

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78 INFORMATION PAPER

INQUIRIES

*If you want to know more about this survey ring Mr Bill Hunt, Canberra 526413 or write to :
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This paper sets out the subjects included in the Australian Health Survey, 1977-78.

A large range of tabulations will be produced from the information collected. Preliminary bulletins will be released during 1978 and final data will be published at the national, State and regional levels during 1979.

Data will be available for the following regions, which have been designated by State Health Authorities as of special interest:

- N.S.W. Inner Metropolitan
Southern Metropolitan
Western Metropolitan
Northern Metropolitan
New England
- Vic. Central Melbourne and Caulfield
Diamond Valley
Central Gippsland
Wimmera
- Qld Brisbane Metropolitan
Western Queensland
Mackay, Northern and Far Northern
Southeastern Ex-Metropolitan
- S.A. Northern Metropolitan
Southern Metropolitan
Adelaide Statistical Division (including Northern and Southern Metropolitan)
- W.A. Southwest Metropolitan
Southwest Ex-Metropolitan
- Tas. North Western Tasmania
- N.T. 5 major urban centres: Darwin, Gove-Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek,
Alice Springs
- A.C.T. Canberra

As the survey information is being collected from a representative sample, and not from the entire population, the results will be subject to sampling errors. The level of detail available will therefore depend on the size of the sampling errors of the estimates; the smaller the estimate, the larger the sampling error will be. For this reason too, more detail will be available at the national level than at the State or regional level.

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS IN THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78

Subject	Survey population	Variables
Demographic, Social and Economic	Adults and children	1 Age 2 Sex 3 Country of birth 4 Year of arrival in Australia
	Adults only (i.e. persons aged 15 years and over)	5 Marital status 6 Major activity (e.g. working in a job, retired, student, engaged in home duties) 7 Educational status: (a) age when left school (b) qualification gained since leaving school 8 Gross personal income 9 Occupation group 10 Hours worked 11 Fluency in English
	Children only (i.e. persons aged 14 years and under)	12 Period of residence of mother in Australia 13 Educational level of mother i.e. age left school and whether qualification obtained
	Households	14 When head of household moved into region 15 Number of children in household 16 Number of household members
	Income units*	17 Income unit structure 18 Gross income unit income
Current or Recent illness	Adults and children	1 Complaints } Symptoms in 2 weeks before interview 2 Conditions } grouped into conditions of illness 3 For each condition † reported: (a) degree of concern or pain (b) whether doctor consulted/not consulted (c) main reason for not consulting a doctor (d) duration of condition 4 Condition † of major concern to the respondent (where only 1 condition is reported it is regarded as the condition of major concern) 5 Number of persons in an income unit * with a condition 6 Disabilities or limitations in the 2 weeks before interview, through illness or injury: (a) bed days (excluding children under 2 years) (b) reduced activity days apart from bed days (excluding children under 2 years) (c) sick days i.e. (a) and (b) combined (d) days lost from work/school/university

Subject	Survey population	Variables
Chronic Illness	Adults and children	1 Chronic conditions † 2 Chronic conditions of major concern to the respondent (where only 1 condition is reported it is regarded as the condition of major concern) 3 For major chronic condition † reported: (a) whether doctor consulted/not consulted (b) main reason for not consulting a doctor (c) limitations imposed by illness measured in degree of restricted activity (e.g. confined to home) 4 Number of persons in income unit * with a chronic illness
Accidents	Adults and children	1 Where accident occurred (e.g. home, school, highway) 2 Part of body injured 3 Type of injury 4 Type of accident 5 Agency involved
General Well Being	Adults	Index of General Health (12 item GHQ score)
Use of Doctor	Adults and children	1 Period since last consulted a doctor 2 Number and location of contacts during 2 weeks before interview (e.g. surgery, own home, hospital, school) 3 Characteristics of last visit to a doctor in 3 months before interview: (a) main reason for consultation (b) services provided for/arranged as result of consultation (c) type of doctor consulted (GP or specialist) (d) degree of satisfaction with consultation 4 Characteristics of doctor usually consulted: (a) type of doctor (GP or specialist) (b) travelling to doctor in terms of: (i) whether problem or not (ii) usual time taken
Use of Dentist	Adults and children (excluding children under six years of age)	1 Period since last visited a dentist 2 Main reason for not going if no visit within last twelve months
Use of Other Health Workers	Adults and children	Types of health worker consulted, and number of times each type consulted in last 4 weeks for the following: 1 Chiroprapist (adults only) 2 Chiropractor, Naturopath or Osteopath (adults only) 3 Baby Health Centre Nurse (children under six years only) 4 District, Home, School or Community Nurse 5 Optician or Optometrist 6 Chemist 7 Social worker or Welfare officer 8 Physiotherapist
Use of Medicines	Adults and children	Number of prescribed and un-prescribed brands taken in the two days before interview. The following types were collected: 1 Medicines for the heart, blood pressure or fluid pills (adults only) 2 Birth control pills for any reason (females 18-50 years only) 3 Pain relievers 4 Cough medicines and other remedies for colds 5 Allergy tablets and medicines 6 Skin ointments and salves 7 Laxatives and medicines for stomach 8 Tranquillizers, sedatives and other medicines for nervous conditions 9 Sleeping pills and medicines 10 Vitamins and tonics 11 Others

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Survey population</i>	<i>Variables</i>
Use of Hospitals	Adults and children	1 Number of admissions in 12 months before interview 2 Length of stay for each of last five admissions 3 Hospital admission - type of hospital and location 4 Broad reason for most recent admission
Health Insurance	Adults	Type of cover (e.g. levy payer, whether pay extra for doctor of choice in hospital)
Child Immunisation	Children aged 1-5 years	1 Triple antigen (whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria) 2 Vaccine against polio For each type: (a) source of immunisation (e.g. doctor, baby health centre) (b) reason for non-immunisation (c) number of injections received

Definitions

- * An 'income unit' consists of any persons living alone or with spouse and any dependent children. If a grandparent, other relative, working child over 14 or boarder lives in dwelling they are regarded as belonging to a separate income unit.

'Income unit structure' refers to the composition of the income unit (e.g. husband, wife and 1 dependent child, or single parent with 2 dependent children).

'Income unit income' refers to the total gross income (including child endowment) of all members of the income unit over 14 years of age.

Tables will be produced for persons and income units.

- † Self-reported conditions of recent and chronic illness are classified according to the most appropriate category of the Eighth Revision (1965) of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases. Certain modifications have been made to the classification to facilitate coding of non-medical descriptions of conditions reported by respondents.