

List of indicators

Topic	Indicator	Page
Population demographics:		
	Distribution of children and young people – current and projected	66
	Aboriginal children and young people	72
Socioeconomic status:		
	Children living in jobless families	76
	Children living in welfare-dependent and other low income families	78
	Summary measure of socioeconomic status	80
Education participation and outcomes:		
	Participation in	
	- preschool	82
	- primary	84
	- secondary education	86
	Childhood development – the Australian Early Development Index	89
	- Physical health and wellbeing	90
	- Social competence	94
	- Emotional maturity	96
	- Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	98
	- Communication skills and general knowledge	100
	Reading and numeracy for children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in government schools - the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy	103
	- reading outcomes, Year 3 students	108
	- numeracy outcomes, Year 3 students	110
	- reading outcomes, Year 5 students	112
	- numeracy outcomes, Year 5 students	114
	- reading outcomes, Year 7 students	116
	- numeracy outcomes, Year 7 students	118
	- reading outcomes, Year 9 students	120
	- numeracy outcomes, Year 9 students	122
	Early school leavers	124
	Full-time participation in secondary school education at age 16	126
	Young people aged 19 years who have completed Year 12 or equivalent	128
	Participation in vocational education	130
	Young people learning or earning	132
Use of services by children and young people		
	Internet access at home for children and young people	134
	Hospital admissions	136
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service clients	138
Community strength and capacity		
	Active parental involvement with school activities	140
Children and young people at risk:		
	Risk of poor pregnancy outcome	142
	Smoking in pregnancy	144
	Four year old children who are overweight or obese	146
	Substantiations of notifications of child abuse or neglect	152
	Poor dental health of 12 year old children	154
	Children and young people with a disability	156

Distribution of children and young people – current and projected

Knowing the geographic distribution of children and young people is important for the planning and provision of current and future early childhood, education, health, disability and welfare services.

Indicator definition: children and young people (0 to 24 years), current estimated resident population and projected population.

Key points

- The outer (Northern and Southern) regions have the highest percentages of the metropolitan population in the age groups under 20 years, with a more even distribution of the population aged 20 to 24 years, other than the Eastern Region, with a higher percentage in this age group. The distribution in 2025 is projected to be similar, although the overall share of Adelaide's population at these ages is projected to be lower, and the share of the 20 to 24 year age group in Southern Adelaide to have declined the most.
- A similar situation occurs in country South Australia, although the declines are expected to be larger.

Background

In 2008, almost one third (31.7%) of South Australia's population was estimated to be aged 0 to 24 years (Table 2). Although the percentage of the population at these ages is projected to decline, in 2025 it is still projected to be 29.1%. Of the 508,391 children and young people aged 0 to 24 years in 2008, 72.2% were residents of Adelaide: this is in line with the percentage of the total population living in Adelaide. The percentage of the population in each of the five-year age groups living in the metropolitan area is projected to decline by the year 2025, with larger declines in the two oldest age groups. In country South Australia, the percentage of the population aged 0 to 24 years is higher than in Adelaide at ages under 19 years, and lower in the 20 to 24 year age group. The population in all of the age groups is projected to decrease through to 2025, and at a greater rate than in the metropolitan area.

Table 2: Population distribution, current and projected, by age, South Australia, 2008 and 2025

Area	2008		2025	
	No.	%	No.	%
Metropolitan Adelaide				
0 to 4 years	65,096	5.8	74,813	5.7
5 to 9 years	63,608	5.6	75,347	5.7
10 to 14 years	67,401	6.0	75,047	5.7
15 to 19 years	75,768	6.7	80,990	6.1
20 to 24 years	86,212	7.6	86,562	6.6
0 to 24 years	358,085	31.7	392,759	29.8
Country South Australia				
0 to 4 years	29,188	6.1	30,886	5.6
5 to 9 years	31,130	6.6	33,097	6.0
10 to 14 years	33,497	7.1	34,189	6.2
15 to 19 years	31,498	6.6	29,796	5.4
20 to 24 years	24,993	5.3	23,252	4.2
0 to 24 years	150,306	31.6	151,220	27.4
SA (0-24 yrs)	508,391	31.7	543,979	29.1

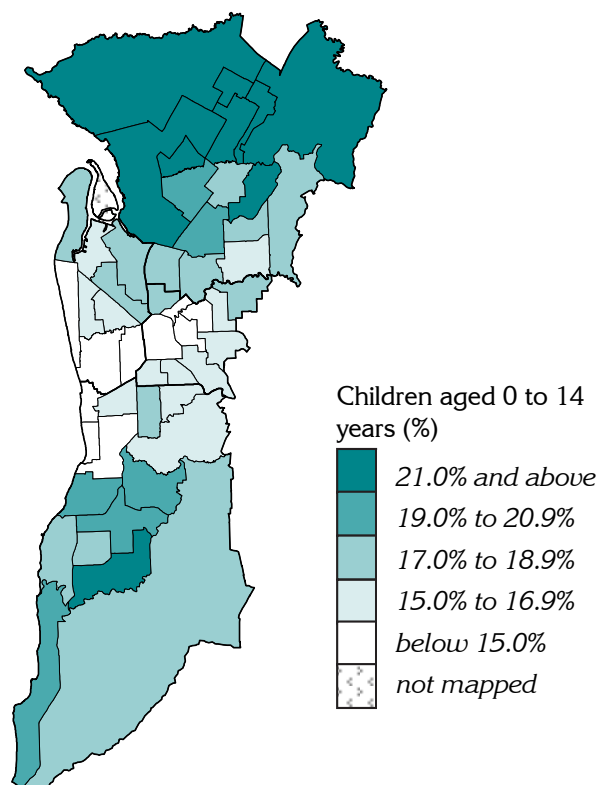
Table 2, below, provides details of the number of children and young people by age group in each State Region, and data are available, on the Internet, of the numbers and percentages in each SLA – see www.publichealth.gov.au.

Geographic variation - current

Adelaide

The outer northern areas generally have the highest percentages of children and young people aged 0 to 14 years, with the highest being in Playford - West Central, - East Central, - West and Salisbury - Inner North (Map 5).

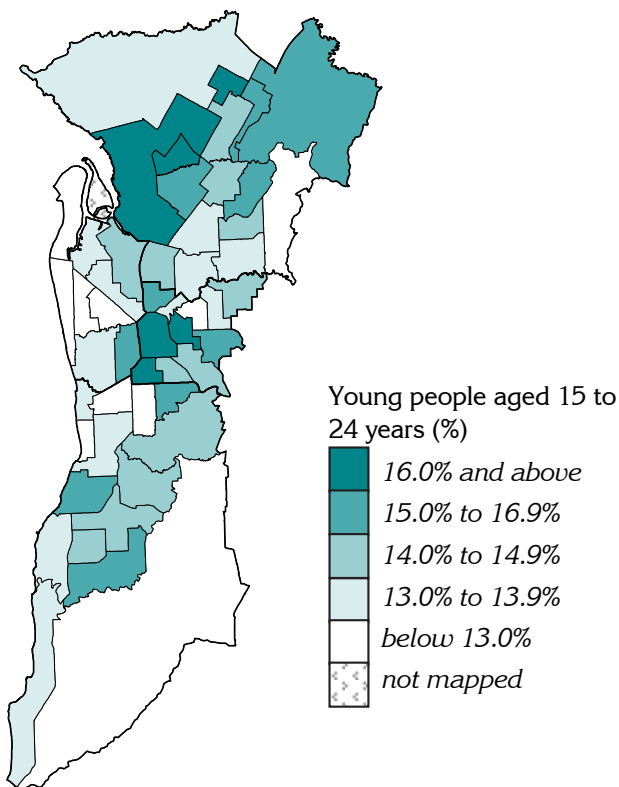
Map 5: Children aged 0 to 14 years, Adelaide, 2008



The lowest percentages in this age group were located in and around the city, in a number of inner eastern and inner and middle western SLAs, including Adelaide, Holdfast Bay - North and - South, and Norwood Payneham St Peters - West.

In contrast to the distribution of the younger population, those aged 15 to 24 years tend to be located closer to the city (in Adelaide, Norwood Payneham St Peters - West and Unley - West), although there are still high percentages in some parts of the outer north (in Playford - West Central, - East Central and - Hills; and Salisbury - Inner North, - Balance and - Central) (**Map 6**). The lowest percentages were found in pockets throughout Adelaide, most notably in the north-west, inner south and south-west (in Holdfast - South, Charles Sturt - Coastal, - Inner East and - Inner West, Marion - North, Mitcham - West, Tea Tree Gully - Hills, Norwood Payneham St Peters - West and Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast).

Map 6: Young people aged 15 to 24 years, Adelaide, 2008

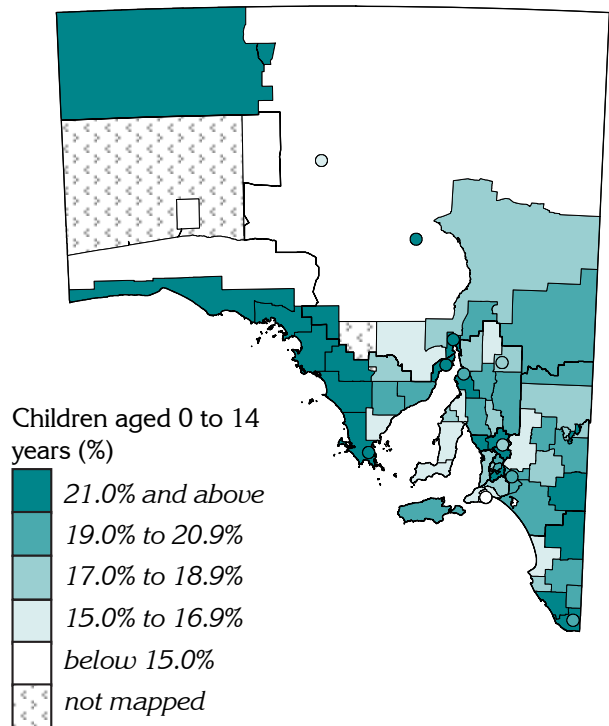


Country South Australia

In country South Australia, the highest percentages of the population aged 0 to 14 years were found in SLAs located mainly in the remote north-west (in Anangu Pitjantjatjara) and west coast of the Eyre Peninsula (in Unincorporated West Coast, Ceduna, Le Hunte and Elliston); in the towns of Roxby Downs, Port Augusta and Whyalla; and close to the metropolitan area (in Mount Barker - Central, Mallala, Barossa) (**Map 7**).

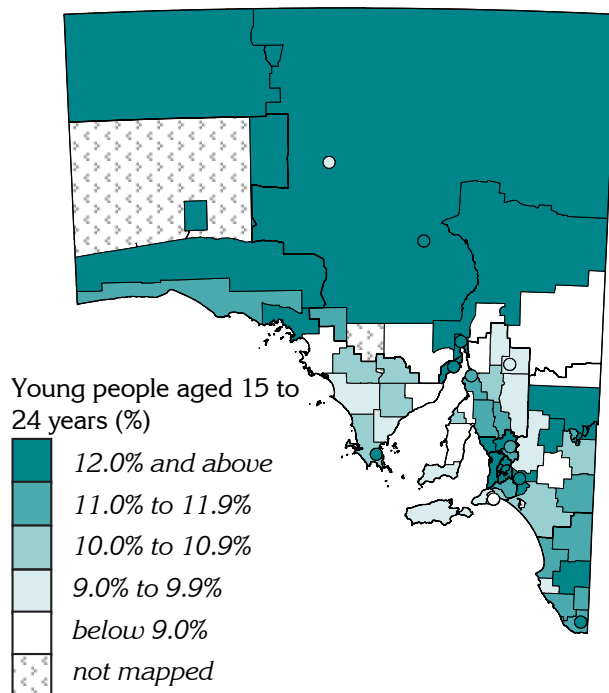
Relatively low percentages were recorded in the northern SLAs of Unincorporated Far North and Coober Pedy, as well as in Victor Harbor.

Map 7: Children aged 0 to 14 years, South Australia, 2008



High percentages of the population aged from 15 to 24 years were found in Unincorporated Riverland, and across much of the Far North, including Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Whyalla and Port Augusta (**Map 8**).

Map 8: Young people aged 15 to 24 years, South Australia, 2008



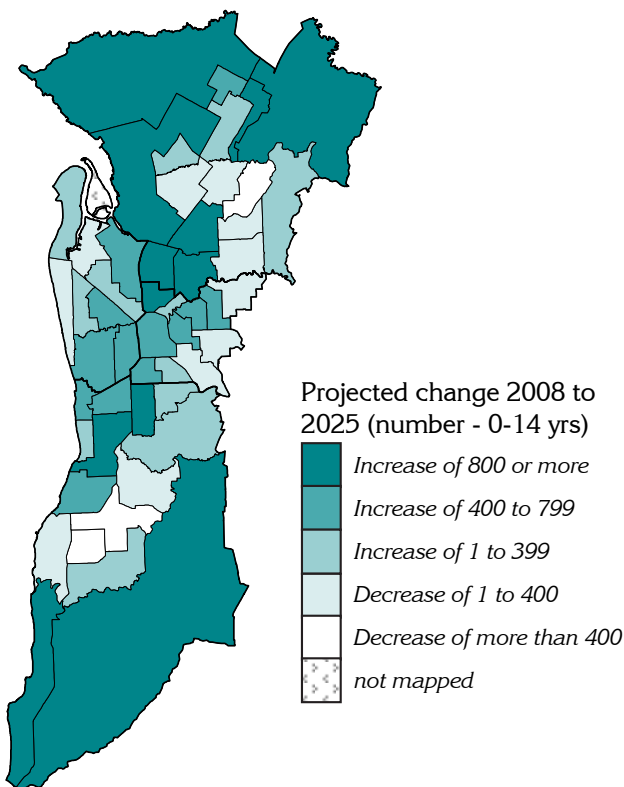
SLAs with low percentages of the population in this age group were spread across the State, with the lowest in Yorke Peninsula - North, Franklin Harbour, Victor Harbor, Barunga West and Karoonda East Murray.

Geographic variation - projected

Adelaide

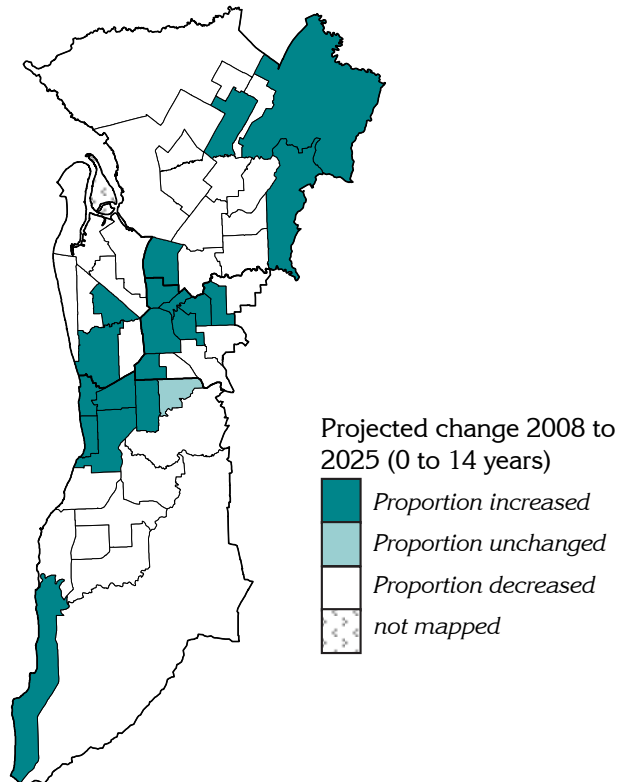
The number of children and young people aged 0 to 14 years is projected to increase over the 17 years to 2025 by more than 800 in a number of northern and outer northern, and south-western and outer southern, SLAs (**Map 9**). These areas include Salisbury Balance and - South-East, Onkaparinga - South Coast, Playford - West, Port Adelaide Enfield - East and - Inner and Marion - Central. Decreases in the number of people in this age category are expected in the SLAs of Onkaparinga - Woodcroft and - Morphett, Tea Tree Gully - North and - South and Salisbury - Central.

Map 9: Projected change in the number of children aged 0 to 14 years, Adelaide, 2008 to 2025



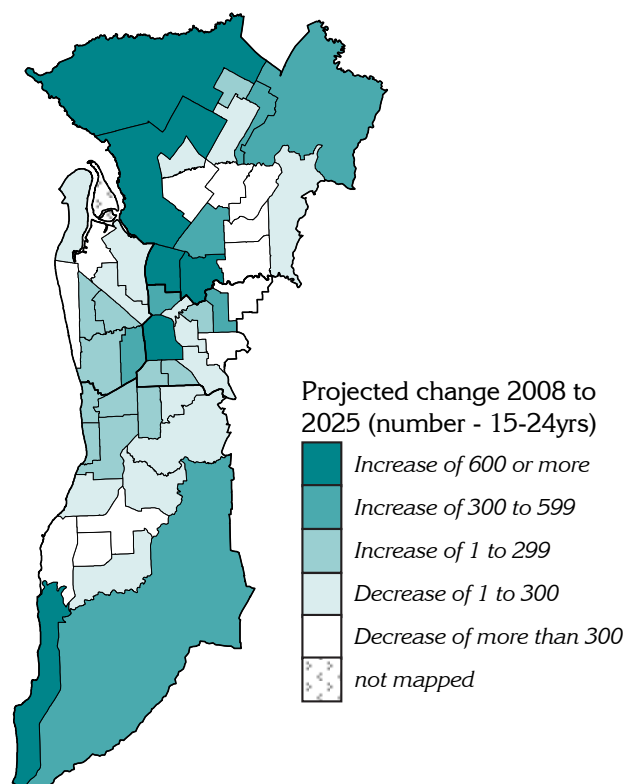
Increases between 2008 and 2025 in the percentage of the population aged 0 to 14 years are projected to occur primarily in the city centre and in selected inner and middle suburbs to the immediate north and north-east, and south-west and west, of the city, as well as in Onkaparinga - South Coast (**Map 10**).

Map 10: Projected change in the percentage of children aged 0 to 14 years, Adelaide, 2008 to 2025



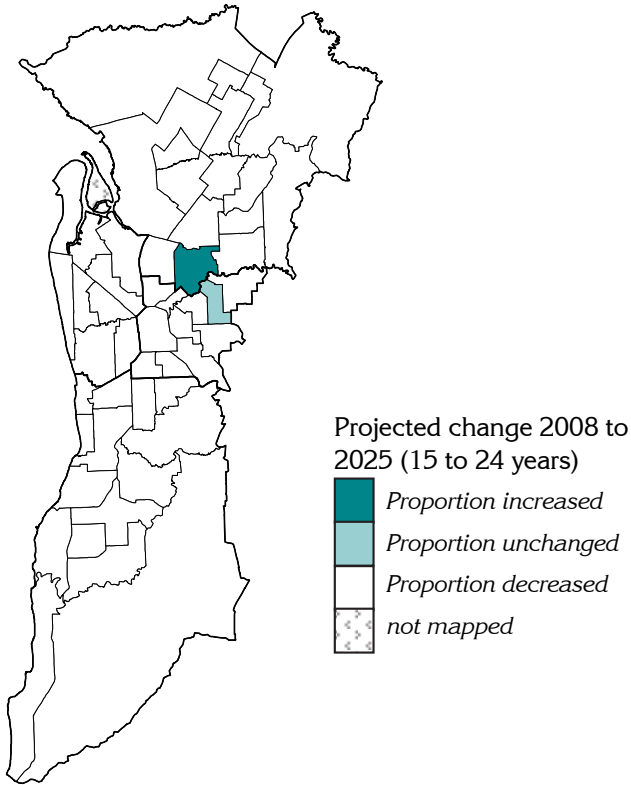
Increases of 600 or more young people aged 15 to 24 years are projected to occur by 2025 in the SLAs of Salisbury Balance, Port Adelaide Enfield - Inner and - East, Adelaide, Onkaparinga - South Coast and Playford - West, (**Map 11**).

Map 11: Projected change in the number of young people aged 15 to 24 years, Adelaide, 2008 to 2025



In contrast to the projected increases at 0 to 14 years (Map 10), the percentage of the population aged 15 to 24 years is projected to decrease in all but two SLAs between 2008 and 2025; these are Port Adelaide Enfield - East and Campbelltown - West (Map 12).

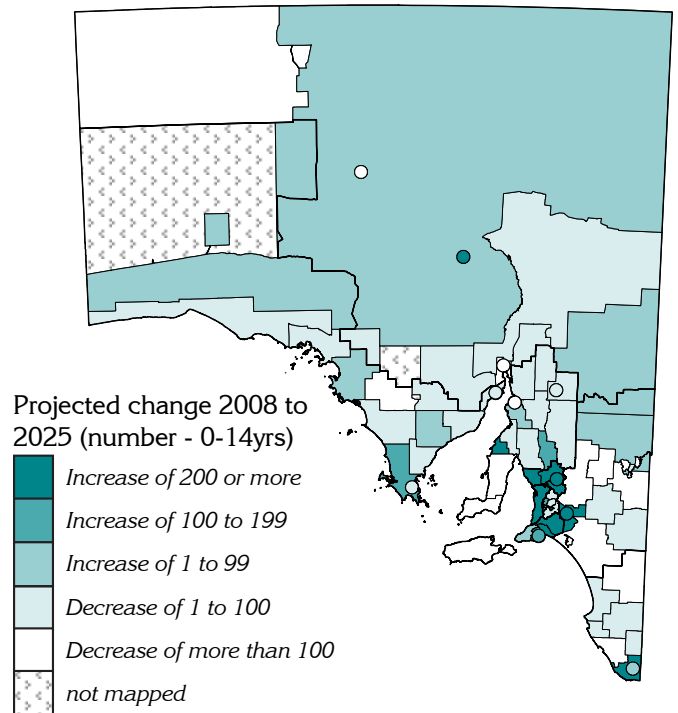
Map 12: Projected change in the percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 years, Adelaide, 2008 to 2025



Country South Australia

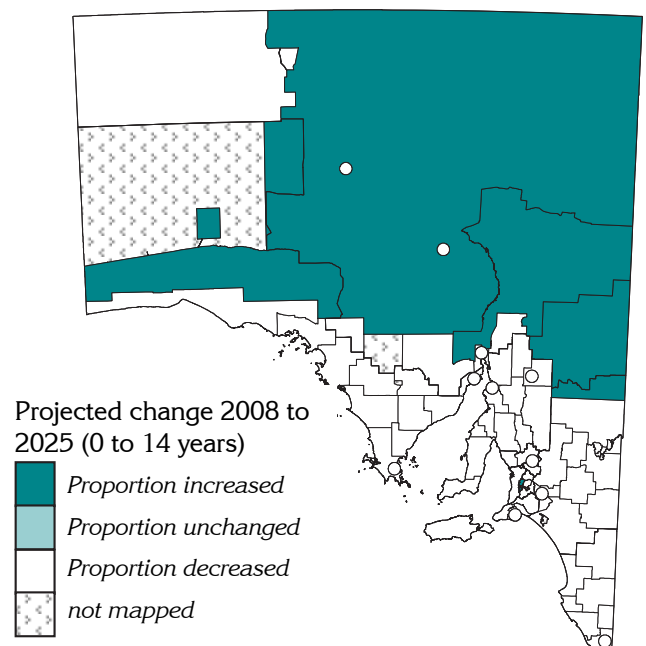
The small increases that are projected in the number of children aged 0 to 14 years over the 17 years to 2025 are largely limited to SLAs located close to metropolitan Adelaide, to the north and north east, and to the south east (Map 13). The only other SLAs with increases of 200 or more are Roxby Downs in the far north, and Grant in the south east.

Map 13: Projected change in the number of children aged 0 to 14 years, South Australia, 2008 to 2025



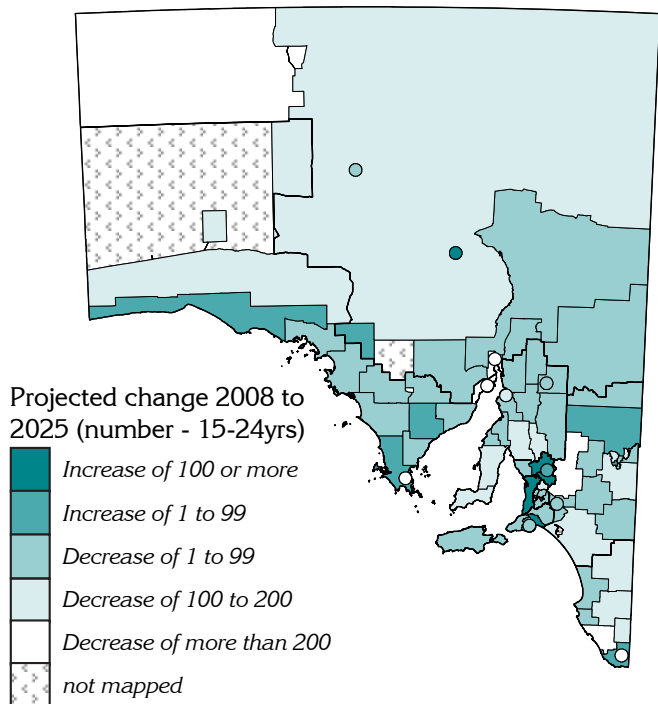
There is a clear geographic demarcation in the projected population change in country South Australia, with expected increases over much of the sparsely-settled far north and west of the State, and decreases elsewhere, other than in Adelaide Hills - Ranges (Map 14).

Map 14: Projected change in the percentage of children aged 0 to 14 years, South Australia, 2008 to 2025



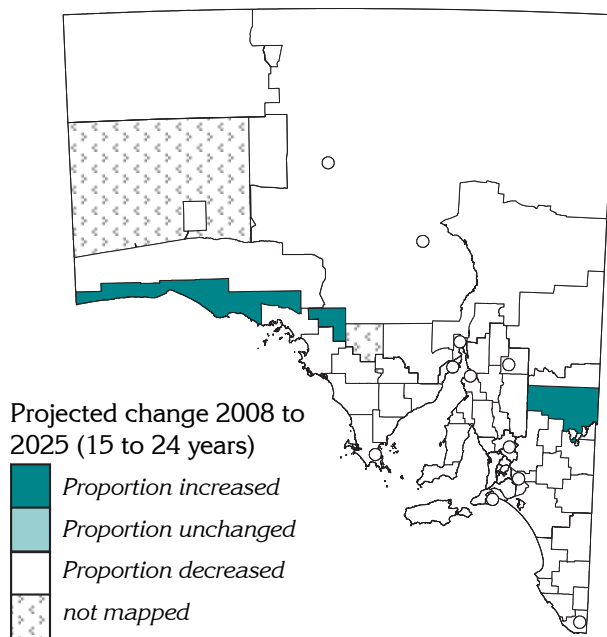
The geographic location of SLAs projected to experience growth, albeit marginal, in the 15 to 24 year age group over the 17 years to 2025 (Map 15), is similar to that for the 0 to 14 year age group (Map 13), although the ranges are half those of the younger age group. In addition, there are fewer areas where the population is projected to decline.

Map 15: Projected change in the number of young people aged 15 to 24 years, South Australia, 2008 to 2025



As seen for young people in metropolitan Adelaide (Map 12), the percentage of the population aged 15 to 24 years in country areas of South Australia is also projected to decrease in almost all areas (Map 16).

Map 16: Projected change in the percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 years, South Australia, 2008 to 2025



Regional totals

Table 3 shows the population in 2008, with projections for 2025, by region, together with percentage of each region's population in the five-year age groups from 0 to 4 to 20 to 24 years.

The number of children and young people is projected to increase in all of the age groups in metropolitan Adelaide, although the projected increase in the 20 to 24 year age group is marginal, at 0.4% (Table 3). At the regional level within metropolitan Adelaide there is, however, considerable variation, with the strongest growth in Northern Adelaide and the least growth in Western Adelaide (Table 4).

In country South Australia, growth is marginal (0.6%) in the 0 to 24 year age group, compared with an increase of 9.7% projected in metropolitan Adelaide, with overall falls projected in the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year age groups, and falls in the population across the age groups in a number of regions (Table 4). However, Barossa, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, and Adelaide Hills are projected to see increases. The largest decreases were projected to occur for the older age groups, with decreases of approximately 25% in both the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 age groups in the Far North, Yorke and Mid North, Murray and Mallee, and Eyre and Western regions.

Table 3: Population distribution, current and projected, by Region and age, South Australia, 2008 and 2025

Region	0-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-19 years		20-24 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2008										
Northern Adelaide	23,934	6.7	23,013	6.4	24,116	6.8	25,126	7.0	26,934	7.5
Western Adelaide	11,534	5.3	11,018	5.1	11,572	5.4	12,839	5.9	15,668	7.2
Eastern Adelaide	10,364	4.9	10,077	4.7	10,799	5.1	14,411	6.7	19,373	9.1
Southern Adelaide	19,264	5.6	19,500	5.7	20,914	6.1	23,392	6.9	24,237	7.1
Metropolitan regions	65,096	5.8	63,608	5.6	67,401	6.0	75,768	6.7	86,212	7.6
Adelaide Hills	4,359	6.3	4,697	6.8	4,991	7.2	5,268	7.7	3,876	5.6
Murray and Mallee	4,215	6.0	4,492	6.4	5,004	7.1	4,585	6.5	3,544	5.1
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	2,235	5.0	2,457	5.5	2,595	5.8	2,604	5.8	1,774	4.0
Limestone Coast	4,242	6.5	4,467	6.8	4,695	7.2	4,279	6.5	3,763	5.8
Barossa	3,907	6.1	4,334	6.8	4,796	7.5	4,615	7.2	3,526	5.5
Yorke and Mid North	4,126	5.5	4,654	6.2	5,283	7.0	4,567	6.1	3,151	4.2
Eyre and Western [#]	3,998	6.9	4,058	7.0	4,153	7.1	3,813	6.6	3,386	5.8
Far North [#]	2,106	7.4	1,971	7.0	1,980	7.0	1,767	6.2	1,973	7.0
Country SA	29,188	6.1	31,130	6.6	33,497	7.1	31,498	6.6	24,993	5.3
South Australia	94,284	5.9	94,738	5.9	100,898	6.3	107,266	6.7	111,205	6.9
2025										
Northern Adelaide	29,148	6.6	28,765	6.5	27,963	6.3	28,279	6.4	28,194	6.3
Western Adelaide	12,387	5.3	12,123	5.2	11,990	5.1	13,026	5.5	14,969	6.4
Eastern Adelaide	11,375	4.6	11,447	4.6	11,744	4.8	15,304	6.2	20,443	8.3
Southern Adelaide	21,903	5.5	23,012	5.8	23,350	5.9	24,381	6.2	22,956	5.8
Metropolitan regions	74,813	5.7	75,347	5.7	75,047	5.7	80,990	6.1	86,562	6.6
Adelaide Hills	4,864	5.9	5,281	6.4	5,473	6.6	5,199	6.3	3,940	4.8
Murray and Mallee	4,044	5.5	4,213	5.8	4,432	6.1	3,909	5.4	3,012	4.1
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	2,715	4.4	3,007	4.9	3,069	5.0	2,638	4.3	1,855	3.0
Limestone Coast	4,223	6.0	4,426	6.3	4,496	6.3	3,898	5.5	3,259	4.6
Barossa	5,046	5.7	5,675	6.4	5,992	6.8	5,589	6.3	4,041	4.6
Yorke and Mid North	4,104	5.1	4,463	5.6	4,857	6.0	3,824	4.8	2,633	3.3
Eyre and Western [#]	3,851	6.2	3,998	6.4	3,973	6.4	3,298	5.3	2,926	4.7
Far North [#]	2,039	6.7	2,034	6.7	1,897	6.2	1,441	4.7	1,586	5.2
Country SA	30,886	5.6	33,097	6.0	34,189	6.2	29,796	5.4	23,252	4.2
South Australia	105,699	5.7	108,444	5.8	109,236	5.8	110,786	5.9	109,814	5.9

See footnotes in the Appendix

Table 4: Change in population between 2008 and 2025, by Region and age, South Australia
Per cent

Region	Age (years)					
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	0-24
Northern Adelaide	21.8	25.0	16.0	12.5	4.7	15.6
Western Adelaide	7.4	10.0	3.6	1.5	-4.5	3.0
Eastern Adelaide	9.8	13.6	8.8	6.2	5.5	8.1
Southern Adelaide	13.7	18.0	11.6	4.2	-5.3	7.7
Metropolitan regions	14.9	18.5	11.3	6.9	0.4	9.7
Adelaide Hills	11.6	12.4	9.7	-1.3	1.7	6.8
Murray and Mallee	-4.1	-6.2	-11.4	-14.7	-15.0	-10.2
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	21.5	22.4	18.3	1.3	4.6	13.9
Limestone Coast	-0.4	-0.9	-4.2	-8.9	-13.4	-5.3
Barossa	29.2	30.9	24.9	21.1	14.6	24.4
Yorke and Mid North	-0.5	-4.1	-8.1	-16.3	-16.4	-8.7
Eyre and Western [#]	-3.7	-1.5	-4.3	-13.5	-13.6	-7.0
Far North [#]	-3.2	3.2	-4.2	-18.4	-19.6	-8.2
Country SA	5.8	6.3	2.1	-5.4	-7.0	0.6
South Australia	12.1	14.5	8.3	3.3	-1.3	7.0

Aboriginal children and young people

The Aboriginal population has a different age structure to the non-Aboriginal population, with much greater percentages of the Aboriginal population found at ages less than 20 years, compared with corresponding percentages in the non-Aboriginal population.

Indicator definition: Aboriginal people aged 0 to 24 years, by age group (0 to 14 years and 15 to 24 years): referred to as Aboriginal people.

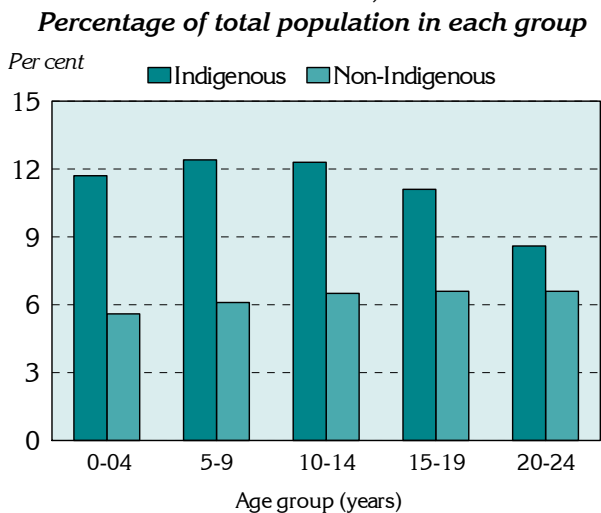
Key points

- The geographic distribution of Aboriginal children aged 0 to 14 years is highly clustered in a relatively small number of SLAs. This is less evident for the 15 to 24 year age group.

Indigenous status by age

The Aboriginal population in each of the five-year age groups less than 15 years represents around 11% to 12% of the total Aboriginal population: for the non-Aboriginal population, the percentages are around half those levels (Figure 4). The differential in the 15 to 19 and (in particular) the 20 to 24 year age group is smaller. Note that, unlike this chart, the following maps and charts show the Aboriginal population as a percentage of the total population.

Figure 4: Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people, by age, South Australia, 2006

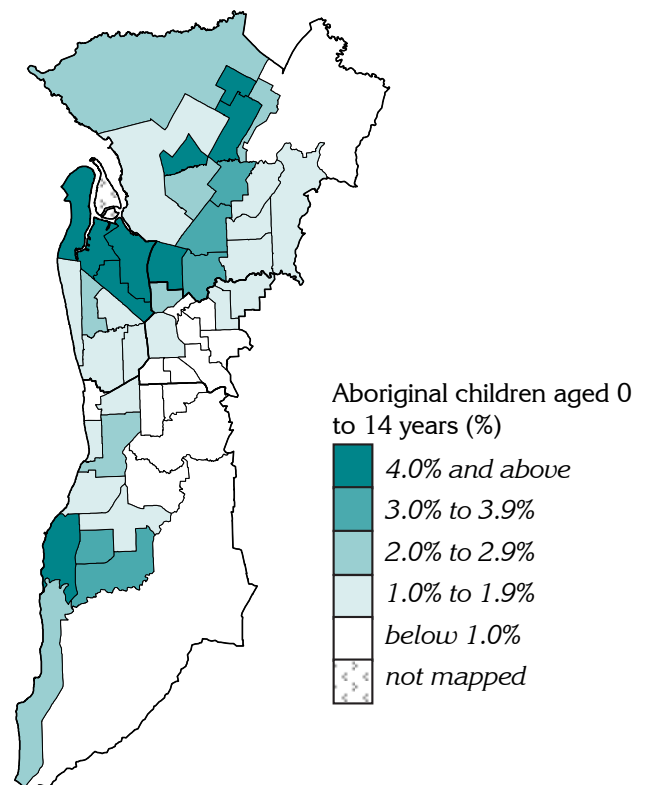


Geographic variation

Adelaide

The distribution of Aboriginal children aged 0 to 14 years, as a percentage of all children at this age, shows a clear spatial pattern (Map 17). The highest rates are in the inner north, north-west, outer north and outer south, with rates above four per cent recorded in Playford - Elizabeth and - West Central, Salisbury - Inner North; Onkaparinga - North Coast; and Port Adelaide Enfield - Port, - Coast, - Park and - Inner. Playford - Elizabeth, with 8.3%, has 55% more Aboriginal children in its population than the next highest area, Port Adelaide Enfield - Port, with 5.4%.

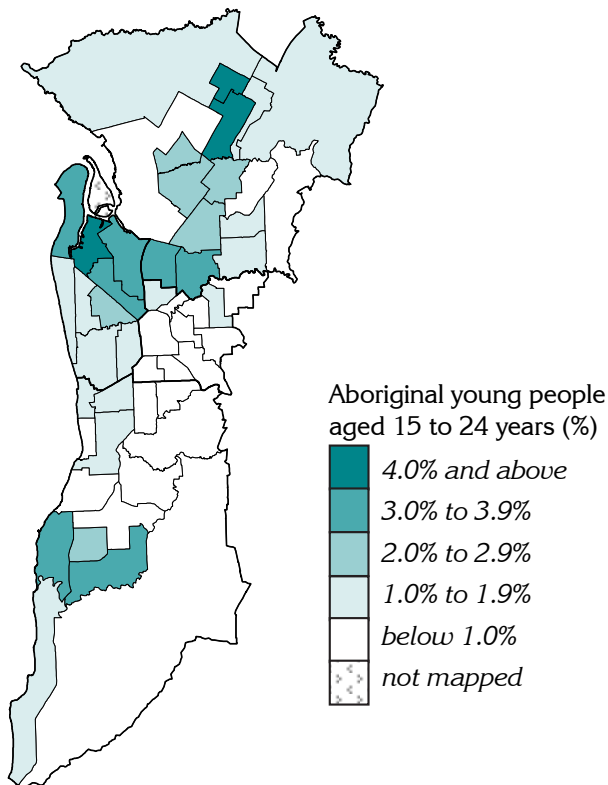
Map 17: Aboriginal children aged 0 to 14 years, Adelaide, 2006



In contrast, areas with low percentages of the population who were Aboriginal were located across much of metropolitan Adelaide, in the city centre and to the east, south, south-east and north-east, as well as in a small number of other SLAs. Those with the very lowest percentages included Mitcham - North-East, Walkerville, Burnside - South-West, and Holdfast Bay - North.

The geographic distribution of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 years is similar to that seen among those aged 0 to 14 years, with the highest concentrations in the inner north, north-west and outer south (Map 18). Again, the highest percentages were recorded in Playford - West Central and Elizabeth, and Port Adelaide Enfield - Port.

Map 18: Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 24 years, Adelaide, 2006

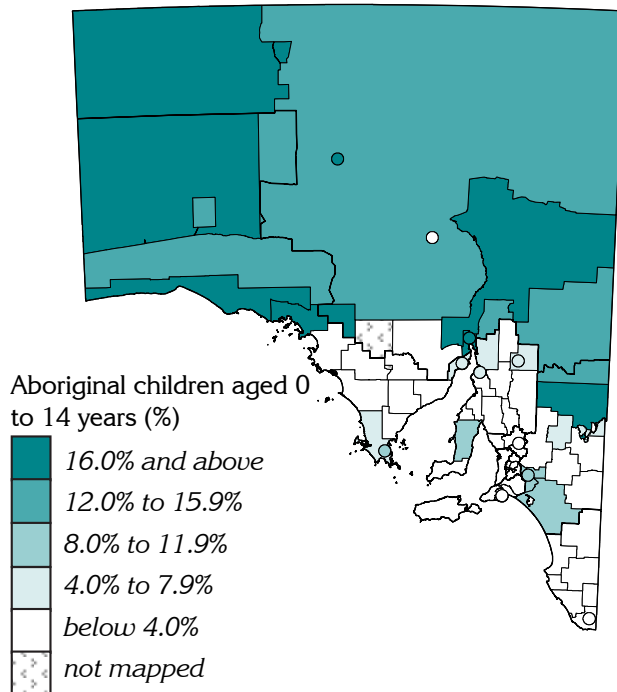


Again, as for the younger age group, areas with low percentages of the population aged 15 to 24 years who were Aboriginal were located across much of metropolitan Adelaide, in the city centre and to the east, south, south-east and north-east, as well as in a small number of other SLAs. Areas with the very lowest percentages include Burnside - North-East, Burnside - South-West, Campbelltown - East, Unley - West and Mitcham - Hills.

Country South Australia

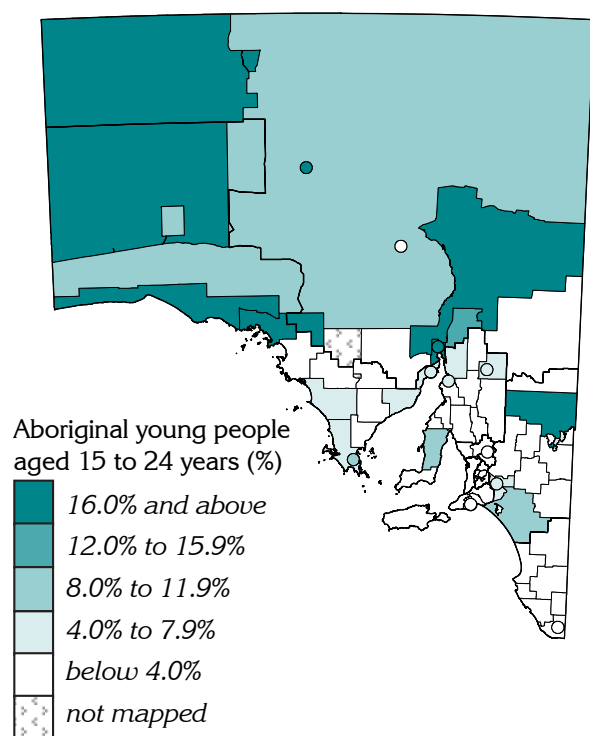
SLAs where Aboriginal children comprised the highest percentage of the population aged 0 to 14 years were found in the remote areas of the State, ranging from 92.4% in Anangu Pitjantjatjara, 86.4% in Unincorporated Riverland, and 60.6% in Unincorporated West Coast, to 37.8% in Ceduna, 26.3% in Coober Pedy and 21.8% in Unincorporated Flinders Ranges (Map 19). The majority of SLAs had comparatively low percentages of children at these ages, including those on Eyre Peninsula, and all SLAs below a line from Port Augusta to the Riverland.

Map 19: Aboriginal children aged 0 to 14 years, South Australia, 2006



Areas in the more remote parts of the State also had the highest percentages of the population at 15 to 24 years of age, with more than 30 per cent of the population identifying as Aboriginal in the SLAs of Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Unincorporated Riverland, Unincorporated West Coast and Ceduna (Map 20). No Aboriginal people at these ages were living in the SLAs of Barossa - Barossa - Tanunda, Goyder, Karoonda East Murray, Kimba, Le Hunte, Orroroo/Carrieton, Unincorporated Whyalla and Unincorporated Pirie.

Map 20: Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 24 years, South Australia, 2006



Regional totals

There were 4,769 children aged 0 to 14 years who identified as being of Aboriginal descent living in country South Australia, representing 5.2% of the population at these ages (Table 5). This was more than twice the corresponding metropolitan figure, of 2.4%. At the regional level, the distribution of Aboriginal children varies considerably, from a very low 0.9% of the population in Eastern Adelaide to 27.6% in Far North.

Table 5: Aboriginal children aged 0 to 14 years, by State Region, 2006

Region	No.	%
Northern Adelaide	2,261	3.3
Western Adelaide	957	2.9
Eastern Adelaide	270	0.9
Southern Adelaide	1,027	1.8
Metropolitan regions	4,515	2.4
Adelaide Hills	140	1.0
Murray and Mallee	800	5.9
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	147	2.1
Limestone Coast	292	2.2
Barossa	236	1.9
Yorke and Mid North	468	3.4
Eyre and Western [#]	1,040	8.8
Far North [#]	1,646	27.6
Country SA	4,769	5.2
South Australia	9,290	3.3

[#] See 'Notes on the data' in the Appendix

The distribution at the regional level of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 years is similar to that shown for the 0 to 14 year age group, with percentages ranging from 0.6% in Eastern Adelaide to 28.3% in Far North (Table 6). Again, the percentage in country South Australia (4.9%) is substantially (2.9 times) greater than that for metropolitan Adelaide (1.7%).

Table 6: Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 24 years, by State Region, 2006

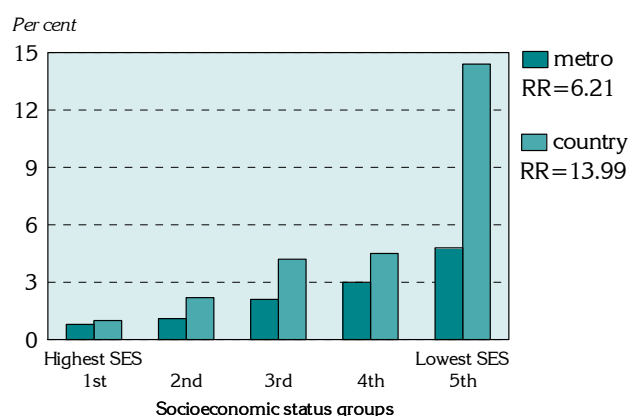
Region	No.	%
Northern Adelaide	1,144	2.4
Western Adelaide	623	2.4
Eastern Adelaide	194	0.6
Southern Adelaide	537	1.2
Metropolitan regions	2,498	1.7
Adelaide Hills	89	1.1
Murray and Mallee	336	4.6
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	75	2.0
Limestone Coast	151	2.0
Barossa	98	1.3
Yorke and Mid North	228	3.3
Eyre and Western [#]	531	8.0
Far North [#]	996	28.3
Country SA	2,504	4.9
South Australia	5,030	2.5

[#] See 'Notes on the data' in the Appendix

Socioeconomic status

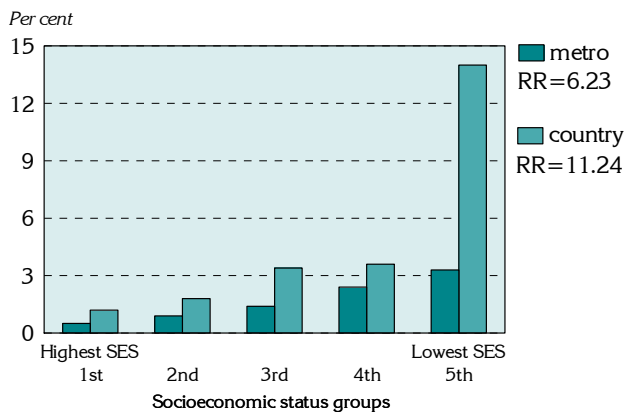
Aboriginal children represent substantially higher percentages of the population in lower socioeconomic status areas, in country South Australia almost 14 (13.99) times the percentage in the highest compared with the lowest SES areas; and in metropolitan Adelaide, over six (6.21) times (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Aboriginal children aged 0 to 14 years, by socioeconomic status, 2006



A similar situation exists in country South Australia, with differentials in the share of young people who identify as being Aboriginal varying from 6.23 times higher in the lowest SES areas in metropolitan Adelaide (compared to the highest SES areas), to 11.24 in country South Australia (Figure 6).

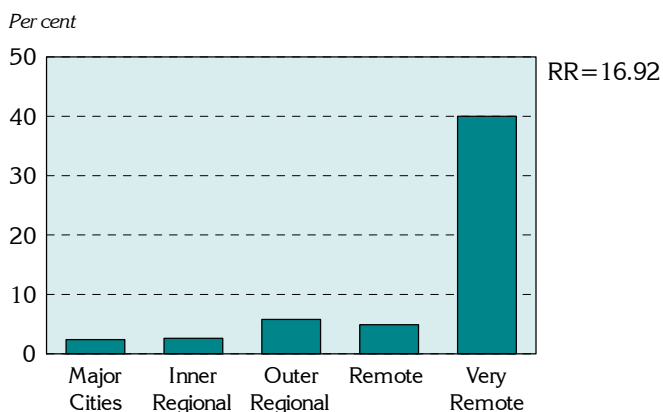
Figure 6: Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 24 years, by socioeconomic status, 2006



Remoteness

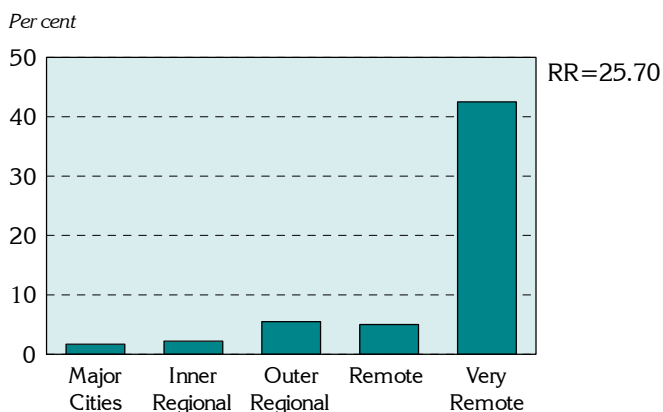
As seen in the maps and the regional tables, the percentage of the 0 to 14 year old population identifying as being Aboriginal is substantially higher in the most remote areas (40.0%) than their share of the total State population (3.3%), and also substantially (17 times) higher than the percentage in the Major Cities areas (2.4%) (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Aboriginal children aged 0 to 14 years, by remoteness, 2006



The differential in rates for the 15 to 24 year age group is even larger (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 24 years, by remoteness, 2006



Children living in jobless families

Families with no employed parent (“jobless families”) not only experience substantial economic disadvantage but may also have reduced social opportunities that affect their wellbeing, learning and development. Children who live in jobless families may be at higher risk of experiencing financial hardship and other disadvantage in the short to medium term. They may not have a role model of employment to follow, and the joblessness of the parent(s) may mean that such children are more likely to be welfare-dependent in the long-term. The majority of children living without an employed parent live in lone-parent households with limited resources ⁽¹⁾.

Indicator definition: children under 15 years of age in families where no parent is in employment as a percentage of all families with children under 15 years of age.

Key points

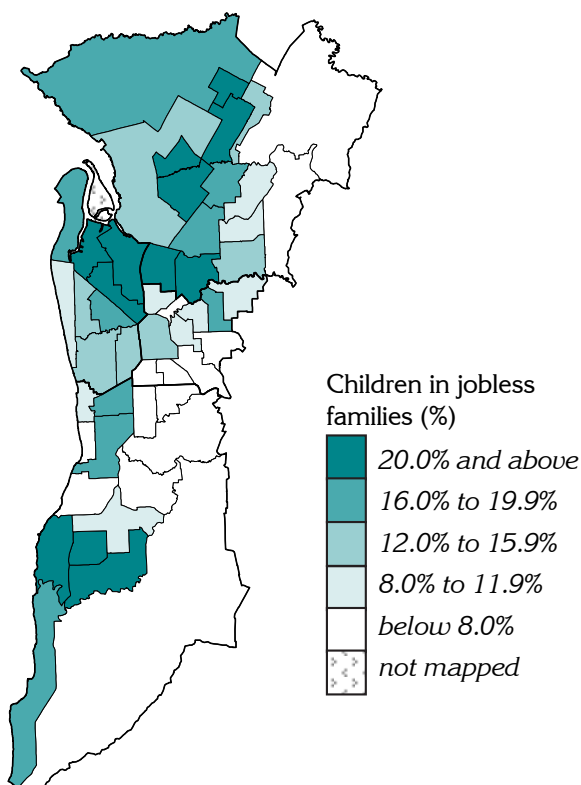
- In 2006, 15.9% of children in South Australia below 15 years of age were living in jobless families, with a higher percentage in Adelaide than in country areas.
- Their highly clustered distribution across Adelaide and in towns in country areas provides a clear picture of socioeconomic disadvantage within the State, and of the major challenges faced to provide services.

Geographic variation

Adelaide

The geographic distribution of children below 15 years of age living in jobless families highlights the divide in metropolitan Adelaide between high and low socioeconomic status areas (**Map 21**). The highest percentages of children in this group are found in the northern SLAs of Playford - Elizabeth and - West Central; in the north-west in Port Adelaide Enfield - Park and - Inner; and in the southern SLA of Onkaparinga - North Coast.

Map 21: Children living in jobless families, Adelaide, 2006

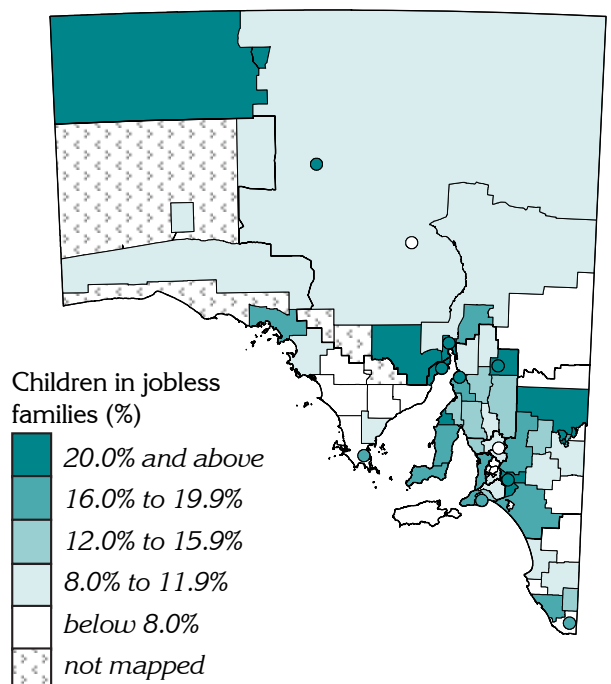


Country South Australia

Outside of Adelaide, Anangu Pitjantjatjara and all of the larger towns other than Tanunda and Roxby Downs had above average rates of children in jobless families, with the highest being in Peterborough, Port August, Murray Bridge, Whyalla, Coober Pedy and Barmera.

Of the many areas with low percentages of children under 15 years of age living in jobless families, the lowest were generally located in the south-east (in Robe, 4.9%) or in the north and west (in Roxby Downs (2.5%), Cleve (3.6%) and Elliston (4.9%)) (**Map 22**).

Map 22: Children living in jobless families, South Australia, 2006



Regional totals

The highest percentages of children living in jobless families in metropolitan Adelaide in 2006 were in Northern Adelaide (21.6%) and Western Adelaide (18.5%). Far North (19.0%), Yorke and Mid North (18.7%) and Murray and Mallee (18.2%) regions had the highest levels in country South Australia (Table 7).

Table 7: Children living in jobless families, by State Region, 2006

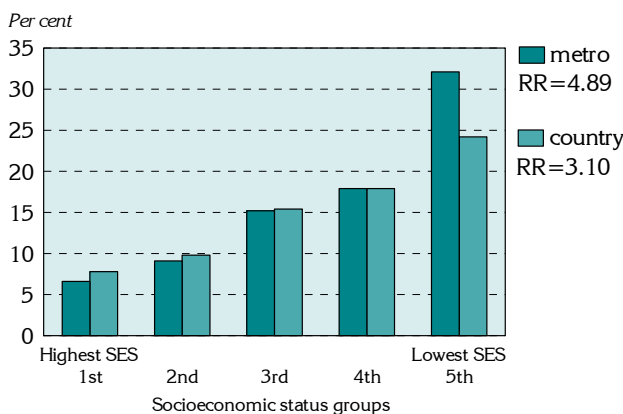
Region	No.	%
Northern Adelaide	13,931	21.6
Western Adelaide	5,778	18.5
Eastern Adelaide	2,521	8.9
Southern Adelaide	7,304	13.2
Metropolitan regions	29,534	16.5
Adelaide Hills	1,028	8.0
Murray and Mallee	2,348	18.2
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	879	13.9
Limestone Coast	1,656	13.2
Barossa	1,402	11.8
Yorke and Mid North	2,423	18.7
Eyre and Western [#]	1,850	16.8
Far North [#]	1,017	19.0
Country SA	12,603	14.7
South Australia	42,137	15.9

[#] See 'Notes on the data' in the Appendix

Socioeconomic status

In 2006, there were almost five (4.89) times more children below 15 years of age in jobless families in the most disadvantaged (lowest socioeconomic status (SES)) areas in metropolitan Adelaide (32.1% of all families with children under 15 years of age) than in the most advantaged (highest SES) areas (6.6%), with rates increasing with each increase in socioeconomic status, in particular between the fourth and fifth socioeconomic status groups (Figure 9). This substantial differential, and the continuous gradient, supports the comment, above, as to the geographic divide in metropolitan Adelaide.

Figure 9: Children living in jobless families, by socioeconomic status, South Australia, 2006

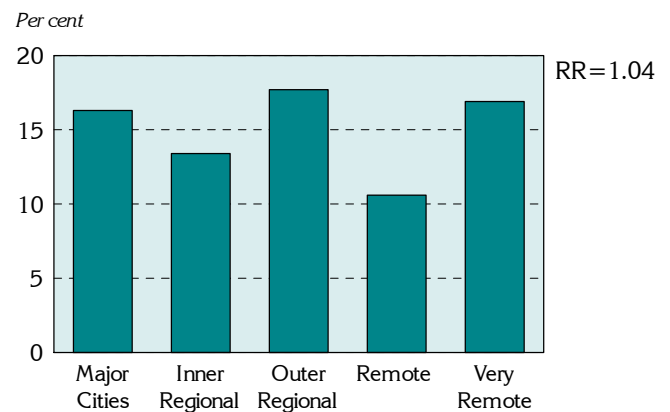


There are also substantial differences evident of children in the lowest and highest SES areas in country South Australia living in jobless families, although the differential (3.1) is smaller than that in Adelaide. Again, there is a step-wise gradient, as rates increase with each increase in socioeconomic status, from 7.8% in the highest SES areas to 24.2% in the lowest SES areas (Figure 9).

Remoteness

There is no particular association with remoteness, with relatively high percentages of children in jobless families in the Major Cities (16.3%), Outer Regional (17.7%) and Very Remote (16.9%) areas. The lowest percentage was recorded in the Remote areas, with 10.6% of children below 15 years of age living in jobless families (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Children living in jobless families, by remoteness, South Australia, 2006



Correlations

There are very strong correlations at the SLA level in metropolitan Adelaide between areas with high proportions of jobless families with young children and many other indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including high rates of welfare dependency, low rates of participation in formal schooling, lack of access to the Internet at home (in particular to a high-speed connection), poor educational performance under NAPLAN and in secondary school, and use of public health services (admissions to a public acute hospital and clients of CAMHS). Correlations with poor health outcomes (high proportions of four year old children who were obese, poor dental health at age 12 and smoking during pregnancy) are strong to very strong.

Correlation coefficients for these and other indicators are available on the PHIDU website at www.publichealth.gov.au.

Children living in welfare-dependent and other low income families

Children living in families either solely or largely dependent on government for their income have the lowest incomes and the least access to other resources, and may face lower achievement in education and have poorer wellbeing than their more advantaged peers.

Indicator definition: children under 16 years of age in families with incomes under \$23,740 p.a. and in receipt of the Family Tax Benefit (A) (whether receiving income support payments or not), as a percentage of the population aged under 16 years. These families would all receive the Family Tax Benefit (A) at the maximum level.

Key points

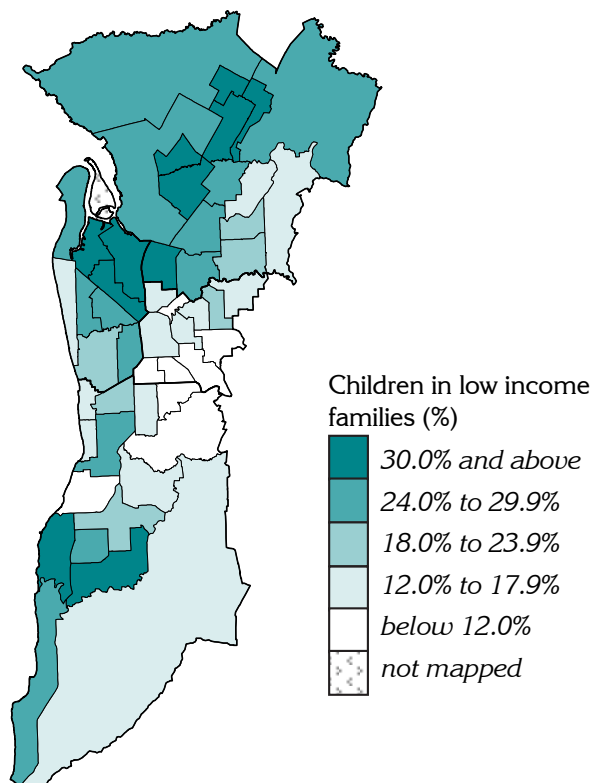
- In 2006, almost one quarter (23.3%) of the children in South Australia aged less than 16 years were living in low income families, with a higher percentage in metropolitan Adelaide (23.8%) than in country areas (21.5%).
- As noted for the previous indicator, meeting the educational and other needs of children in these families poses many challenges, in particular for those living in areas with limited access to specialist education, health and welfare services.

Geographic variation

Adelaide

The highest concentrations of children aged less than 16 years living in low income families are in areas located in the outer north and outer south of Adelaide, as well as in the inner northern and north-western suburbs (**Map 23**). The highest percentages are in the outer northern SLAs of Playford - Elizabeth and - West Central and Salisbury - Central; in the north-west in Port Adelaide Enfield - Park, - Inner and - Port; and in the southern areas of Onkaparinga - North Coast and - Hackham.

Map 23: Children living in low income families, Adelaide, 2006

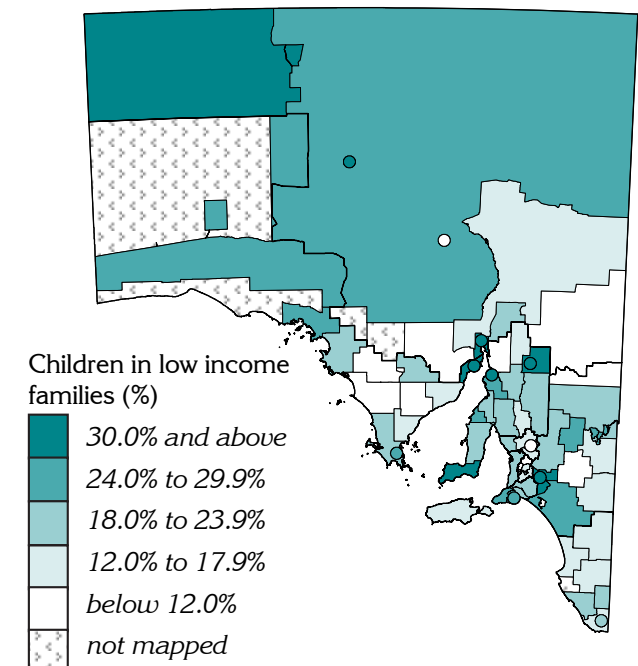


Country South Australia

In country South Australia, the highest percentages of children in families with incomes under \$23,740 were living in Anangu Pitjantjatjara and Unincorporated West Coast, and in the towns of Peterborough, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Murray Bridge, Whyalla and Port Pirie. In these areas, as in many areas in metropolitan Adelaide, more than 30% of all children below 16 years of age were in families with very low incomes, indicating particularly high levels of disadvantage in these communities.

The lowest rates were found in the towns of Roxby Downs and Tanunda, in the Adelaide Hills and Barossa, and in a number of SLAs on Eyre Peninsula (**Map 24**).

Map 24: Children living in low income families, South Australia, 2006



Regional totals

Relatively more children below 16 years of age living in metropolitan Adelaide (23.3%) than in country (21.5%) South Australia live in low income families, with the highest percentages in Northern Adelaide (30.2%) and Western Adelaide (27.1%), and in the country regions of Far North (27.9%), Eyre and Western (26.3%) and Murray and Mallee (25.9%) (Table 8).

Table 8: Children living in low income families, by State Region, 2006

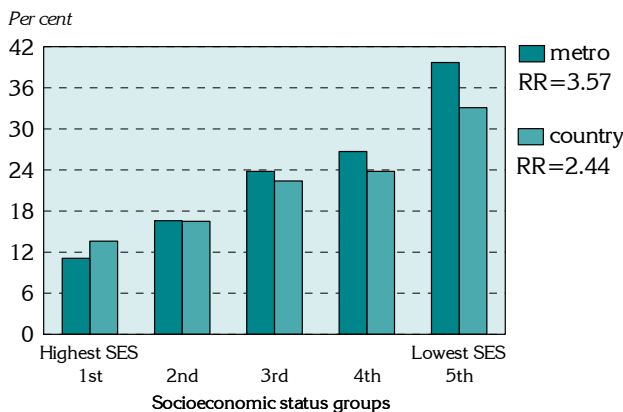
Region	No.	%
Northern Adelaide	22,389	30.2
Western Adelaide	9,772	27.1
Eastern Adelaide	4,332	13.0
Southern Adelaide	12,831	20.1
Metropolitan regions	49,324	23.8
Adelaide Hills	2,130	14.1
Murray and Mallee	3,854	25.9
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	1,684	21.9
Limestone Coast	2,707	18.6
Barossa	2,502	18.2
Yorke and Mid North	3,609	23.6
Eyre and Western [#]	3,427	26.3
Far North [#]	1,789	27.9
Country SA	21,702	21.5
South Australia	71,675	23.3

[#] See 'Notes on the data' in the Appendix

Socioeconomic status

There is a very strong, continuous socioeconomic gradient in rates of children living in low income families in metropolitan Adelaide, from a low of 11.1% in the most advantaged (highest SES) areas to 39.7% in the most disadvantaged (lowest SES) areas, a substantial differential of 3.57 (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Children living in low income families, by socioeconomic status, South Australia, 2006

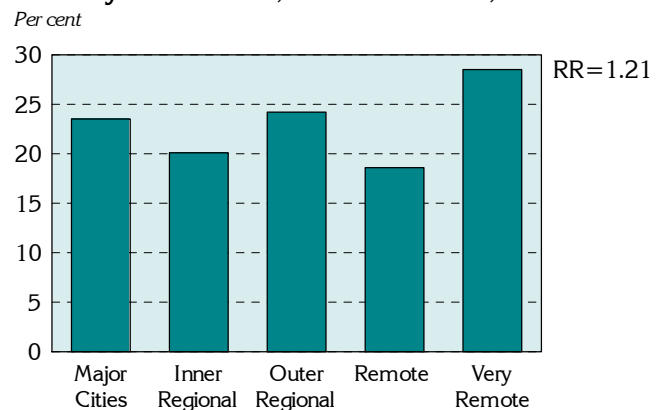


A strong, continuous socioeconomic gradient is also evident across country South Australia, from a rate of 13.6% in the highest SES areas to 33.1% in the lowest SES areas (Figure 11), a differential of almost two and a half times (2.44).

Remoteness

The highest percentages of children in low income families are in the Very Remote (28.5%) and Outer Regional (24.2%) areas, with the lowest in the Remote (18.6%) and Inner Regional (20.1%) areas (Figure 12). The overall differential in rates between the most remote and least remote areas is 21%.

Figure 12: Children living in low income families, by remoteness, South Australia, 2006



Correlations

There are very strong correlations at the SLA level in metropolitan Adelaide between areas with high proportions of welfare-dependent and other low income families with young children and many other indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, including families where no parent has a job (jobless families), low rates of participation in formal schooling, lack of access to the Internet at home (in particular to a high-speed connection), poor educational performance under NAPLAN and in secondary school, and use of public health services (admissions to a public acute hospital and clients of CAMHS). Correlations with poor health outcomes (high proportions of four year old children who were obese, poor dental health at age 12 and smoking during pregnancy) are strong to very strong.

Correlation coefficients for these and other indicators are available on the PHIDU website at www.publichealth.gov.au.

Summary measure of socioeconomic status

The ABS Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is a powerful indicator of the socioeconomic disadvantage faced by population groups across the State. Although it is based on the whole population, and not specifically calculated for children, it is a useful summary measure, reflecting the patterns of disadvantage for children and their families seen in many of the individual indicators of social inequality which appear in this section of the report.

Indicator definition: The IRSD is one of four socioeconomic indexes compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using data from the 2006 Census about the population and their characteristics. The index has a base of 1000 for Australia: scores above 1000 indicate relative advantage and those below, relative disadvantage. The index score for South Australia is 984, indicating the relative disadvantage of South Australia compared to Australia.

Key points

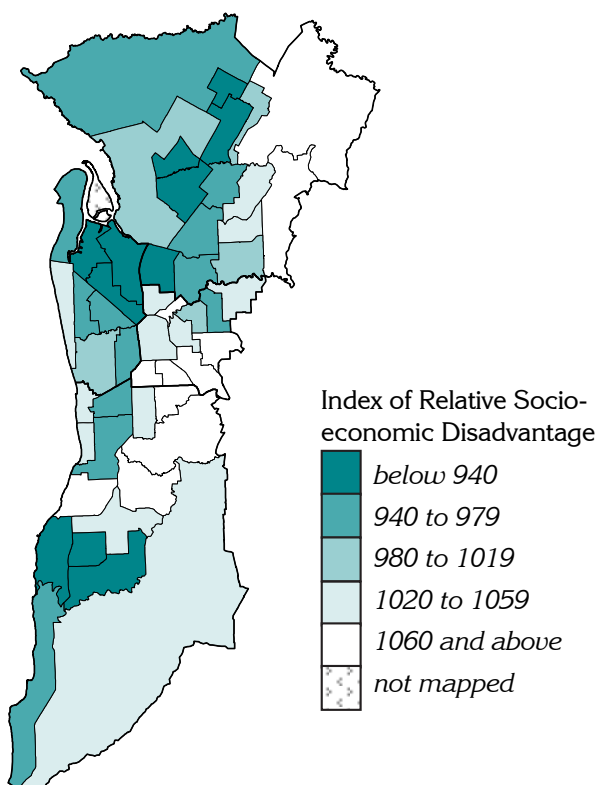
- The map of IRSD scores clearly shows the marked geographic divide between areas in Adelaide under this measure of relative socioeconomic disadvantage: this geographic divide, noted above, arises from a number of factors, in particular the historical development of Adelaide and the location of industry and State government housing in areas considered to be less desirable for residential development.
- The index values also show the relatively high levels of socioeconomic disadvantage across much of country South Australia, in many towns and areas with relatively large Aboriginal populations.

Geographic variation

Adelaide

The distribution of index scores in Adelaide shows the least disadvantaged areas to be situated to the east, north-east and south of the city, and the most disadvantaged areas to the north-west, inner north and in the outer north and outer south (**Map 25**). The lowest scores were recorded for the Playford SLAs of - Elizabeth (788) and - West Central (800), and in Port Adelaide Enfield - Park (810).

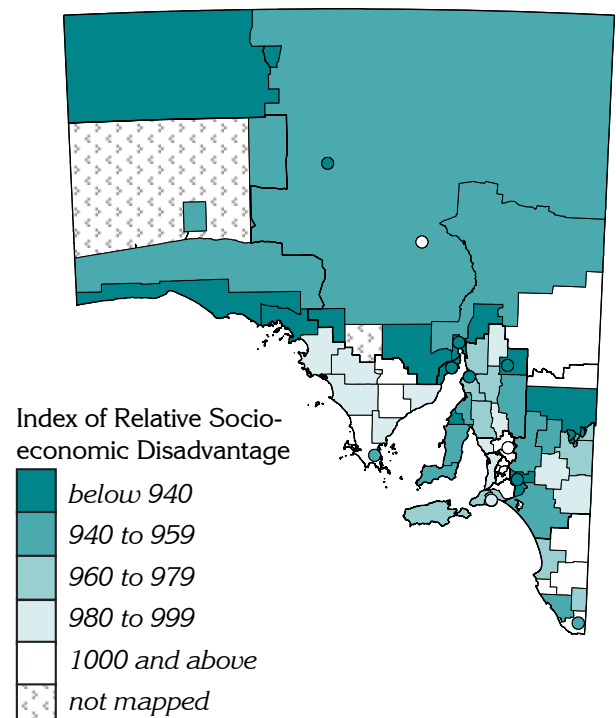
Map 25: IRSD, Adelaide, 2006



Country South Australia

Outside of Adelaide, the most disadvantaged areas are located in the north and west of the State (**Map 26**), with scores of below 900 recorded in the SLAs of Anangu Pitjantjatjara (a very low score of 527), Unincorporated Riverland (688), Unincorporated Whyalla (790), Peterborough (840), Coober Pedy (870), Port Pirie (884), Whyalla (887), Unincorporated West Coast (889) and Port Augusta (897). The least disadvantaged areas (highest index scores) are located on the urban fringe, in the Adelaide Hills SLAs of - Central, - Ranges and - North, and for Mount Barker Balance.

Map 26: IRSD, South Australia, 2006



Regional totals

The index scores show that there are relatively greater levels of disadvantage in country South Australia than in Adelaide (**Table 9**). Above average scores were recorded in Adelaide Hills, Eastern Adelaide and Southern Adelaide, while scores well below were recorded in Far North, Eyre and Western, Murray and Mallee, and Yorke and Mid North.

Table 9: IRSD, by State Region, 2006

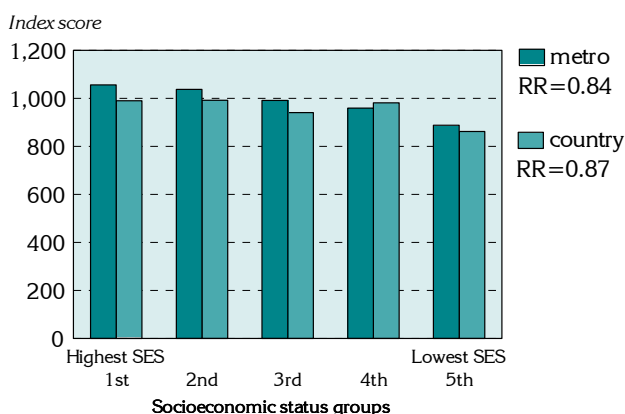
Region	Index score
Northern Adelaide	955.3
Western Adelaide	955.0
Eastern Adelaide	1043.9
Southern Adelaide	1011.2
Metropolitan regions	989.0
Adelaide Hills	1058.7
Murray and Mallee	936.7
Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island	981.2
Limestone Coast	972.6
Barossa	999.4
Yorke and Mid North	940.2
Eyre and Western [#]	935.4
Far North [#]	900.4
Country SA	969.9
South Australia	983.6

[#] See 'Notes on the data' in the Appendix

Socioeconomic status

The average score in 2006 for the most advantaged (highest SES) areas was 1056, decreasing in each socioeconomic status group to a score of 888 in the most disadvantaged (lowest SES) areas; this is an overall decline of 16% (**Figure 13**).

Figure 13: IRSD, by socioeconomic status, South Australia, 2006

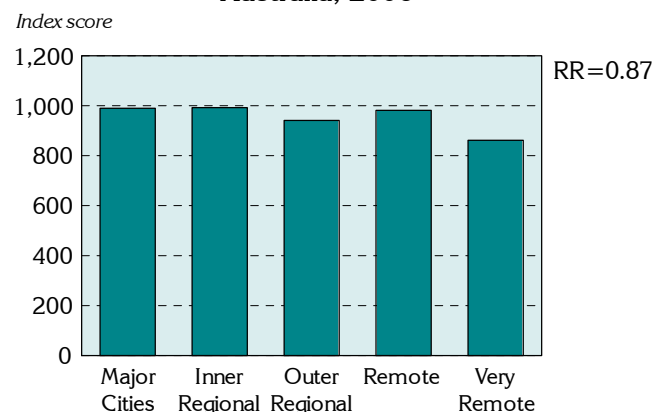


When grouped in this way, IRSD scores in country South Australia are at a similar level to those in metropolitan Adelaide, and show less variation, ranging from a score of 1049 in the highest SES areas to 887 in the lowest SES areas, a decline of 15% (**Figure 13**).

Remoteness

The highest index scores (indicating the most advantaged areas) were recorded in the more accessible areas (a score of 992.6), with the lowest in the Very Remote areas (861.9) (**Figure 14**). While the scores for smaller geographic areas show more variation than these broad groups (e.g., as described for SLAs, above), it is likely that the IRSD understates the extent of socioeconomic disadvantage faced by Aboriginal people¹. Any such understatement would impact on the score in the remote areas (as well as on the socioeconomic status groups, above, in particular in country areas).

Figure 14: IRSD, by remoteness, South Australia, 2006



Correlations

There are very strong correlations at the SLA level in metropolitan Adelaide between socioeconomic disadvantage (as measured under this index) and children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains under the AEDI, poor educational performance under NAPLAN and in secondary school, higher proportions of children and use of public health services (admissions to a public acute hospital and clients of CAMHS).

Correlations with poor health outcomes (high proportions of four year old children who were obese, poor dental health at age 12 and smoking during pregnancy) are strong to very strong.

Correlation coefficients for these and other indicators are available on the PHIDU website at www.publichealth.gov.au.

¹ This is likely to be the case because the Population Census, on which the IRSD is calculated, does not include measures that capture the particular disadvantage faced by Aboriginal people, or its extent.