

4 Income support payments

Introduction

This section includes details of selected pensions, benefits and allowances paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) and selected pensions paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). The intention is to present data to indicate the proportion of the population in receipt of income support from the Commonwealth Government, to highlight variations in the distribution of this population across the State and to compare this distribution with other data in the atlas. Comparisons are made with data from 1989, published in the first edition of the atlas.

Explanatory notes

Data mapped

The pensions and benefits included in the analysis are listed in **Table 4.1**, which also shows the way in which the DFACS and DVA data were combined for mapping. Percentages were calculated on population figures representing as near as possible the ages applicable to the particular pensioner and beneficiary groups.

Details of those receiving the DVA Service Pension (Age) have been combined with those for the DFACS Age Pension and, similarly, details of recipients of the DVA Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated) have been combined with those for the Disability Support Pension paid by DFACS. People in receipt of the Veteran Disability Pension (which includes the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated pension) were excluded from the analysis, as this pension is paid as compensation for service related incapacity, and is not regarded as an income support payment. Recipients of the War Widows pension were excluded on the same grounds.

In the case of the Sole Parent Pension, only females were mapped, as they comprise the majority of this pension group (93.6 per cent of all of such pensioners at 30 June 1996).

Data mapped for unemployment beneficiaries relate to the Youth Training Allowance, the Newstart Allowance and the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP). The CDEP is a job creation scheme initiated in 1977 by Aboriginal communities to help remote, isolated Aboriginal communities develop an alternative to continued reliance on unemployment benefits. In 1985, the scheme was expanded to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in urban and rural areas. Under the scheme, members of participating communities, organisations or groups forgo individual unemployment benefits for a wages grant paid to the community. Each community decides on its own work program. The program may include projects such as road works, house repairs and maintenance, and the production of artefacts and activities in support of traditional lifestyle and culture. Although the CDEP data were only available at 30 June 1998, they have been included with the other data for unemployment beneficiaries, which have a reference date of 30 June 1996.

The proportion of children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving the Family Payment (when paid at greater than

the minimum rate¹) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years at the 1996 Census. Two groups of families are eligible for this payment. One includes families receiving one of the following income support payments: the DFACS Age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training Allowance or Newstart Allowance; Sickness and Special Benefits; or the CDEP. These families are 'automatic' recipients of the Family Payment and account for just over three quarters (75.4 per cent) of families receiving this payment at June 1999. The other group includes families with a family member in the workforce, but with a low income. Payments such as the double orphan's pension and the Family Payment (minimum rate) and Family Tax Payment have been specifically excluded from this analysis, as families in receipt of such payments may also receive relatively high incomes. Details of the small number of children of DVA pensioners were not available.

Table 4.1: Income support payments mapped, 30 June 1996

Department of Family & Community Services (DFCS)	Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)	Denominator (percentage of the population)
Pensions	Pensions	Age group (years)
Age ¹	Service (Age) ²	Males 65 & over Females 60 & over
Disability Support	Service (PI) ³	Males 15-64 Females 15-59
Sole Parent ⁴	.. ⁵	Females 15-54
Labour market allowances		
Youth Training Allowance & Newstart Allowance ⁶	..	Males 15-64 Females 15-59
Children⁷	..	Population 0-14

¹Excludes wife pension, as recipients are under age-pensionable age. The small number of males under 65 years and females under 60 years of age receiving an Age Pension were also excluded from this analysis

²Includes wife/widow pension, as recipients are mainly of age-pensionable age

³Permanently Incapacitated: data for males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over were included with Age Pensions

⁴Details for males were excluded from the analysis

⁵DVA War Widows pensioners are excluded as this pension is primarily a compensation payment and not an income support payment

⁶Youth Training Allowance and Job Search Allowance are the unemployment benefit schemes: also includes people in Community Development Employment Programs at 30 June 1998

⁷Includes children (aged under 16 years) in families receiving a selected pension or benefit, or the Family Payment (greater than minimum rate): see text

⁸Excludes children of DVA pensioners as separate details were not available

Source: Compiled from data from DFACS and DVA

¹The Family Payment is designed to assist with the costs of bringing up children. Families with low incomes (around \$23,000 a year for families with two children at 30 June 1996) and those receiving an income support payment receive Family Payment at a rate above the minimum rate.

The data are collected by the postcode of the postal address of the recipient of the income support payment. See *Area mapped* for a discussion of why data in **Canberra** was not converted to SLA.

In some instances, the number of people in receipt of a pension or benefit in a postcode exceeds the population in that postcode: this is particularly a problem with the Age Pension data. This is the case even when the pensioner/beneficiary data are compared with the population data by five year age group, separately for males and females. As a result, the calculation of the proportion of the population in receipt of a particular pension or benefit type can produce percentages of greater than 100 per cent. Other percentages of less than 100 per cent may also be overstated.

Area mapped

No attempt was made to estimate the number of income recipients in each SLA within the postcodes, in **Canberra**, as

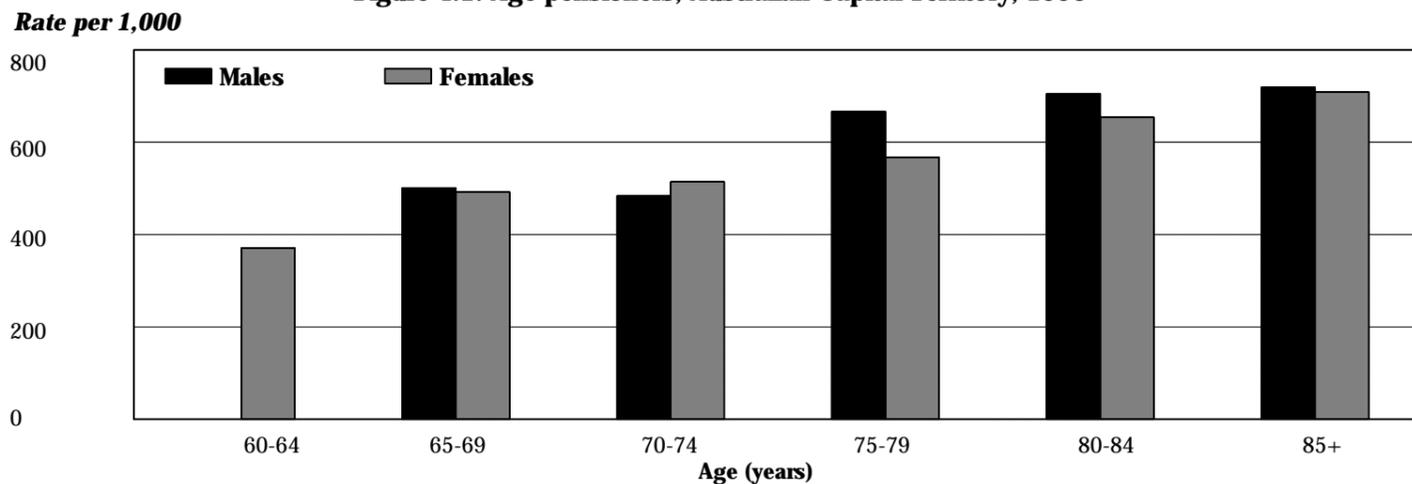
there is no reliable way to do this. The data in Chapter 3, has been mapped by postcode to enable comparisons to be made of the distribution of the variables with those in this chapter.

Details of age and sex of recipients

The age and sex profiles of recipients of the Age and Disability Support Pensions and unemployment benefits and the age profiles of female sole parent pensioners are shown in the following charts.

Females can receive the Age Pension from age 60 years and males from age 65 years (**Figure 4.1**). Although the numbers of females receiving this pension are higher from 65 years of age, their rates are lower in all age groups, except for those aged 70 to 74 years. Rates for males follow a pattern of a decline in the 70 to 74 year age group before increasing over the next three age groups, while female rates grow steadily across the ages.

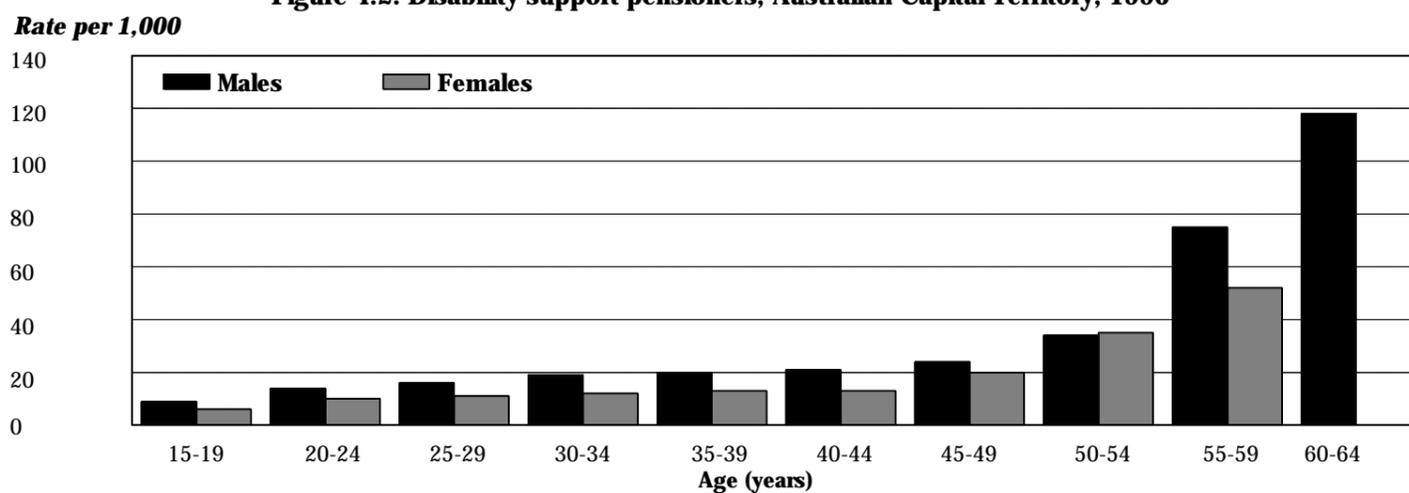
Figure 4.1: Age pensioners, Australian Capital Territory, 1996



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Age Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Age))

Male rates are higher in each age group for those receiving the Disability Support Pension, with the exception of those aged from 50 to 54 years (**Figure 4.2**). From age 60 years, females eligible for this pension are transferred to the Age Pension. The rates for both males and females grow steadily across the ages, most markedly from around 50 years of age.

Figure 4.2: Disability support pensioners, Australian Capital Territory, 1996

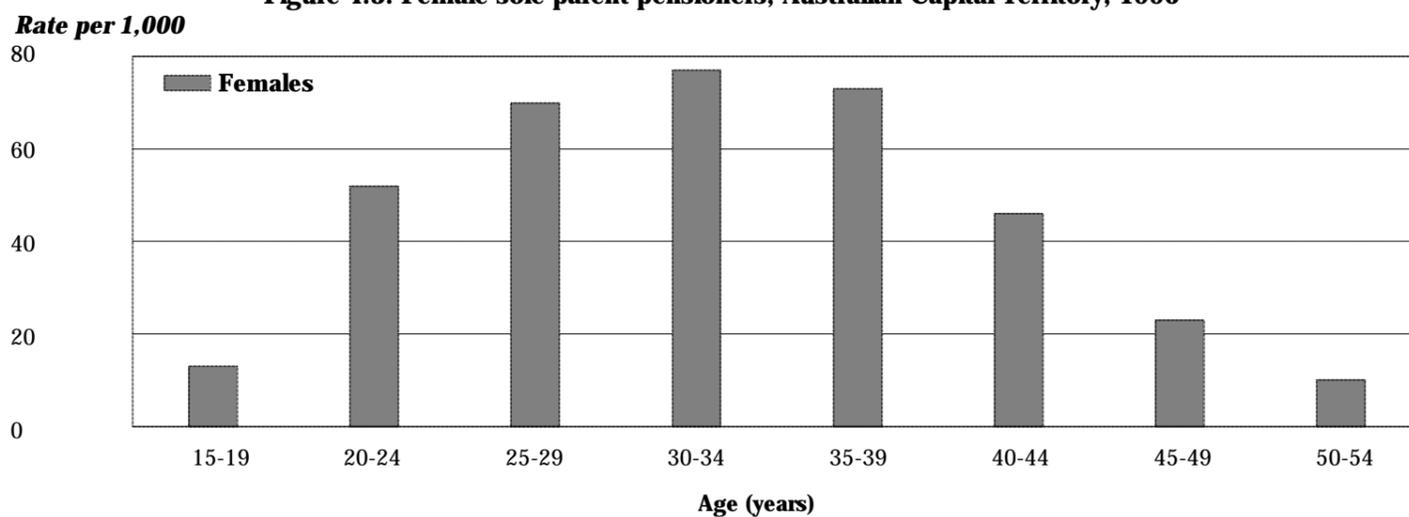


Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Disability Support Pension) and DVA (Service Pension (Permanently Incapacitated))

Age-specific rates for female sole parent pensioners reveal a near-normal distribution (in a statistical sense), with the highest rates

the 30 to 34 year age group (**Figure 4.3**).

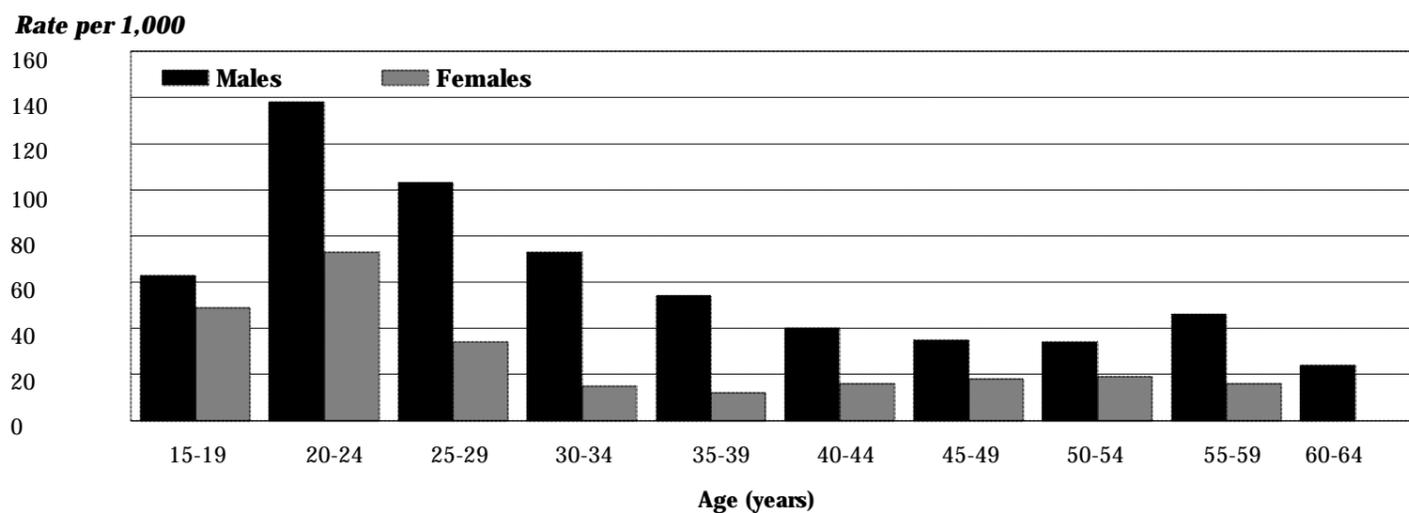
Figure 4.3: Female sole parent pensioners, Australian Capital Territory, 1996



Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS

Both male and female unemployment rates are highest in the 20 to 24 year age group. They then generally decline to the 45 to 49 and 50 to 54 year age groups for males, before increasing at the 55 to 59 year age group: this is followed by a decline to their lowest level in the 60 to 64 year age group (**Figure 4.4**). Female rates are at their lowest in the 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 year age groups, after which they increase slightly, through to the 50 to 54 year age group.

Figure 4.4: Unemployment beneficiaries, Australian Capital Territory, 1996



¹ Excludes people in the Community Development Employment Program

Source: Calculated on data supplied by DFACS (Youth Training and Newstart Allowances)

Age pensioners, 1996

Capital city comparison

People eligible for an Age Pension from the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS), comprise females aged 60 years and over and males aged 65 years and over. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides a service pension to eligible males at age 60 years and females at age 55 years. The data mapped are the sum of these pension types, referred to generally as age pensioners, expressed as a percentage of all females aged 60 years and over and all males aged 65 years and over at 30 June 1996.

The proportion of the population in receipt of an Age Pension declined in all capital cities between 1989 and 1996 (**Table 4.2**), although **Adelaide** remained as the capital city with the highest proportion. This decline has occurred because although there are now more people receiving the Age Pension than was the case in 1989, the population of pensionable age has increased at a faster rate. The largest declines were evident for **Darwin** (which became the capital base with the lowest proportion of its population on an Age Pension), **Hobart** and **Brisbane**, and the least for **Melbourne**.

Table 4.2: Age pensioners, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	64.7	71.3	69.9	76.2	69.9	72.3	41.3	53.5	68.9
1989	69.8	72.2	79.0	82.6	76.8	81.7	64.4	58.6	73.7

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Problems with the data

The postcode based data shows Belconnen (Balance) (26 aged pensioners: 122.2 per cent of the population of pensionable age), as having in excess of 100 per cent of the eligible population in receipt of this pension. This is clearly not accurate: the notes on page 50 include some possible reasons for this result.

Canberra-Queanbeyan

In 1996, there were 27,765 people of age-pensionable age in **Canberra-Queanbeyan**, of which 53.5 per cent (14,849 people) received either an Age or Service Pension.

Queanbeyan had a total of 1,685 age pensioners, almost two thirds (63.9 per cent) of the eligible population (2,635 people).

Postcodes

The highest proportions at the postcode level in **Canberra** were recorded in sparsely populated Kowen/Majura (77.1 per cent, representing just nine age pensioners), in the south west in Kambah (61.4 per cent) and in Tuggeranong North West (61.3 per cent) (**Map 4.1**).

Postcode areas in the next highest group were Tuggeranong South East (58.7 per cent), Belconnen West (58.5 per cent), Canberra Central (56.3 per cent) and Woden Central (55.5 per cent). Relatively high proportions were also recorded in Tuggeranong South (54.7 per cent), Belconnen North (53.6 per cent), Canberra North (52.8 per cent), Weston Creek (52.2 per cent), Canberra South (51.5 per cent) and Tuggeranong North East (50.5 per cent).

In five postcode areas in **Canberra**, fewer than 50.0 per cent of the eligible population received an Age Pension. The lowest rates were recorded in Woden North (39.6 per cent), Woden South (43.0 per cent), Eastern Fringe (47.1 per cent, with 49 pensioners), Gungahlin-Hall (49.6 per cent) and Belconnen South (49.7 per cent).

The largest numbers of age pensioners were in Canberra North (2,053 people), Canberra Central (1,502 people), Belconnen West (1,335 people) and Canberra South (1,306 people).

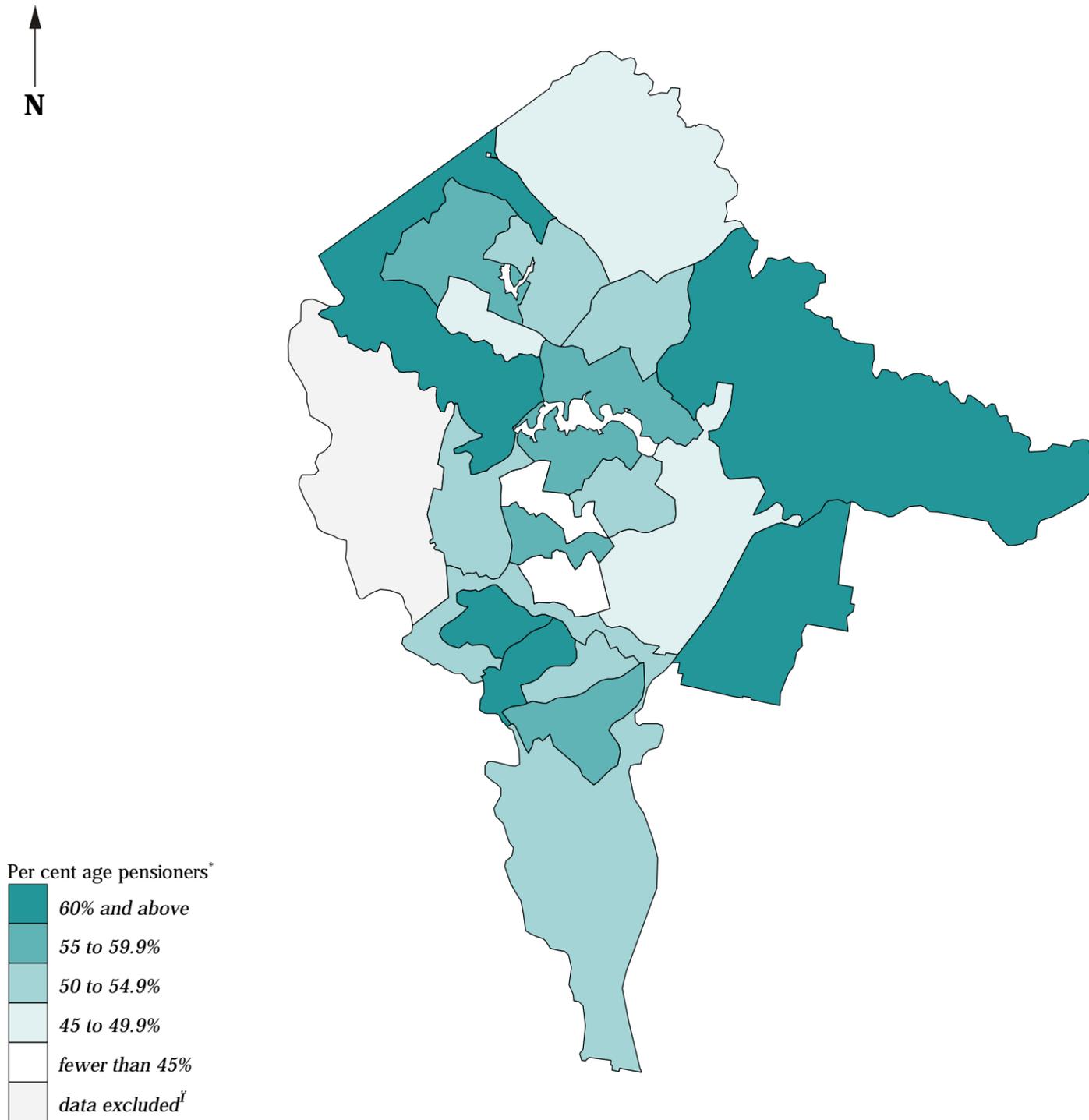
There was no strong evidence in the correlation analysis of an association at the postcode level between high levels of age pensioners and socioeconomic status. However, there were weak associations with high proportions of public rental dwellings (0.42) and dwellings without a motor vehicle (an inverse correlation of -0.44).

In 1996, 19 people (112.5 per cent of people of age-pensionable age) in the ACT-Balance Statistical Subdivision were receiving an Age Pension.

Map 4.1

Age pensioners*, Canberra-Queanbeyan, 1994

as a percentage of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over in each area[#]



*Includes the Age Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Age) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

[#]SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

[‡]Data have been excluded when the population of the area is less than 100

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Disability support pensioners, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

People eligible for a Disability Support Pension, paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS), must be aged 16 years or over and have not reached age-pensionable age; be permanently blind or have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment level of 20 per cent or more and a continuing inability to work. Details of males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age receiving the DVA service pension (permanently incapacitated) have been combined with the Disability Support Pension data: details on people above these ages were included in the data for age pensioners.

The proportion of the population in the capital cities in receipt of the Disability Support Pension has increased considerably since 1989, rising from 2.6 per cent in 1989 to 3.9 per cent in 1996. High levels of unemployment have impacted significantly on the increase in the number of disability support pensioners (Centrelink 1997). This increase was evident in all capital cities, with the largest increases recorded in **Hobart, Adelaide, Sydney** and **Brisbane**. In both 1989 and 1996, **Hobart** and **Adelaide** had the largest proportions of disability support pensioners, while **Canberra** and **Darwin** had the lowest.

Table 4.4: Disability support pensioners, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	3.8	3.7	4.1	5.1	3.9	5.6	3.1	2.2	3.9
1989	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.5	3.0	3.6	2.1	1.2	2.6

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Canberra-Queanbeyan

In 1996, 5,004 people in **Canberra-Queanbeyan** were receiving a Disability Support Pension, 2.2 per cent of the population aged from 15 years and less than 60 years for females and less than 65 years for males. These figures were a notable increase on those recorded in 1989, when there were 2,486 disability support pensioners, 1.2 per cent of the eligible population. Despite this considerable increase, **Canberra-Queanbeyan** maintained its status as having the lowest proportions of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension of all Australian capital cities.

In 1996, there were 684 disability support pensioners in Queanbeyan, 3.7 per cent of the eligible population.

Postcodes

The highest proportions of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension were in the central and eastern-most postcode areas of **Canberra (Map 4.2)**. Woden Central recorded the highest proportion of 4.1 per cent, followed by Canberra Central (3.6 per cent), Canberra North (3.2 per cent) and Canberra South (3.1 per cent).

Several postcode areas had proportions just below the **Canberra-Queanbeyan** average for this variable. They were Kambah (2.1 per cent), Weston Creek and Belconnen South (both with 2.0 per cent), Woden North, Woden South, Tuggeranong North West, Belconnen West and Belconnen (Balance) (all with 1.9 per cent) and Belconnen North (1.7 per cent).

The lowest proportions were recorded in the northern-most area of Gungahlin-Hall (0.8 per cent) and the southern-most area of Tuggeranong South (1.2 per cent). The adjacent postcode areas of Tuggeranong South East (1.5 per cent) and Tuggeranong North East (1.3 per cent) had slightly higher proportions.

The largest numbers of people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension in 1996 were recorded in Canberra North (541 people),

Belconnen West (531 people) and Canberra Central (514 people).

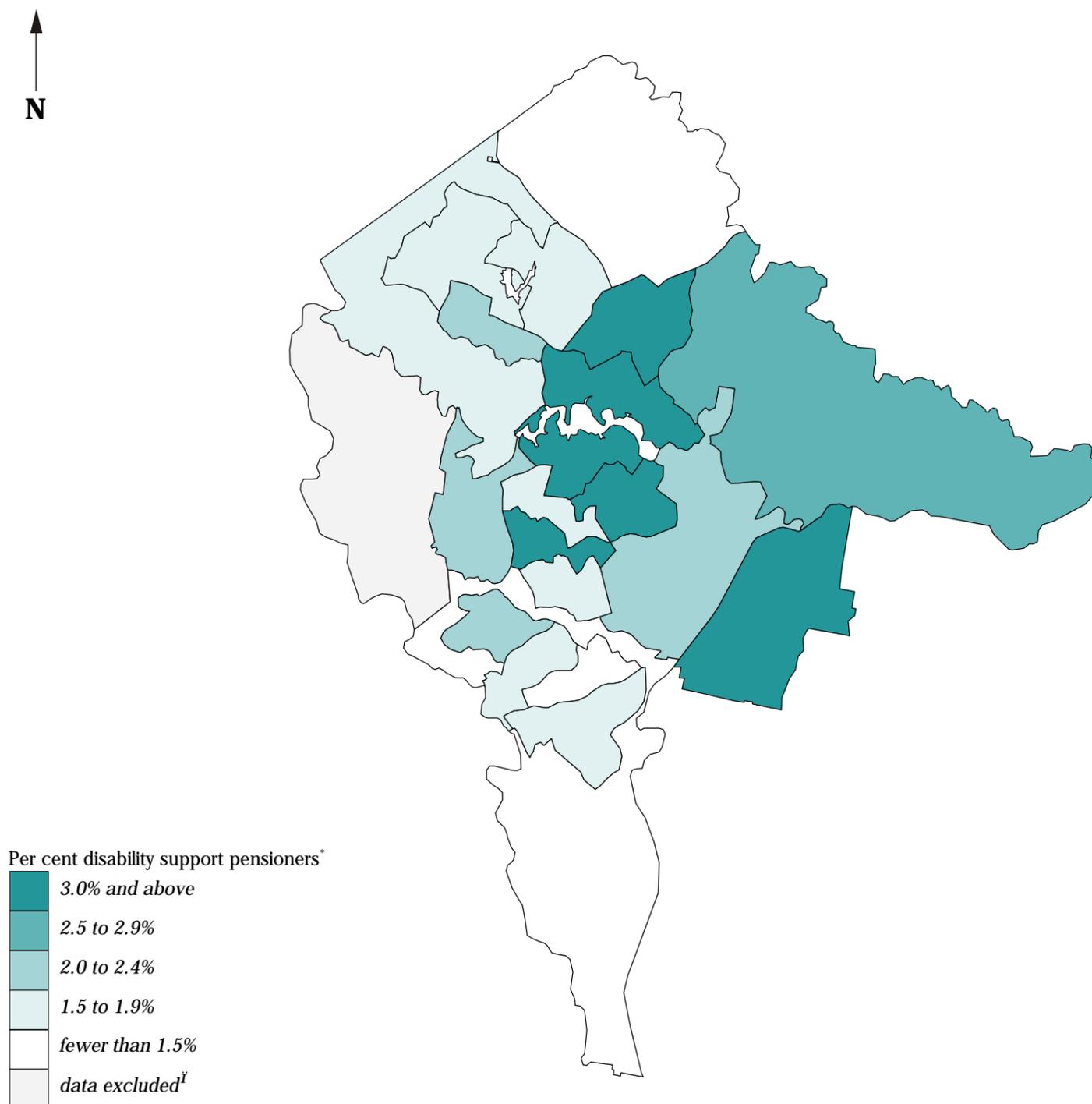
Correlations of statistical significance were recorded with the variables for private dwellings without a vehicle (0.71), low income families (0.59), public rental housing (0.56) and people aged 65 years and over (0.53). There was an inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the variable for children aged from 0 to 4 years of age (-0.59) and a weaker inverse correlation with the variable for high income families (-0.43). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.48), indicate an association at the SLA level between high rates of disability support pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

In 1996, there were seven people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension in the ACT-Balance Statistical Subdivision, 2.9 per cent of the eligible population.

Map 4.2

Disability support pensioners*, Canberra-Queanbeyan, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each area[#]



*Includes the Age Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Service Pension (Age) paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs

[#]SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

[†]Data have been excluded when the population of the area is less than 100

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Female sole parent pensioners, 30 June

Capital city comparison

People eligible for a Sole Parent Pension paid by the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) comprise female and male sole parents who have at least one child under 16 years of age (who meets certain qualifications, or attracts a child disability allowance). The majority (93.6 per cent) of sole parent pensioners at 30 June 1996 were females, of whom some eighty per cent were between the ages of 20 and 44 years. Only female sole parent pensioners have been mapped because they comprise such a large proportion of all sole parent pensioners.

In 1996, 5.5 per cent of the *All capitals* female population living in the capital cities and aged from 15 to 54 years were in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension (**Table 4.4**). Proportions varied little from the *All capitals* figure, ranging from 7.2 per cent in **Hobart** to 4.8 per cent in **Canberra**. Comparisons with the 1989 figures show that there has been an increase in the proportion of female sole parent pensioners, rising from 4.1 per cent. The largest increase was recorded in **Melbourne** (up by 47.1 per cent), with increases of around one third in all other capital cities excepting **Darwin** and **Hobart**.

Table 4.4: Female sole parent pensioners, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	5.2	5.0	6.0	6.6	6.0	7.2	6.8	4.8	5.5
1989	4.0	3.4	4.6	5.1	4.6	6.2	6.3	3.7	4.1

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Canberra-Queanbeyan

In 1989, there were 3,558 females in receipt of the sole parent pension in **Canberra-Queanbeyan**, 3.7 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 59 years. By 1996 this figure had risen (by 41.5 per cent) to 5,034 females, 4.8 per cent.

Postcodes

Three postcode areas in **Canberra-Queanbeyan** had more than 6.0 per cent of females aged 15 to 59 years in receipt of a sole parent pension (**Map 4.3**). The highest proportions were in Canberra South (6.8 per cent), Kambah (6.4 per cent) and Queanbeyan (6.2 per cent and 519 females). Slightly lower rates were recorded in Canberra North, Tuggeranong North West and Tuggeranong South East (all with 5.9 per cent), Belconnen West (5.5 per cent) and Belconnen (Balance) (5.3 per cent).

Canberra Central (4.5 per cent) and Tuggeranong South (4.3 per cent) were the only postcode areas in the middle range mapped.

Over a third of postcode areas in **Canberra-Queanbeyan** had between 3.0 and 3.9 per cent of females aged from 15 to 59 years in receipt of a Sole Parent Pension. These included Belconnen South (3.9 per cent), Eastern Fringe (3.7 per cent but accounting for just 12 females) and Woden Central, Belconnen North and Weston Creek (all with 3.6 per cent). Tuggeranong North East had the lowest rate in this range (3.2 per cent).

The lowest proportions were recorded in Woden North (2.7 per cent) and Kowen/Majura (with 2.9 per cent, and accounting for just three female pensioners).

The largest numbers of women receiving the sole parent pension were in Belconnen West (720 females), Tuggeranong South East (567 females), Queanbeyan (519 females), Canberra North (458 females) and Kambah (368 females).

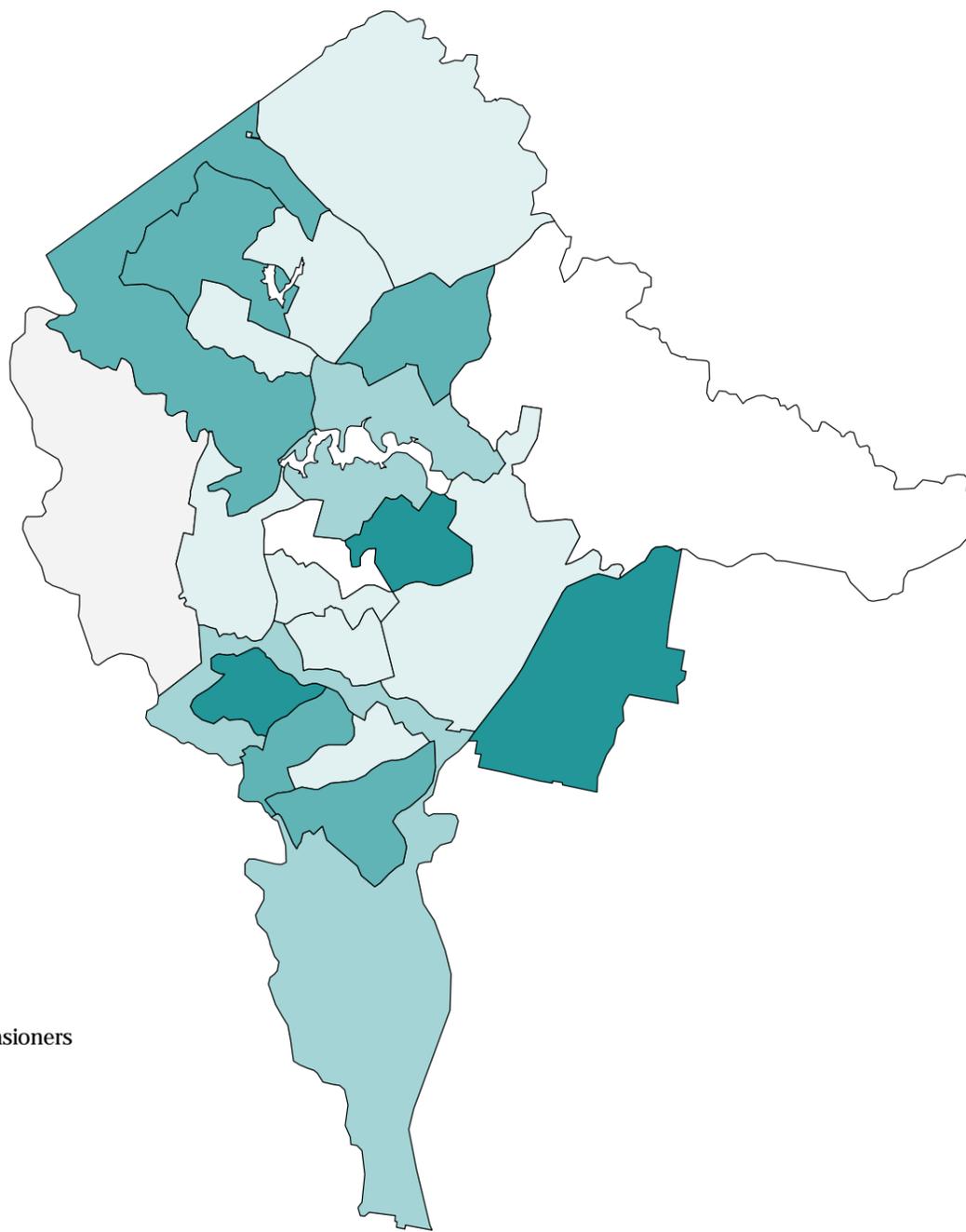
There was a correlation of substantial significance with the variable for single parent families (0.79) and correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with the variables for low income families (0.53) and the Indigenous population (0.51). These results, together with the weak inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.38), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high rates of female sole parent pensioners and socioeconomic disadvantage.

In 1996, there were six females in receipt of the Sole Parent Pension in the ACT-Balance Statistical Subdivision, 5.9 per cent of the female population aged from 15 to 54 years.

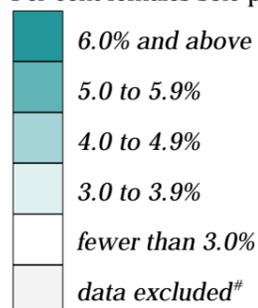
Map 4.3

Female sole parent pensioners, Canberra-Queanbeyan, 1994

as a percentage of all females aged 15 to 54 years in each area*



Per cent females sole parent pensioners



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

#Data have been excluded when the population of the area is less than 100

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People receiving an unemployment benefit, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

People receiving an unemployment benefit, as described below, are shown as a percentage of the eligible population (of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years), rather than as a percentage of the labour force as is usually the case. This approach has been adopted as the intention in this section is to examine the spatial pattern of distribution of income support payments.

The data mapped are the proportion of the population receiving 'unemployment benefits': it includes the Youth Training Allowance (YTA) and Newstart Allowance (NSA) paid by DFACS. The 792 residents of the capital cities and other major urban centres in the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) schemes in 1998 have also been included (see page 49 for details of the CDEP).

In 1996, 5.4 per cent of the eligible population, as defined above, were in receipt of an unemployment benefit, varying from 5.0 per cent in **Canberra** to 8.2 per cent in **Hobart** (Table 4.5). Over the period from 1989 to 1996, the proportion of the population receiving an unemployment benefit has increased considerably across Australia and in each of the capital cities. The largest increase was evident in **Melbourne**, where the proportion increased from 1.9 per cent in 1989 to 6.9 per cent in 1996.

Table 4.5: People receiving an unemployment benefit, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	5.4	6.9	6.6	8.0	6.2	8.2	7.5	5.0	5.4
1989	2.8	1.9	3.0	4.2	2.7	5.3	5.7	2.0	2.7

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Canberra-Queanbeyan

In 1989, there were 4,140 people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in **Canberra-Queanbeyan**, 2.0 per cent of the population (aged from 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females). By 1996, the number was over two and a half times larger, 11,053 people, and the proportion had increased similarly, to 5.0 per cent. Despite the increases, **Canberra-Queanbeyan** had the lowest *All Capitals* proportion of people receiving an unemployment benefit in 1996. There were no people involved in CDEP schemes in **Canberra-Queanbeyan**.

Queanbeyan had 1,128 people in receipt of an unemployment benefit in 1996, 6.1 per cent of the eligible population. In 1989, the figures were 550 people and 3.1 per cent, respectively.

Postcodes

Most postcode areas with proportions in the top two ranges mapped formed a band from east to west in the northern portion of **Canberra**, with the southern areas having less than 5.0 per cent of unemployment beneficiaries (Map 4.4).

In addition to Queanbeyan, three postcode areas had over 6.0 per cent of their eligible population in receipt of an unemployment benefit: they were Woden Central (7.4 per cent), Canberra Central (6.8 per cent) and Canberra North (6.7 per cent).

Canberra South (5.9 per cent), Kowen/Majura (5.7 per cent, but accounting for just 17 people), Belconnen West (5.2 per cent), Belconnen South (5.1 per cent) and Belconnen (Balance) in the north west (5.1 per cent accounting for just 28 people) had rates in the second highest range mapped.

Postcode areas with proportions in the middle range mapped included Kambah (4.8 per cent), Tuggeranong North West (4.5 per cent) and Tuggeranong South East (4.3 per cent) in the south and Belconnen North (4.3 per cent) in the north of **Canberra**.

Tuggeranong North East (2.5 per cent) was the only area with less than 3.0 per cent of its eligible population in receipt of an unemployment benefit. Low proportions were also recorded in Tuggeranong South (3.2 per cent), Gungahlin-Hall (3.5 per cent) and Woden North (3.8 per cent).

The largest numbers of people receiving an unemployment benefit were recorded in Belconnen West (1,453 people) and Canberra North (1,115 people). Canberra Central, Tuggeranong South East and Belconnen North had 975, 830 and 712 females respectively in this category.

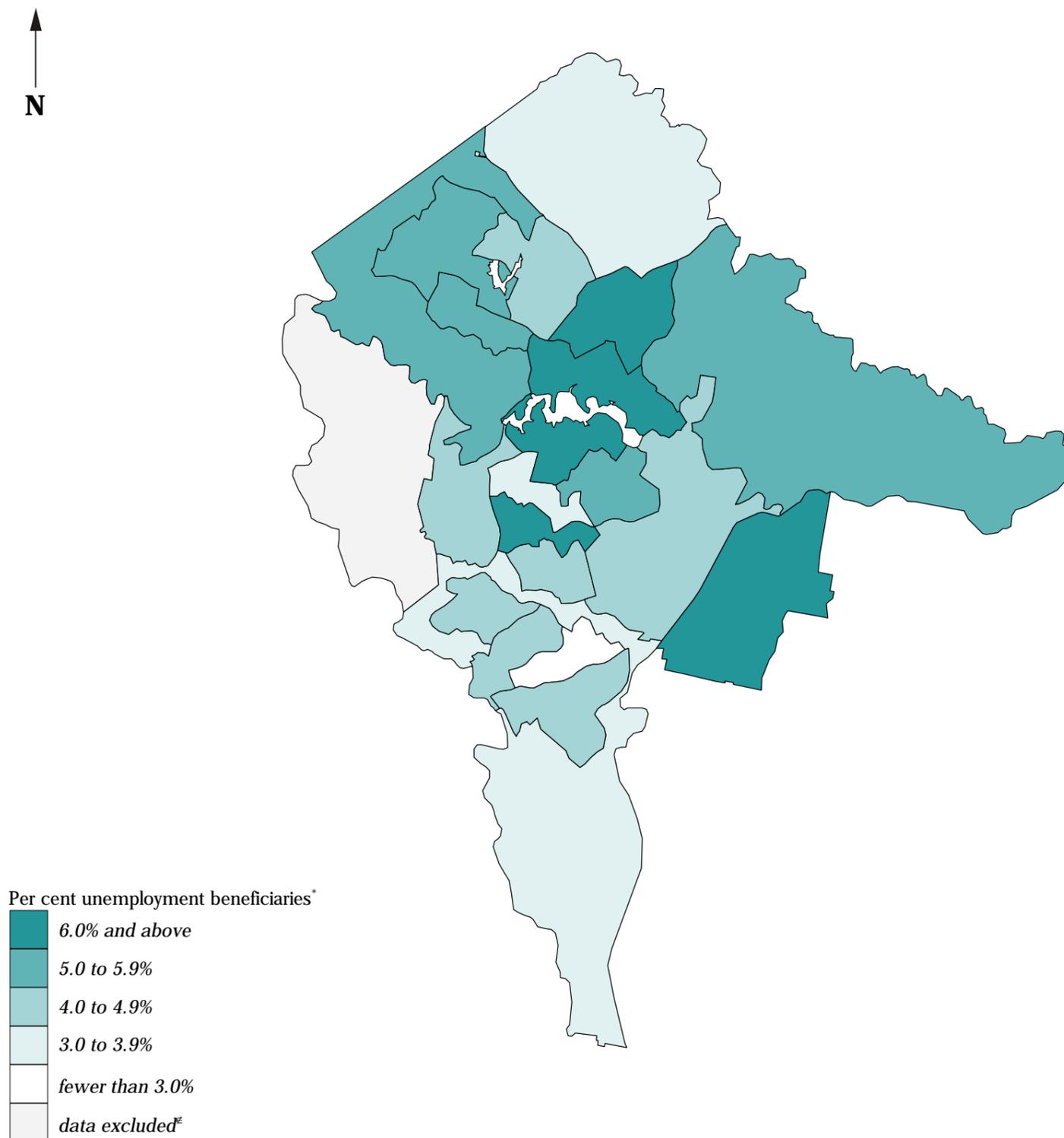
Correlations of meaningful significance were recorded for the variables for private dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.66), public rental housing (0.62) and low income families (0.59). There was an inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the variable for children aged from 0 to 4 years (-0.52). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.47), indicate an association at the SLA level between high rates of people in receipt of unemployment benefits and socioeconomic disadvantage.

In 1996, 13 people (5.4 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64 years for males and 15 to 59 years for females) in the ACT-Balance Statistical Subdivision were receiving an unemployment benefit.

Map 4.4

Unemployment beneficiaries*, Canberra-Queanbeyan, 1996

as a percentage of males aged 15 to 64 years and females aged 15 to 59 years in each area[#]



*Includes people in receipt of Newstart Allowance, the Youth Training Allowance and those covered by the Community Development Employment program

[#]SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

[‡]Data have been excluded when the population of the area is less than 100

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, 30 June 1996

Capital city comparison

Dependent children aged under 16 years and living in families receiving an income support payment or the family payment (at above the minimum rate) from the Department of Family and Community Services (DFACS) have been mapped as a percentage of all children aged under 16 years. Families included are those receiving the DFACS age, Disability Support and Sole Parent Pensions; Youth Training or Newstart Allowances; sickness and special benefits; and the family allowance payment (the explanatory notes on page 49 contain more detail). Families receiving these pension and benefit types represent the majority of families reliant on government welfare payments for their main source of income, or with wage earners on low incomes.

In 1989, 24.3 per cent of children aged under 16 years (554,177 children) were living in families receiving income support (**Table 4.6**). By 1996, the proportion had increased to 39.2 per cent and the number had risen to just under one million (968,923 children). While the number of children has risen by a substantial 56.8 per cent, their proportion of the population aged under 16 years has risen by 61.3 per cent. This indicates that the growth in the proportion of children in this welfare dependent population is outstripping the growth of the total population of this age. This trend was evident across all capital cities, with the biggest increases occurring in **Melbourne** (almost double the 1989 proportion), **Canberra** and **Sydney** and the smallest in **Darwin** and **Hobart**. **Canberra** recorded the lowest proportion in both 1989 (17.7 per cent) and 1996 (28.1 per cent).

Table 4.6: Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All Capitals
1996	37.2	38.0	43.7	45.6	39.4	45.5	40.3	28.1	39.2
1989	23.2	20.0	30.2	31.2	26.4	34.7	29.9	17.7	24.3

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Canberra-Queanbeyan

Both the number and proportion of dependent children aged from 0 to 15 years in **Canberra-Queanbeyan** have increased considerably since 1989. In 1989, the number of dependent children in families receiving an income support payment was 12,583; this had increased (by 75.1 per cent) to 22,029 in 1996. The proportions increased from 17.7 per cent to 28.1 per cent, respectively, of the population aged under 16 years.

In 1996, there were of 2,334 dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries in Queanbeyan, 35.4 per cent of the population aged under 16 years.

Postcodes

Woden Central (35.8 per cent) was the only postcode area, apart from Queanbeyan, with more than 35.0 per cent of children aged under 16 years living in families receiving income support (**Map 4.5**).

Generally, postcode areas with values in the second highest range mapped formed a band across the northern half of **Canberra**, stretching from Belconnen (Balance) (30.9 per cent) in the west to Kowen/Majura (34.6 per cent) in the east. However, these two areas had just 63 and 17 dependent children, respectively. Other postcode areas in this range were Belconnen West (33.8 per cent) and, in the south of **Canberra**, Kambah (33.7 per cent) and Tuggeranong North West (30.9 per cent).

The four postcode areas with proportions in the middle range mapped were Canberra South (29.2 per cent), Tuggeranong South East (28.9 per cent), Belconnen South (28.7 per cent) and Weston Creek (25.1 per cent).

The lowest proportions of dependent children were in Eastern Fringe (16.6 per cent representing just 52 children), Woden North (17.8 per cent), Tuggeranong North East (18.4 per cent) and Woden South (19.9 per cent). Slightly higher proportions were recorded in Belconnen North (22.8 per cent) and in the relatively recently established suburbs of Gungahlin-Hall in the north (21.8 per cent) and Tuggeranong South in the south of **Canberra** (21.1 per cent).

The largest numbers of dependent children living in families receiving an income support payment were in the postcode areas of Belconnen West (3,262 children), Tuggeranong South East (3,021 children), Kambah (1,584 children) and Canberra North (1,532 children).

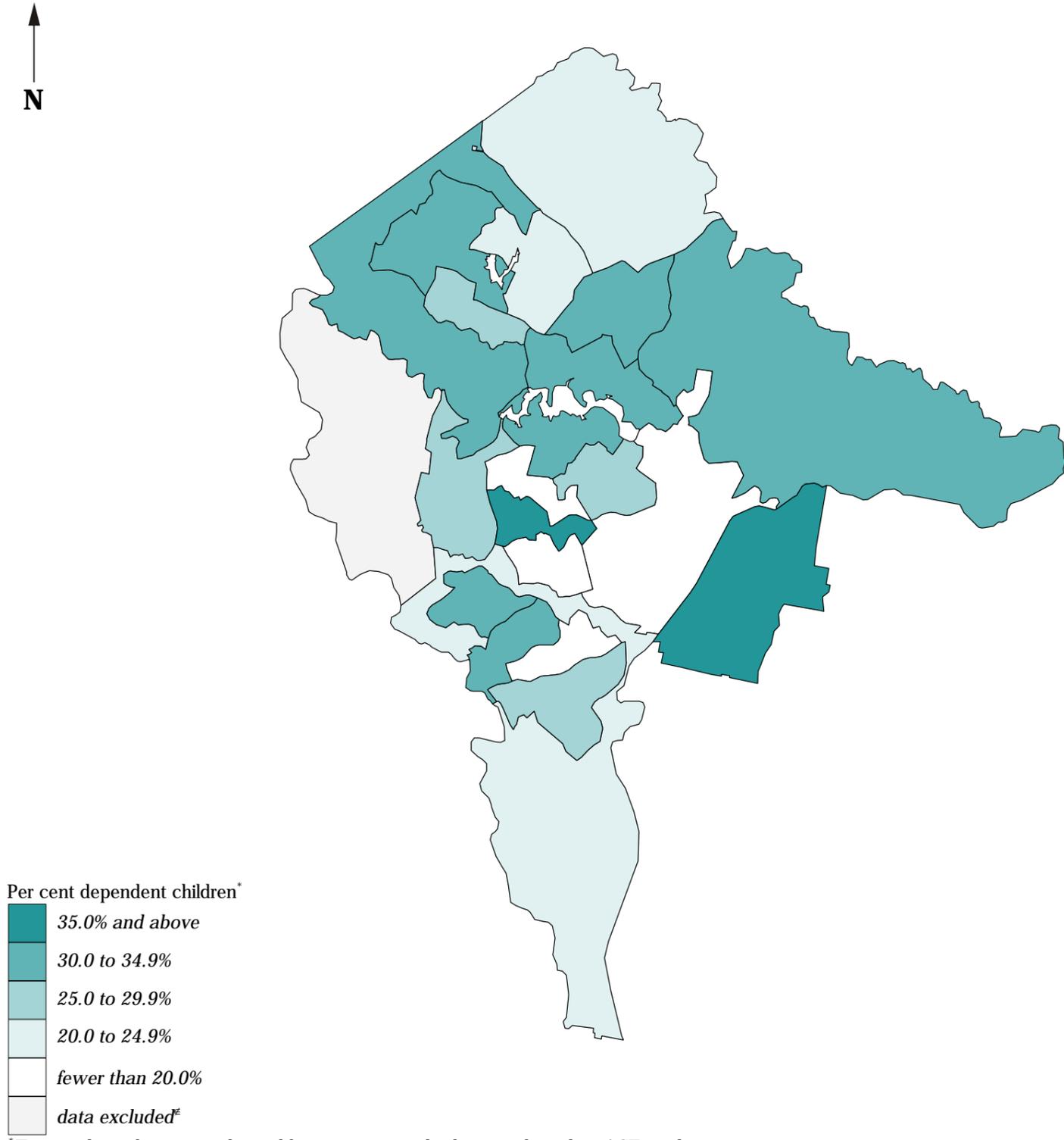
There was a correlation of substantial significance with the variable for public rental housing (0.72), and weaker associations with the variables for single parent families (0.39) and low income families (0.26). These results, together with the weak inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.158), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of children living in families receiving an income support payment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

In 1996, 25 children under 16 years of age in the ACT-Balance Statistical Subdivision were living in families receiving an income support payment (15.6 per cent of the population at these ages).

Map 4.5

Dependent children of selected pensioners and beneficiaries*, Canberra-Queanbeyan, 1996

as a percentage of all children aged from 0 to 15 years in each area #



*Expected numbers were derived by age-sex standardisation, based on ACT totals

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

^eData have been excluded when the population of the area is less than 100

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

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