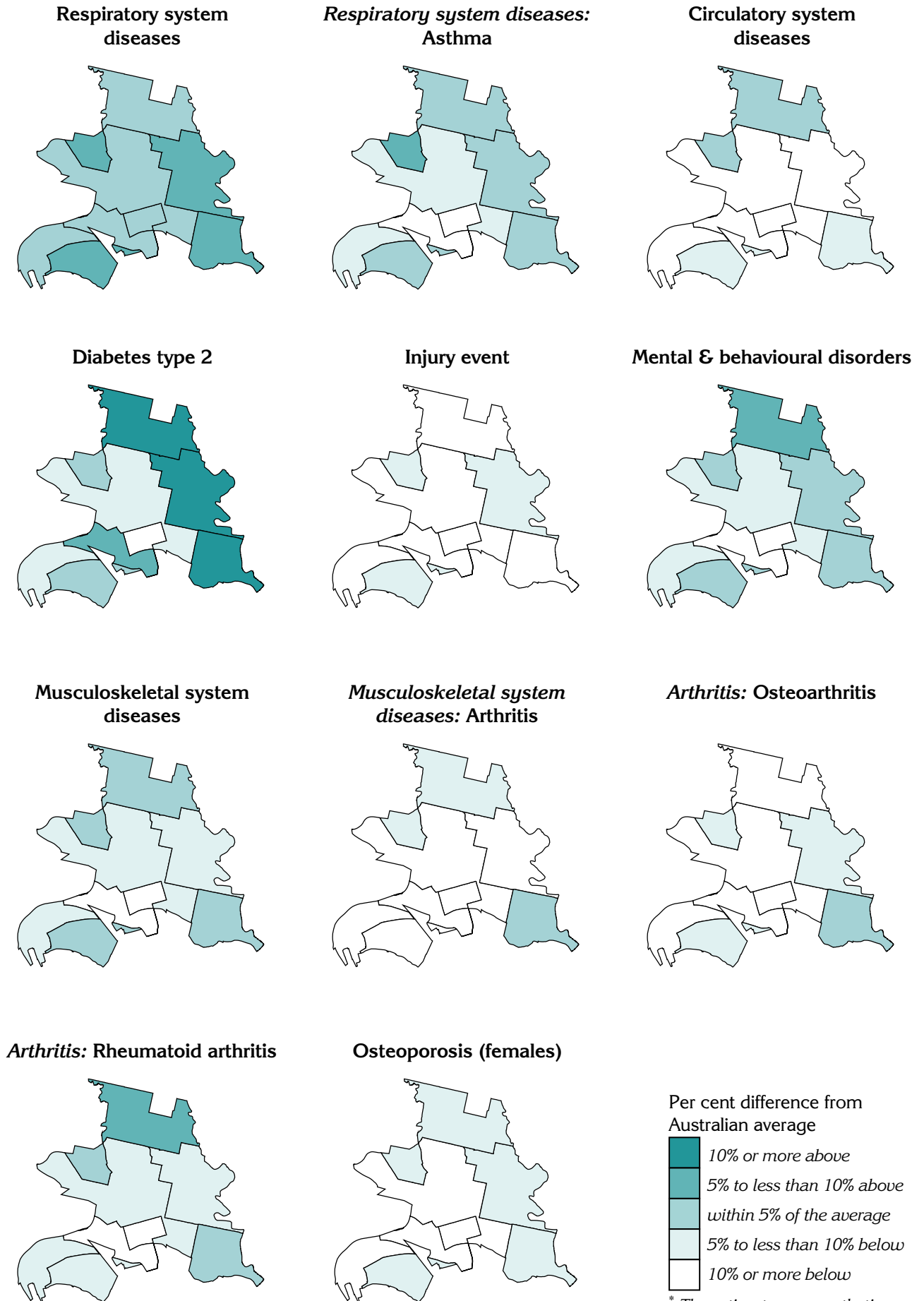
* 'No.' is a weighted estimate of the number of people in the Melbourne DGP with these risk factors and has been predicted using data from the 2001 NHS and known data for the Division

‡ 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 10, page 17 for 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, Melbourne DGP, 2001

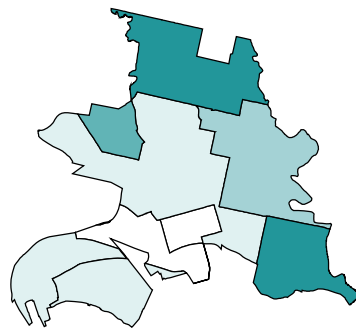
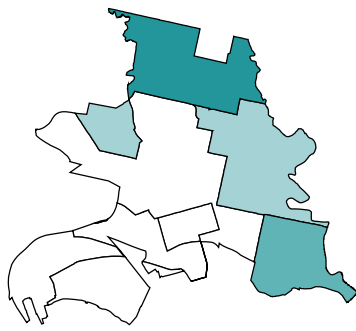


* The estimates are synthetic predictions of the prevalence of these conditions: see Notes on the data.

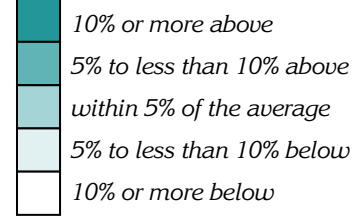
Map 3: Estimates* of measures of self-reported health by SLA, Melbourne DGP, 2001

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 the population reporting under these measures: see Notes on the data.

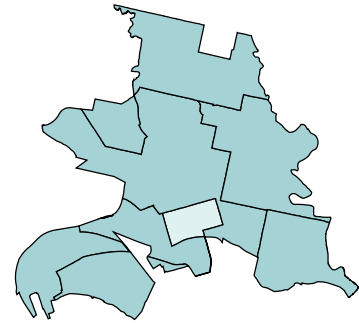
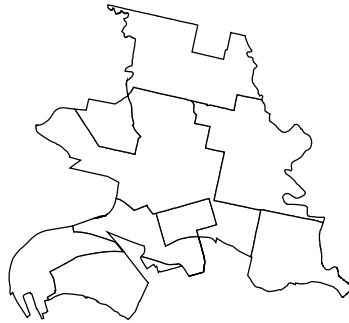
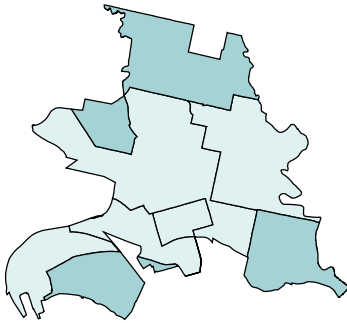
¹ Kessler 10

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

Overweight (not obese) males (15+ years)

Obese males (15+ years)

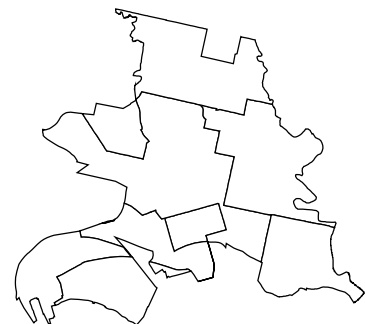
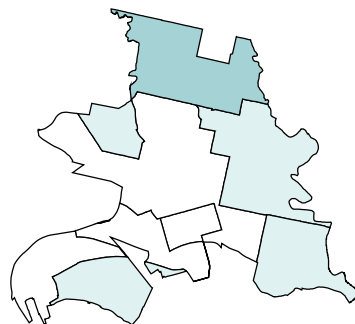
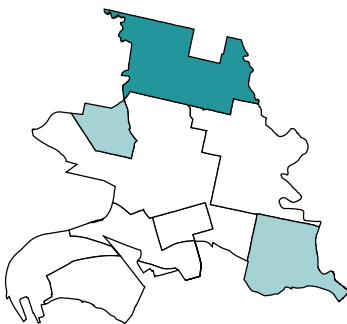
Overweight (not obese) females (15+ years)



Obese females (15+ years)

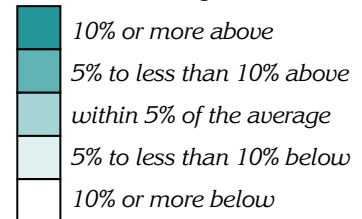
Smokers (18+ years)

Physical inactivity (15+ years)

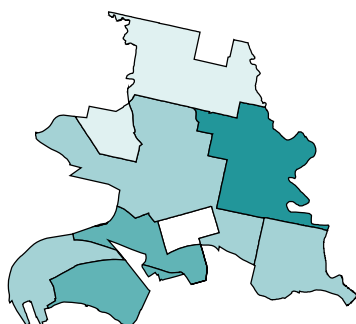


High health risk due to alcohol consumed (18+ years)

Per cent difference from Australian average



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



Notes on the data

Data sources and limitations

General

Unless stated otherwise, references to 'Melbourne' relate to the Melbourne Statistical Division.

Data sources

Table 7 details the data sources for the material presented in this profile.

Table 7: 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	Estimated Resident Population, ABS, 30 June for the periods shown
Tables 2, 3 and 4; Figures 3 and 4	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>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 9	ABS SEIFA package, Census 2001
General medical practitioner (GP) supply	
Table 5	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	National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, 2002
Table 6	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, Health Insurance Commission, 2003/04 (unpublished)
Premature mortality	
Figure 5; Table 11	ABS Deaths, 2000 to 2002
Chronic diseases and associated risk factors⁴	
Figures 6, 7 and 8; Maps 2, 3 and 4; Table 12	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 8 includes notes relevant to this data.

Table 8: 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	- Respondent's 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 16).

[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 10.

[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 9) 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 Melbourne DGP are shown in Table 9.

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 9: SEIFA scores by SLA, Melbourne DGP, 2001

SLA code	SLA name (£ per cent of SLA in the Division)	Index score			
		Disadvantage	Advantage	Economic Resources	Education & Occupation
24601	Melbourne - Inner (100.0)	1035	1145	1110	1188
24605	Melbourne - S'bank-D'lands (64.3)	1104	1221	1222	1230
24608	Melbourne - Remainder (84.8)	1033	1139	1108	1173
25063	Moonee Valley - Essendon (19.2)	1014	1067	1054	1078
25251	Moreland - Brunswick (89.9)	1013	1056	1017	1099
25902	Port Phillip - West (34.3)	1065	1139	1145	1150
27351	Yarra - North (94.9)	1030	1119	1088	1161
27352	Yarra - Richmond (100.0)	985	1078	1070	1107

* 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 Melbourne DGP

The postcodes in the Division (all 100%) are: 3000-3003, 3005-3006, 3008, 3031, 3050-3057, 3065-3068, 3100, 3121, 3207 and 8002².

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, some Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been split onto SLAs. For example, Melbourne has three SLAs – Inner, Southbank-Docklands and Remainder. Parts of these and all or parts of the other SLAs listed comprise the Division (Table 10).

Table 10: SLAs in Melbourne 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
24601	Melbourne - Inner	100.0	8,852
24605	Melbourne - Southbank-Docklands	64.3	6,132
24608	Melbourne - Remainder	84.8	36,598
25063	Moonee Valley - Essendon	19.2	12,903
25251	Moreland - Brunswick	89.9	36,843
25902	Port Phillip - West	34.3	11,569
27351	Yarra - North	94.9	42,595
27352	Yarra - Richmond	100.0	24,745

* 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 11.

Table 11: Deaths before 75 years of age by major condition group and selected cause, Melbourne DGP‡, Melbourne and Australia, 2000-02*

Indirectly age standardised rate per 100,000 population

Variable	Melbourne DGP‡		Melbourne		Australia	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Circulatory diseases	278	66.3	5,667	64.0	38,357	72.3
Ischaemic heart disease	169	40.7	3,367	38.0	23,364	44.1
Cerebrovascular disease – stroke	57	13.6	1,109	12.5	6,920	13.0
Cancer	446	106.4	10,035	113.1	60,603	114.3
Cancer of the trachea, bronchus & lung	90	22.0	2,028	23.0	12,715	24.0
Respiratory diseases	72	17.3	1,364	15.4	9,726	18.3
Chronic lower respiratory disease	50	12.1	931	10.5	6,657	12.6
Injuries and poisonings	155	26.7	2,752	29.3	18,573	35.0
Suicide	51	8.5	994	10.5	6,706	12.6
Motor vehicle accidents	24	4.0	685	7.3	5,014	9.5
Other causes	262	60.8	4,323	48.3	26,735	50.4
Diabetes mellitus	47	11.2	713	8.0	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

² 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 and injury (Figure 6), measures of self-reported health (Figure 7) and selected risk factors (Figure 8), are shown in Table 12 below.

Table 12: Estimates of chronic disease and associated risk factors, Melbourne DGP‡, Melbourne and Australia, 2001

Indirectly age standardised rate per 1,000 population

Variable	Melbourne DGP‡	Melbourne	Australia
Chronic disease and injury (Figure 6)			
Respiratory system diseases	316.2	326.6	310.8
Asthma	113.1	121.4	118.3
Circulatory system diseases	154.7	164.9	171.5
Diabetes type 2	25.5	24.2	23.4
Injury event	102.1	113.7	121.2
Mental & behavioural disorders	94.3	95.1	97.6
Musculoskeletal system diseases	306.0	326.0	326.2
Arthritis	121.6	132.9	138.8
- Osteoarthritis	67.9	70.0	74.9
- Rheumatoid arthritis	22.1	23.0	23.6
Osteoporosis (females)	23.6	23.5	26.4
Measures of self-reported health (Figure 7)			
Very high psychological distress levels (18+ years)	34.2	35.6	36.6
Fair or poor self-assessed health status (15+ years)	184.9	182.5	184.0
Risk factors (Figure 8)			
Overweight (not obese) males (15+ years)	372.5	401.5	389.7
Obese males (15+ years)	105.3	132.0	145.9
Overweight (not obese) females (15+ years)	220.3	223.1	223.9
Obese females (15+ years)	133.1	141.9	148.0
Smokers (18+ years)	214.9	230.8	248.0
Physical inactivity (15+ years)	236.9	283.5	315.5
High health risk due to alcohol consumed (18+ years)	40.0	36.3	42.1

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

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2002). *2001 National Health Survey: summary of results*. Australia. (ABS Cat. No. 4364.0). Canberra: ABS.

National Public Health Partnership (NPHP) (2001). *Preventing Chronic Disease: A Strategic Framework*. Melbourne, Victoria.

Thacker S, Stroup D & Rothenberg R (1995). Public health surveillance for chronic conditions: a scientific basis for decisions. *Statistics in Medicine* 14: 629-641.

World Health Organization (2002). *The World Health Report 2002: Reducing Risks, Promoting Healthy Life*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Acknowledgements

Funding for these profiles was provided by the Population Health Division of the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). Assistance, by way of comment on the profiles and assistance in obtaining some datasets, has also been received from the Primary Care Division of the DoHA, the ABS and the ACIR.

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

For general comments, data issues or enquiries re information on the web site, please contact PHIDU:

Phone: 08-8303 6236 or e-mail: PHIDU@publichealth.gov.au