

10. Burden of Disease

SA Health are currently updating estimates of the burden of disease on the population (see box opposite). The information presented below, for Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy, is from an earlier analysis based on data for 1999 to 2001. The updated estimates are expected to be available early in 2009.

These estimates combine information on deaths and non-fatal (disease and injury) outcomes, to provide two broad summary measures of population health, namely health expectancies and health gaps (43).

Health expectancies are expressed as Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy (HALE), an indicator of the number of years a newborn can expect to live in good health, if current population trends of disease and disability persist. Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy is useful in making comparisons over time, as it takes into account changes in the extent of disability within the population (42).

Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy, males, 1999 to 2001

Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy was lower for males than for females in both metropolitan regions and country South Australia, although there were only small differences, by sex, within the metropolitan regions and country South Australia (Table 10.1).

The Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy for males living in country South Australia was 0.7 years lower than for their counterparts in the metropolitan regions. Across the State, there were large regions with particularly low Health-Adjusted Life Expectancies. However, the Burden of Disease areas⁴ with the lowest scores were less densely populated than other areas.

Table 10.1: Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy, by Burden of Disease (BoD) area, South Australia, 1999 to 2001

Health Region	Males	Females	RR M:F ¹
Central Northern	69.7	74.7	0.93
Southern Adelaide	70.4	75.6	0.93
Metropolitan Adelaide (excl. Gawler)	69.9	75.0	0.93
Hills	72.6	76.6	0.95
Southern	72.5	76.1	0.95
Mallee	67.3	75.2	0.89
Hills Mallee Southern	70.8	76.1	0.93
Gawler and Barossa	70.7	74.4	0.95
Balance of Wakefield	69.4	74.6	0.93
Wakefield	69.9	74.7	0.94
Mount Gambier and Grant	68.6	74.9	0.92
Upper South East	70.4	75.1	0.94
South East	69.5	75.0	0.93
Northern & Far Western	66.3	71.1	0.93
Eyre	68.8	74.4	0.92
Mid North	68.6	73.6	0.93
Riverland	68.2	74.0	0.92
Country South Australia (incl. Gawler)	69.2	74.5	0.93

¹ RR M:F is the ratio of the rate for males to that for females

Metropolitan Adelaide

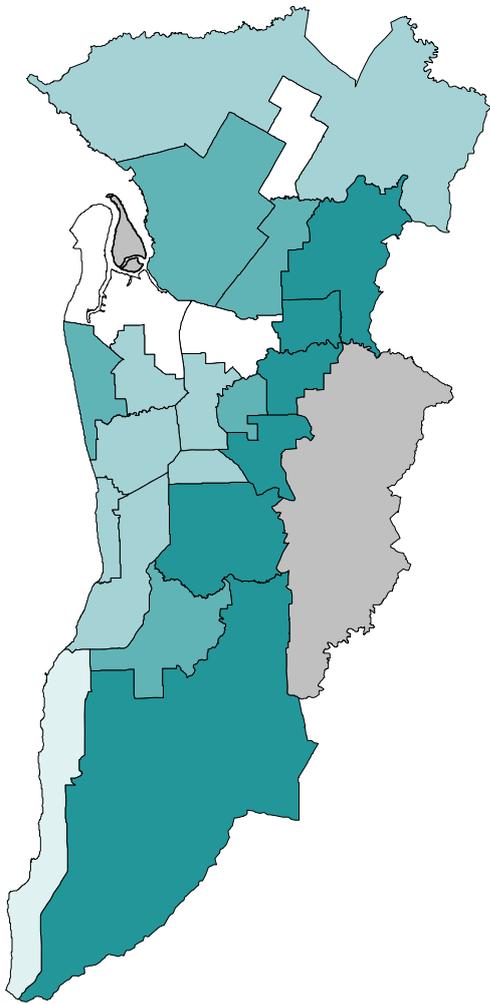
The highest Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy was in the areas to the east, north-east and south-east of the city centre. The lowest was in the outer north, in Playford - Elizabeth, and in the middle northern and north-western Burden of Disease areas of Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast/Port and Port Adelaide Enfield - East/Inner (Map 10.1).

Country SA

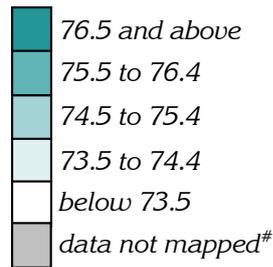
The lowest Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy in country South Australia was calculated for Northern & Far Western region (66.3 years), being 2.9 years lower than that for country South Australia overall (Map 10.2). This was followed by Riverland (68.2 years), Mid North (68.6 years), Eyre (68.8 years), South East (69.5 years), Wakefield (69.9 years) and Hills Mallee Southern (70.8 years).

⁴ Burden of Disease areas are comprised of aggregations of SLAs, with aggregation necessary because of the relatively small numbers of cases used in making these calculations

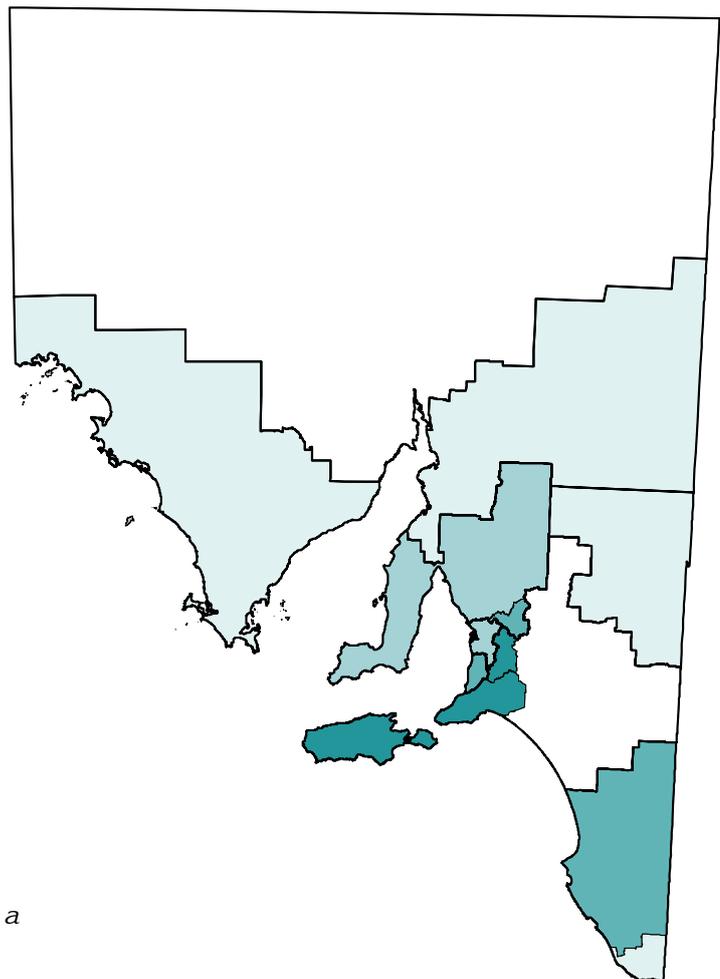
Map 10.1 and Map 10.2: Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy, males, Metropolitan Adelaide and country SA, 1999 to 2001



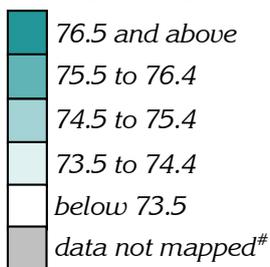
HALE (years), by Burden of Disease area



[#] Data not mapped because the BoD area has a population of less than 100



HALE (years), by Burden of Disease area



[#] Data not mapped because the BoD area has a population of less than 100

This page intentionally left blank