

**NEW ISSUE**



**AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY**  
**1977-1978**  
**DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS**

CATALOGUE NO. 4319.0

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY

1977-78

DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS

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*Catalogue No. 4319.0*

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY  
1977-78  
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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Introduction**

During the financial year 1977-78 the Australian Health Survey (a sample survey of households) was conducted throughout Australia. The main objective of the survey was to obtain information about the health of Australians and the use of, and need for, various health-related services and facilities.

2. This publication is one of a series relating to the Australian Health Survey 1977-78. It contains estimates of the use made of doctors, their location, the reasons for consultation, and the arrangements made at consultations.

3. A description of all topics included in the survey is contained in *Australian Health Survey 1977-78 Information Paper* (4340.0).

**Scope and coverage**

4. Interviews were conducted at a random sample of private dwellings from all parts of Australia excluding rural Northern Territory. Certain groups of persons, such as occupants of non-private dwellings (e.g. hospitals, motels, hotels), diplomatic personnel and persons from overseas touring or holidaying in Australia, were excluded from the survey. The exclusion of persons currently in hospitals, nursing homes and other health institutions should be borne in mind in assessing the significance of the results.

**Survey method**

5. Each person over the age of 14 years was interviewed personally. Where persons were either too old or too sick to be interviewed, relatives were interviewed on their behalf. Wherever possible, information for children aged up to 14 years was obtained from their mothers.

6. Persons were asked when they last consulted a doctor. Those who had consulted one within the three months preceding their interview were asked about the location, type of doctor consulted, and the main reason for the consultation. Further questions were asked concerning selected services arranged at that consultation (see paragraph 15) and degree of satisfaction with the consultation.

7. All persons were asked whether or not they had a doctor whom they usually consulted. Those who had were asked further questions concerning the time taken to reach him, and whether or not travel was a problem.

**Definitions**

8. *Doctor* - any general practitioner, surgeon (including oral surgeon), or other specialist, physician, hospital intern or resident. Excluded are: dentists, dental surgeons, physiotherapists, osteopaths, opticians, radiographers and chiropractors.

9. *Usual doctor* - all respondents were asked whether they had a doctor whom they usually consulted about their health. Respondents who usually attended a particular group practice but accepted consultations from any doctor in that practice were regarded as having a usual doctor.

10. *Type of doctor* - respondents who had consulted a doctor in the three months before interview were asked to identify the doctor they had consulted most recently as a general practitioner, a hospital doctor or a specialist.

*Hospital doctor* - any doctor who was consulted at a hospital irrespective of whether that consultation was at a casualty department, outpatient department, or during a stay as an inpatient in hospital. No attempt was made to determine whether the doctor consulted at a hospital was a general practitioner or a specialist.

11. *Type of usual doctor* - respondents identified as having a usual doctor were asked whether their doctor was a general practitioner, a specialist, or a hospital doctor. Where a respondent visited a specialist for a particular illness but visited a specific general practitioner for all other illnesses, the general practitioner was considered to be the usual doctor.

12. *Doctor consultation* - any consultation with a doctor about the respondent's own health.

13. *Location of consultation* - Those persons who had consulted a doctor in the two weeks before interview were asked where each consultation in the two weeks had occurred. Persons who had consulted a doctor more than two weeks but less than three months before interview were asked the location of their most recent consultation only. The locations recorded were:

- . Doctor's surgery
- . Patient's home
- . Hospital-inpatient
- . Hospital outpatient department
- . Hospital emergency room, casualty department or first aid section
- . School, work or other clinic
- . Telephone or through another person

*Doctor's surgery* - includes doctor's private office.

*Hospital outpatient department* - the part of the hospital where persons consult a doctor by appointment and includes hospital outpatient clinic.

*Hospital casualty department* - the part of the hospital where persons can consult a doctor without an appointment and includes emergency room or first aid section.

*School, work or other clinic* - includes baby health centre, clinic, or infirmary attached to a school or place of work.

14. *Main reason for most recent consultation* - persons whose most recent consultation had occurred within the three months before interview were asked to identify the main reason for their most recent consultation from a list containing the following reasons:

- . Immunisation/vaccination
- . Eye test
- . Pre- or Post-natal care

- . Renewal of prescription
- . A certificate, other than a prescription
- . Any sickness, illness, injury or infection
- . Some other reason

*Eye test* – any test of eyesight, but EXCLUDES examinations relating only to eye infections. These were included under 'any sickness, illness, injury or infection'.

15. *Services arranged at most recent consultation* – persons whose most recent consultation had occurred within the three months before interview were asked about a series of selected services which might have taken place at, or as a result of, that consultation. The selected services were:

- . Further consultation
- . Admission to hospital
- . X-ray
- . Blood test
- . Referral to specialist
- . Visit from a nurse

No information was sought concerning the doctor's diagnosis and/or prescription. The services reported could have been undertaken by persons other than the doctor consulted.

*Further consultation* – any arrangement to consult with the doctor at a set time, or when a specific event occurred, such as the completion of a course of tablets but EXCLUDES general arrangements such as 'come back next week if it does not improve'.

*Admission to hospital* – includes admission to a nursing or convalescent home.

#### Sample design

16. Households were randomly selected for inclusion in the survey, using a stratified multistage area sample design. Approximately 15,000 dwellings were selected for inclusion in the survey.

#### Estimation procedure

17. The estimates given in this publication were derived by use of a ratio estimation procedure based on the age/sex characteristics and distribution of the population of Australia.

#### Reliability of the estimates

18. Since the estimates are based on a sample they are subject to sampling variability (see Technical Note, page 22, for further details). Some figures in this publication are replaced or preceded by the symbol \*. Estimates preceded by this symbol have a standard error of between 25 and 50 per cent and care should be exercised in using them because they are subject to such high errors. Estimates which are replaced with this symbol have a standard error greater than 50 per cent which is considered too high for most practical purposes.

19. In addition to sampling errors, the survey results are subject to non-sampling errors, i.e. those inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewees or respondents, processing errors and non-response. Such errors may occur in any

statistical collection whether it is a full census count or a sample survey. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling errors in the survey to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, by intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and by efficient operating procedures.

#### Interpretation of results

20. The following factors should be considered in interpreting the estimates in this bulletin:

- (a) Persons who were in hospital for the two week survey period or longer were excluded because of the survey design (see Scope and coverage, paragraph 4).
- (b) Data relating to the type of doctor consulted, the main reason for consultation, services arranged, and the degree of satisfaction with the consultation, refer only to the most recent consultation in the three months before interview and EXCLUDE consultations made while a hospital inpatient, and those made by telephone or through another person.
- (c) In tables dealing with services arranged at the most recent consultation in the three months before interview, persons having more than one service arranged for them are shown as many times as their reported number of services, i.e. up to a maximum of six times. They appear only once within any service group.
- (d) The survey examined only six selected services that may have been arranged at the most recent consultation in the three months before interview. Details of any other services which might have occurred (such as minor surgery) were not sought.

#### Related publications

21. Other ABS publications from the 1977-78 Australian Health Survey, which have already been published are:

*Australian Health Survey 1977-78, Information Paper* (4340.0)

*Australian Health Survey Bulletin No. 1, September 1977 (Preliminary)* (4309.0)

*Australian Health Survey Bulletin No. 2, December 1977 (Preliminary)* (4310.0)

*Australian Health Survey 1977-78* (4311.0) – summary of results

*Accidents, Australian Health Survey 1977-78* (4313.0)

*Australian Health Survey, Sabin and Triple Antigen Vaccination (persons aged 2 to 5 years) 1977-78* (4316.0)

*Australian Health Survey, Chronic Conditions – Illnesses and permanent disabilities 1977-78* (4314.0)

22. Future ABS publications from the 1977-78 Australian Health Survey will provide further details on

the topics of recent experience of illness; episodes in hospitals; use of other health professionals; days of reduced activity due to illness or injury; and, concepts and methodology.

23. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*Hearing and the Use of Hearing Aids (persons aged 15 years or more) September 1978 (4336.0)*

*Sight, Hearing and Dental Health (persons aged 2 to 14 years) February-May 1979 (4337.0)*

*Sight Problems and the Use of Glasses/Contact Lenses (persons aged 15 years or more) February-May 1979 (4338.0)*

*Dental Health (persons aged 15 years or more) February-May 1979 (4339.0)*

*Alcohol and Tobacco Consumption Patterns: February 1977 (4312.0)*

*Causes of Death (3303.0)*

*Chronic Illnesses, Injuries and Impairments: May 1974 (4305.0)*

24. Related publications issued by ABS State Offices are:

New South Wales -

*Health Care Surveys in Gosford-Wyong and Illawarra Areas of N.S.W., 1975 (4305.1)*

Queensland -

*Patients Treated in Hospitals (4304.3)*

Western Australia -

*Hospitals In-patients Statistics (4301.5)*

Tasmania -

*Hospital Morbidity (4301.6)*

25. Related publications produced by the Health Commission of New South Wales are:

*Health Care Survey of Gosford-Wyong and Illawarra 1975, Division of Health Services Report No. 77/9*

*Hospital Inpatient Statistics, New South Wales 1977, Division of Health Services Report No. 79/13*

26. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications (1101.0)* which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- .. Not applicable
- \* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 18.

27. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

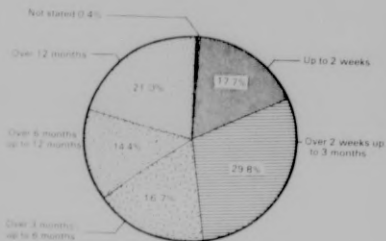
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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## PERIOD SINCE LAST DOCTOR CONSULTATION

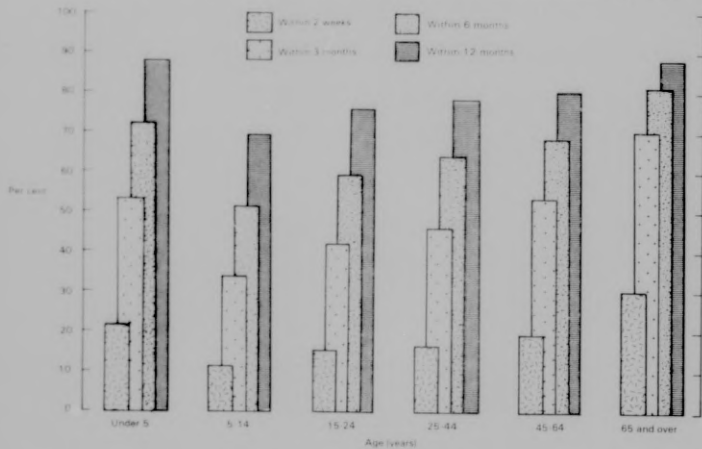
In the two weeks preceding interview, one person in six (17.7 per cent) had consulted a doctor; a total of two thirds of persons (64.2 per cent) had consulted a doctor in the six months before being interviewed.

Diagram 1: PROPORTION OF POPULATION BY PERIOD SINCE LAST DOCTOR CONSULTATION



With the exception of children under 5 years of age, the proportion of persons who consulted a doctor within a given period tended to increase with age. For example, in the two weeks before interview 11.2 per cent of persons aged 5 to 14 years had consulted a doctor and the percentage steadily increases with each age group to 30.4 per cent for persons aged 65 years and over.

Diagram 2: PER CENT OF PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR WITHIN CERTAIN TIME PERIODS BY AGE

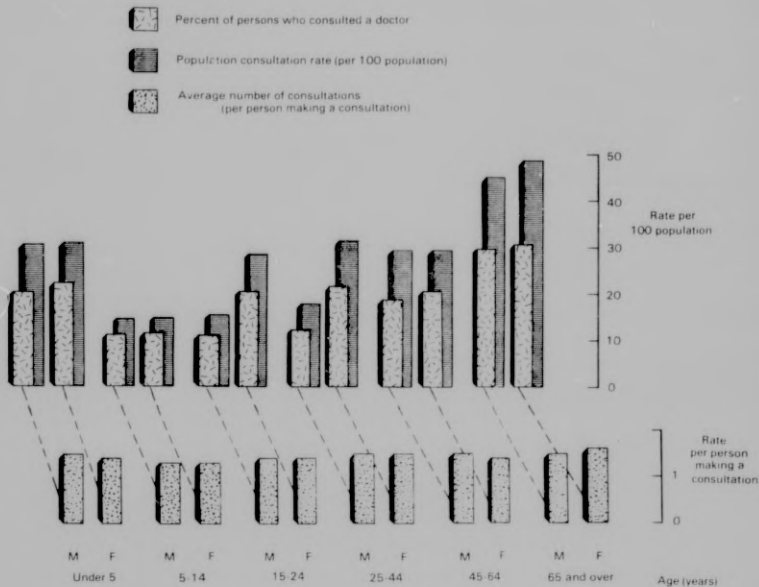


## RATE OF DOCTOR CONSULTATION

2.4 million persons consulted a doctor in the two weeks before their interview and made a total of 3.6 million consultations in that period (an average of 1.5 consultations per person consulting a doctor).

Diagram 3 shows, for the two weeks before interview, the proportion of persons who consulted a doctor, the consultation rate of the population and the average number of consultations per person consulting a doctor, in each age and sex group. Both the proportion of persons who consulted a doctor and the population consultation rate vary between age groups in a similar pattern to that shown in Diagram 2. Variation between the sexes, particularly in the female child-bearing age groups is also evident. However the average number of consultations per person making a consultation is relatively consistent across all age and sex groups.

Diagram 3: PER CENT OF PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR AND CONSULTATION RATES IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY AGE AND SEX

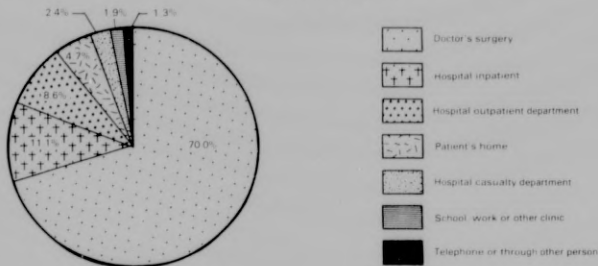


### LOCATION OF DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS

Most doctor consultations reported in the survey were conducted at a doctor's surgery.

Diagram 4 shows that in the two weeks prior to interview 70.0 per cent of all consultations took place in a doctor's surgery, 11.1 per cent occurred while the person was a hospital inpatient and 8.6 per cent took place at a hospital outpatient department.

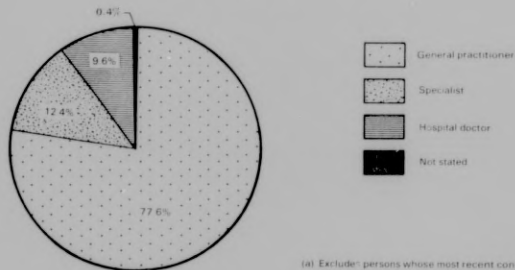
Diagram 4 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF LOCATION OF DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW



### TYPE OF DOCTOR CONSULTED AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION

Over three-quarters of persons (77.6 per cent) consulting a doctor during the three months before interview (excluding persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone or while a hospital inpatient) saw a general practitioner at their most recent consultation. About one in eight (12.4 per cent) consulted a specialist at their most recent consultation and one in ten (9.6 per cent) consulted a hospital doctor.

Diagram 5 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TYPE OF DOCTOR CONSULTED AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW(a)

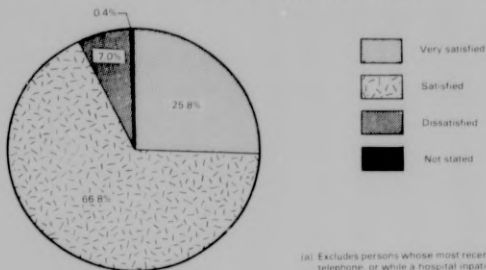


(a) Exclude: persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone, or while a hospital inpatient

## DEGREE OF SATISFACTION WITH MOST RECENT CONSULTATION

Those persons consulting a doctor in the three months before interview (excluding those persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone or while a hospital inpatient) were asked whether they were very satisfied, satisfied or dissatisfied with what happened at their most recent consultation. One quarter (25.8 per cent) reported that they were 'very satisfied', two-thirds (66.8 per cent) were 'satisfied' and only one person in fourteen (7.0 per cent) reported that they were 'dissatisfied' with their most recent consultation.

Diagram 6: DEGREE OF SATISFACTION WITH MOST RECENT DOCTOR CONSULTATION IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW(a) (PER CENT)

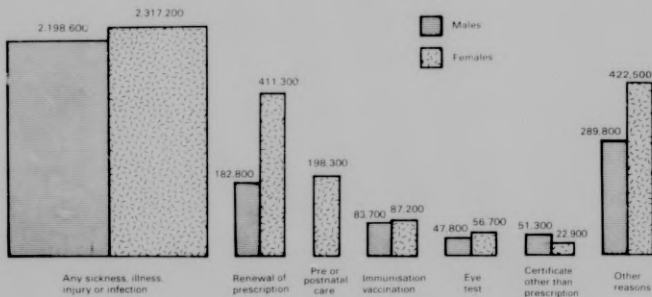


(a) Excludes persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone, or while a hospital inpatient.

## MAIN REASON FOR MOST RECENT CONSULTATION

Of those persons consulting a doctor in the three months before interview (excluding persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone or while a hospital inpatient) nearly three-quarters (70.9 per cent) offered 'sickness, injury, illness or infection' as the main reason for their most recent consultation. 'Renewal of prescription' was the main reason cited by nearly one person in ten (9.3 per cent).

Diagram 7: NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY THE MAIN REASON FOR MOST RECENT CONSULTATION(a)



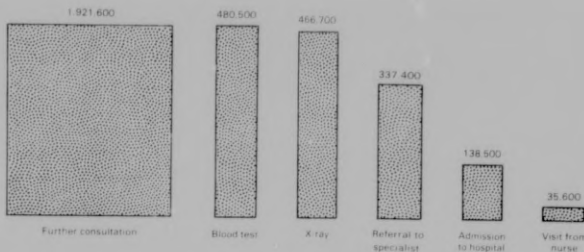
(a) Excludes those persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone or while a hospital inpatient.

Note: The area within each column is directly proportional to the size of the estimate which it represents.

## SERVICES ARRANGED AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION

Persons who had consulted a doctor in the three months before interview (excluding persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone or while a hospital inpatient) were asked whether or not certain selected services had been arranged at their most recent consultation (See note 15 of Explanatory Notes). Persons having more than one of these services arranged at their most recent consultation were counted against each reported service. Details of other types of service were not sought. Out of the six selected services, the service most frequently arranged was a further consultation.

Diagram 8 NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HAD SELECTED SERVICES ARRANGED AT THEIR MOST RECENT DOCTOR CONSULTATION IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW(a)



(a) Excludes those persons whose most recent consultation was by proxy, by telephone or while a hospital inpatient.

Note: The area within each column is directly proportional to the size of the estimate which it represents.

Diagram 9 shows details of persons for whom selected services were arranged at their most recent consultation, distributed according to the location at which that consultation took place. The greatest number of selected services were arranged at a doctor's surgery. Out of the 5,392,400 persons who consulted a doctor at a doctor's surgery, 1,529,000 (28.4%) had a further consultation arranged, 353,400 (6.6%) had a blood test arranged and 321,700 (6.0%) had an X-ray arranged.

However the proportion of persons having selected services arranged was highest amongst those who consulted a doctor at a hospital outpatient or casualty department. Out of 613,700 persons who consulted a doctor at this location, 47.0 per cent (288,700) had a further consultation arranged, 19.6 per cent (120,100) had an X-ray arranged and 17.0 per cent (104,100) had a blood test arranged.

Diagram 3. NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF PERSONS WHO HAD SELECTED SERVICES ARRANGED AT THEIR MOST RECENT DOCTOR CONSULTATION IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY LOCATION OF CONSULTATION(a)



## ATYPICAL HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78

## SECTION 1. PERIOD SINCE LAST DOCTOR CONSULTATION

TABLE 1. PERSONS &amp; PERIOD SINCE LAST DOCTOR CONSULTATION BY AGE BY SEX

Period since last doctor consultation	Age (years)						Total
	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45 or more	
<b>MALES</b>							
Number ('000)							
2 weeks ago or less	120.1	143.3	129.8	237.4	259.9	157.0	1 044.4
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	164.7	204.2	263.2	491.1	421.9	220.3	1 865.4
Total up to 3 months	284.8	347.5	393.0	728.5	681.8	377.3	2 910.1
More than 3 months to 6 months	120.4	255.4	196.9	346.4	303.4	161.7	1 193.1
More than 6 months to 12 months	97.6	234.3	229.1	314.9	189.0	96.9	1 101.6
Total up to 12 months	512.9	975.2	821.1	1 368.8	1 074.9	475.0	5 173.8
More than 12 months	41.6	507.2	357.9	540.9	286.1	72.3	1 106.3
Total males (a)	596.9	1 208.4	1 181.9	1 939.6	1 375.1	547.2	6 308.2
Per cent							
2 weeks ago or less	20.2	11.1	11.0	12.1	16.9	29.9	15.1
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	35.9	23.4	22.2	25.5	30.7	36.2	27.0
Total up to 3 months	51.1	34.7	33.2	37.5	47.6	66.1	42.1
More than 3 months to 6 months	20.2	16.1	16.8	17.9	14.8	10.8	16.8
More than 6 months to 12 months	16.3	16.2	19.4	16.2	13.9	7.0	16.0
Total up to 12 months	87.6	71.0	69.4	71.5	76.2	86.0	74.9
More than 12 months	10.5	26.5	30.2	28.5	21.7	13.8	24.7
Total males	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>FEMALES</b>							
Number ('000)							
2 weeks ago or less	125.0	137.5	211.3	425.2	201.8	214.8	1 399.6
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	131.8	260.7	342.0	625.9	426.8	267.2	2 154.1
Total up to 3 months	256.8	405.7	553.3	1 051.1	628.6	482.0	3 553.7
More than 3 months to 6 months	102.3	202.9	206.2	352.0	208.4	80.2	1 151.8
More than 6 months to 12 months	83.4	208.8	196.2	226.1	139.5	45.0	897.7
Total up to 12 months	502.5	817.4	955.4	1 569.0	1 125.2	607.2	5 841.2
More than 12 months	50.9	367.4	194.1	272.2	252.8	63.5	1 106.9
Total females (a)	566.8	1 219.4	1 167.7	1 861.0	1 358.0	701.4	6 965.1
Per cent							
2 weeks ago or less	22.1	11.3	20.2	21.7	20.7	30.7	20.3
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	23.8	22.0	31.4	33.6	36.6	47.1	30.3
Total up to 3 months	55.9	55.5	51.5	55.5	57.5	77.7	50.9
More than 3 months to 6 months	16.1	16.6	17.8	17.9	15.5	11.2	16.5
More than 6 months to 12 months	14.7	16.8	15.5	12.9	10.2	6.4	12.8
Total up to 12 months	86.7	68.7	82.9	82.5	82.8	89.9	82.2
More than 12 months	9.0	30.1	16.8	14.6	17.1	9.5	17.5
Total females	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>PERSONS</b>							
Number ('000)							
2 weeks ago or less	245.3	280.8	341.1	637.5	541.7	371.7	2 440.1
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	376.5	572.4	646.1	1 117.0	978.7	488.0	4 098.7
Total up to 3 months	621.8	853.2	987.2	1 754.5	1 460.4	859.7	6 538.8
More than 3 months to 6 months	222.7	458.5	403.1	679.2	411.7	136.9	2 195.0
More than 6 months to 12 months	180.9	465.7	395.3	541.1	328.0	117.9	1 980.4
Total up to 12 months	1 025.4	1 776.4	1 775.5	2 974.8	2 200.1	1 096.5	10 815.0
More than 12 months	112.5	734.7	354.0	621.7	537.0	141.9	2 895.2
Total persons (a)	1 163.7	2 507.7	2 340.7	3 800.9	2 735.9	1 238.4	13 710.2
Per cent							
2 weeks ago or less	21.1	11.2	15.5	16.8	19.8	30.4	17.7
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	32.4	22.8	26.7	29.4	35.6	39.9	29.0
Total up to 3 months	53.4	34.0	42.3	46.2	55.4	70.2	47.0
More than 3 months to 6 months	19.1	17.4	17.5	17.9	15.1	11.5	16.7
More than 6 months to 12 months	15.5	16.5	16.5	14.2	12.0	6.7	14.4
Total up to 12 months	88.1	69.9	76.0	76.3	80.5	88.2	76.5
More than 12 months	9.7	29.5	23.6	23.6	19.4	11.6	23.0
Total persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Totals include 30 200 males and 34 900 females who did not state when they last consulted a doctor or who claimed never to have consulted a doctor.

## AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78

TABLE 7. PERIODS &amp; PERIODS SINCE LAST DOCTOR CONSULTATION BY STATE OR SEX

Period since last doctor consultation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUSTRALIA
<b>MALES</b>									
Number ('000)									
2 weeks ago or less	596.7	749.9	770.0	399.5	81.4	37.1	5.7	17.0	1 944.4
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	694.2	861.0	896.1	564.6	164.9	54.7	10.0	28.1	2 695.6
Total up to 3 months	1 290.9	1 610.9	1 666.1	964.1	246.3	91.8	15.7	45.1	4 640.0
More than 3 months to 6 months	597.5	742.1	759.0	508.0	131.6	51.6	7.5	20.0	1 916.7
More than 6 months to 12 months	426.2	527.0	557.1	353.4	94.9	35.0	4.7	13.0	1 500.6
Total up to 12 months	1 061.4	1 377.4	1 417.7	877.2	276.8	157.7	28.1	81.6	3 179.8
More than 12 months	538.4	572.7	587.7	349.9	156.2	49.9	9.5	24.3	1 306.5
Total males (a)	1 600.0	1 950.1	2 005.4	1 227.1	433.0	207.6	40.1	106.0	6 506.3
Per cent									
2 weeks ago or less	16.0	13.4	16.1	15.7	13.7	15.9	14.1	16.0	15.1
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	21.7	24.7	27.4	26.4	27.7	25.9	24.0	24.2	25.0
Total up to 3 months	44.1	39.1	45.9	45.1	45.1	47.1	40.0	39.8	42.5
More than 3 months to 6 months	17.1	16.5	16.7	17.1	16.0	15.6	16.0	16.0	16.0
More than 6 months to 12 months	14.7	15.1	15.1	14.4	15.9	17.7	16.0	17.0	15.0
Total up to 12 months	77.5	77.6	74.0	76.7	73.6	75.1	75.7	77.0	74.9
More than 12 months	21.2	27.5	25.7	23.7	25.9	24.7	23.5	22.9	24.7
Total males	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>FEMALES</b>									
Number ('000)									
2 weeks ago or less	501.0	644.7	275.0	116.6	110.9	40.0	6.7	10.9	1 516.6
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	577.0	591.4	719.7	204.8	102.4	66.1	7.4	19.7	2 159.1
Total up to 3 months	1 078.0	1 236.1	994.7	321.4	213.3	106.1	14.1	30.6	3 675.7
More than 3 months to 6 months	590.0	567.0	567.0	309.3	101.0	37.8	5.5	19.1	1 514.0
More than 6 months to 12 months	294.4	249.5	317.1	80.4	36.4	16.4	4.4	10.5	677.7
Total up to 12 months	1 372.4	1 495.6	1 311.8	401.8	249.7	122.5	18.5	41.1	5 347.2
More than 12 months	598.5	553.4	682.7	315.1	111.9	25.7	5.0	14.4	1 566.5
Total females (a)	1 970.9	2 049.0	1 994.5	716.9	361.6	148.2	23.5	55.5	6 913.7
Per cent									
2 weeks ago or less	17.0	13.4	21.5	16.4	20.9	19.9	20.0	19.0	20.1
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	14.2	11.4	17.0	21.7	17.0	15.9	10.7	15.0	15.5
Total up to 3 months	35.2	24.9	38.5	38.1	37.9	35.8	30.7	34.0	35.6
More than 3 months to 6 months	14.4	14.1	16.3	17.4	17.1	15.8	14.9	17.4	16.5
More than 6 months to 12 months	12.0	11.5	11.5	12.0	11.2	14.7	14.0	12.3	12.0
Total up to 12 months	63.6	60.5	67.8	67.5	60.5	60.5	60.0	60.7	60.2
More than 12 months	16.0	19.0	17.5	16.1	17.1	16.6	15.4	14.1	17.5
Total females	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>PERSONS</b>									
Number ('000)									
2 weeks ago or less	896.7	1 394.6	1 045.0	516.1	202.3	77.1	12.4	27.9	2 461.1
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	1 271.2	1 452.4	1 615.7	773.4	248.3	113.8	17.1	47.8	4 091.7
Total up to 3 months	2 167.9	2 847.0	2 660.7	1 289.5	450.6	190.9	29.5	75.7	6 552.8
More than 3 months to 6 months	790.2	646.2	596.0	277.5	101.5	63.4	12.9	23.6	2 015.9
More than 6 months to 12 months	696.4	517.5	554.1	333.7	117.0	44.4	11.5	17.1	1 909.4
Total up to 12 months	3 554.5	3 970.7	3 810.8	1 956.7	669.1	312.7	51.9	100.5	10 478.1
More than 12 months	307.2	365.6	448.4	262.9	105.7	35.4	14.5	19.7	2 015.7
Total persons (a)	3 861.7	4 336.3	4 259.2	2 219.6	774.8	348.1	66.4	120.2	12 493.8
Per cent									
2 weeks ago or less	16.5	16.5	16.8	17.2	17.0	17.9	17.1	17.0	17.2
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	17.4	16.1	29.2	29.5	29.6	29.4	27.9	29.7	29.7
Total up to 3 months	42.9	44.6	46.0	46.7	46.6	47.3	45.0	47.7	47.5
More than 3 months to 6 months	14.5	17.4	15.7	17.5	16.8	18.7	17.0	19.1	16.1
More than 6 months to 12 months	14.1	14.2	14.2	14.6	14.6	17.0	15.0	14.9	14.4
Total up to 12 months	60.5	60.2	77.9	76.6	76.0	75.0	70.7	69.7	70.5
More than 12 months	19.1	25.1	21.6	20.9	21.4	20.7	20.0	20.0	21.0
Total Persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Totals include 30 300 males and 54 900 females who did not state when they last consulted a doctor or who claimed never to have consulted a doctor.

ANTHROPIC HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78

TABLE 5. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE & PERIOD SINCE LAST DOCTOR CONSULTATION BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION BY SEX

(\*000)

Period since last doctor consultation	No. schooling	Still at school	Left school before age 15 years		Left school aged 15 years or more		Total (a)
			No qualifications obtained since	Qualifications obtained since	No qualifications obtained since	Qualifications obtained since	
<b>MALES</b>							
2 weeks ago or less	*4.4	25.9	28.0	59.5	268.5	307.9	791.0
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	*2.6	16.0	35.2	121.4	475.9	592.0	1 136.7
Total up to 3 months	*7.0	41.9	63.2	150.9	744.4	939.9	2 151.7
More than 3 months to 6 months	*1.2	36.0	74.9	50.0	528.5	673.7	805.5
More than 6 months to 12 months	*	51.5	136.5	51.5	290.1	427.5	720.7
Total up to 12 months	10.5	167.5	274.5	259.0	1 562.6	1 025.7	3 721.7
More than 12 months	*	51.1	249.4	59.9	482.6	592.2	1 277.4
Total males	12.6	248.7	1 106.4	590.5	1 951.5	1 404.5	5 013.0
<b>FEMALES</b>							
2 weeks ago or less	*6.0	25.1	52.1	34.6	527.0	216.1	1 133.0
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	3.5	36.3	497.6	59.9	827.5	586.0	1 773.2
Total up to 3 months	11.5	61.4	449.7	74.5	1 354.5	562.0	2 906.2
More than 3 months to 6 months	*	36.9	195.4	36.5	394.4	398.5	829.6
More than 6 months to 12 months	*2.7	47.5	129.6	75.4	266.5	309.6	565.6
Total up to 12 months	14.2	145.7	1 545.6	109.2	2 009.2	862.0	4 311.4
More than 12 months	*2.9	79.5	209.4	77.9	529.9	727.5	768.6
Total females	17.1	247.5	1 845.2	126.1	2 547.5	907.9	5 076.9
<b>PERSONS</b>							
2 weeks ago or less	10.4	49.1	542.9	115.9	795.5	404.0	1 974.0
More than 2 weeks to 3 months	12.1	112.5	657.7	185.3	1 299.2	728.0	3 143.9
Total up to 3 months	22.5	161.6	1 200.6	299.1	2 090.5	1 132.0	5 263.8
More than 3 months to 6 months	*4.5	75.0	351.0	66.5	719.7	426.2	1 454.9
More than 6 months to 12 months	*1.9	92.0	268.1	66.7	564.6	337.1	1 196.5
Total up to 12 months	30.6	329.2	1 829.0	426.1	2 775.4	1 895.2	6 095.0
More than 12 months	*4.9	160.6	458.8	127.3	872.5	495.7	2 046.0
Total persons (b)	35.7	497.0	2 457.6	514.9	4 196.6	2 390.4	10 100.0

(a) Includes 8 700 males and 6 800 females who did not state their educational level. (b) Includes 19 007 persons who did not state when they last consulted a doctor, or who claimed never to have consulted a doctor.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78  
SECTION 2. NUMBER OF DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS

TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW: NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS BY AGE BY SEX  
(\*000)

	Age (years)						Total
	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 or more	
<b>MALES</b>							
Number of doctor consultations in the two weeks before interview:							
1	91.7	112.8	97.5	169.0	167.6	122.7	761.5
2	17.0	22.9	22.0	43.3	47.5	38.7	171.4
3	* 4.7	* 4.5	* 5.0	11.0	10.1	* 4.8	37.8
4	* 2.5	*	* 5.5	* 5.2	* 4.4	* 3.2	22.5
5 or more	* 4.7	*	*	* 5.5	10.2	* 7.6	31.1
Total males consulting (a)	120.5	145.5	129.8	234.4	259.9	157.0	1 044.6
Per cent of population	20.2	11.1	11.0	12.1	18.9	29.9	15.1
<b>FEMALES</b>							
Number of doctor consultations in the two weeks before interview:							
1	97.7	111.2	181.2	305.1	214.5	185.2	1 062.8
2	18.0	16.5	32.7	62.9	44.4	36.4	212.9
3	* 5.9	* 3.5	* 7.9	16.3	12.5	* 7.5	51.1
4	* *	* *	* 6.0	* 7.1	* 5.8	* 2.7	22.3
5 or more	* 4.0	* 3.5	* 5.5	13.4	* 6.7	13.1	45.9
Total females consulting (a)	125.0	137.5	233.3	405.2	261.8	214.8	1 595.6
Per cent of population	22.1	11.3	20.2	21.7	20.7	30.7	20.5
<b>PERSONS</b>							
Number of doctor consultations in the two weeks before interview:							
1	189.4	224.0	278.7	472.2	402.2	277.9	1 844.3
2	34.9	41.4	54.7	106.2	91.9	55.1	364.2
3	* 8.6	* 7.6	10.9	27.5	22.5	12.2	86.9
4	* 5.7	* 3.2	13.5	12.5	* 8.2	* 5.9	44.6
5 or more	* 8.7	* 4.5	* 7.4	16.9	16.9	23.6	77.0
Total persons consulting (a)	245.3	260.8	365.1	637.5	547.7	371.7	2 440.1
Per cent of population	21.1	11.2	15.5	16.8	19.6	30.4	17.7

(a) Includes persons who consulted a doctor in the two weeks before interview but did not state how many times.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW: AGE BY SEX

	Age (years)						Total all ages
	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 or more	
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS (*000)							
Males	181.0	185.9	183.4	347.4	401.9	257.2	1 556.6
Females	174.2	181.5	328.5	589.5	400.3	541.7	2 015.4
Persons	355.1	367.1	511.9	936.9	802.1	578.9	3 552.0
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS PER PERSON MAKING A CONSULTATION							
Males	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Females	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.4
Persons	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5
CONSULTATION RATE PER 100 POPULATION							
Males	30.5	14.4	15.4	17.9	29.2	45.2	22.2
Females	30.7	14.8	20.4	31.6	29.4	46.7	29.3
Persons	30.5	14.6	21.8	24.6	29.3	47.2	25.7

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 TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW:  
 NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS BY LOCATION OF CONSULTATION  
 ('000)

	Location of doctor consultations (a)						Telephone or through another person
	Doctor's surgery	Patient's home	Hospital			School, work or other clinic	
			Inpatient	Outpatient department	Casualty department		
MALES							
Number of doctor consultations in the two weeks before interview:							
1	686.0	35.5	*4.7	89.8	36.9	22.4	12.4
2	123.1	* 2.9	*6.4	16.3	*4.3	*4.5	*3.7
3	21.7	*	*5.9	*5.1	*	*	*
4	*8.7	*	*3.4	*3.6	*	*	*
5 or more	*5.4	*	14.2	*	*	*	*
Total males who consulted a doctor at each location	844.9	42.4	54.7	116.5	43.6	29.3	16.4
Total male consultations	1060.9	58.2	140.4	160.9	54.7	40.5	20.7
Percentage distribution of location of male consultations	69.1	5.8	9.1	10.5	5.6	2.6	1.5
FEMALES							
Number of doctor consultations in the two weeks before interview:							
1	923.3	66.2	15.4	95.1	19.2	20.2	21.1
2	181.4	9.9	*7.7	15.7	3.2	*	*
3	26.9	*	9.9	*3.3	*	*	*
4	*8.8	*2.4	11.6	*	*	*	*
5 or more	3.8	*	23.8	*	*	*	*
Total females who consulted a doctor at each location	1 144.1	81.4	68.4	114.3	24.4	22.9	23.0
Total female consultations	1 424.4	106.9	254.6	145.5	31.4	26.2	26.9
Percentage distribution of location of female consultations	70.7	5.3	12.6	7.2	1.6	1.3	1.3
PERSONS							
Number of doctor consultations in the two weeks before interview:							
1	1 609.3	101.7	20.1	182.9	56.1	42.5	33.5
2	304.5	12.8	14.1	32.0	*7.5	*6.5	*4.5
3	48.7	*2.9	15.8	*8.4	*2.8	*	*
4	17.4	*3.8	15.0	*4.8	*	*	*
5 or more	9.1	*2.5	38.0	*2.6	*	*	*
Total persons who consulted a doctor at each location	1 989.1	123.8	103.0	230.8	67.9	52.1	39.5
Total consultations	2 485.3	165.1	394.9	306.3	86.0	66.7	47.7
Percentage distribution of location of consultations	70.0	4.7	11.1	8.6	2.4	1.9	1.3

(a) A person who consulted a doctor at more than one place is shown at each place

## AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78

## SECTION 3: DETAILS OF MOST RECENT CONSULTATION

TABLE 7. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW (a) : TYPE OF DOCTOR CONSULTED AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION

Type of doctor consulted at most recent consultation	Males		Females		Persons	
	('000)	per cent	('000)	per cent	('000)	per cent
General practitioner	2 206.3	77.3	2 737.8	77.9	4 944.1	77.6
Specialist	518.5	11.2	472.3	13.4	790.7	12.4
Hospital doctor	519.4	11.2	293.8	8.4	613.2	9.6
Total (b)	2 854.0	100.0	3 516.1	100.0	6 370.1	100.0

(a) Excludes 56 100 males and 112 600 females whose most recent consultation in the three months period was during a stay in hospital, or by telephone, or through some other person.

(b) Includes 9 900 males and 12 200 females who did not state the type of doctor consulted most recently.

TABLE 8. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW (a) : TYPE OF DOCTOR CONSULTED AT THE MOST RECENT CONSULTATION BY TYPE OF DOCTOR USUALLY CONSULTED ('000)

Type of doctor consulted at most recent consultation	Type of usual doctor			Total with a usual doctor	No usual doctor	Total
	General practitioner	Specialist	Hospital doctor			
MALES						
Consulted their usual doctor	1 848.1	79.5	89.1	2 016.8	..	2 016.8
Consulted other doctor						
General practitioner	219.7	9.2	*3.2	232.2	126.0	558.2
Specialist	195.7	*1.5	"	201.1	37.8	239.0
Hospital doctor	145.7	*5.7	*5.3	154.7	75.5	230.2
Total males who consulted a doctor	2 409.3	96.0	99.5	2 604.8	239.3	(b) 2 854.0
FEMALES						
Consulted their usual doctor	2 326.3	120.1	85.4	2 531.8	..	2 531.8
Consulted other doctor						
General practitioner	289.2	10.8	*5.0	304.9	106.6	411.5
Specialist	302.6	*6.3	*5.6	314.5	37.7	352.2
Hospital doctor	135.2	*4.5	*8.8	148.5	59.8	208.4
Total females who consulted a doctor	3 053.2	141.7	104.8	3 299.7	204.1	(b) 3 516.1
PERSONS						
Consulted their usual doctor	4 174.4	199.6	174.6	4 548.6	..	4 548.6
Consulted other doctor						
General practitioner	508.9	20.0	*8.2	537.1	232.6	769.7
Specialist	498.3	3.8	*7.5	515.7	75.5	591.2
Hospital doctor	280.9	*8.3	14.1	303.2	135.3	438.6
Total persons who consulted a doctor	5 462.6	237.7	204.3	5 904.6	443.4	(b) 6 370.1

(a) Excludes 56 100 males and 112 600 females whose most recent consultation in the three months period was during a stay in hospital, or by telephone, or through some other person.

(b) Includes 9 900 males and 12 200 females who did not state the type of doctor consulted most recently.

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TABLE 9. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW (a):  
TYPE OF DOCTOR CONSULTED AT THE MOST RECENT CONSULTATION BY DEGREE OF SATISFACTION WITH THAT CONSULTATION

Type of doctor consulted at most recent consultation		Degree of satisfaction at most recent consultation			Total (b)
		Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	
MALES					
General practitioner:	Person's usual doctor	428.2	1 327.8	84.2	1 848.1
	Not person's usual doctor	76.3	226.8	52.8	558.1
Total consulted general practitioner		504.5	1 554.6	137.0	2 206.5
Specialist:	Person's usual doctor	23.6	49.4	*7.5	79.5
	Not person's usual doctor	75.4	137.9	24.7	239.0
Total consulted specialist		98.9	186.3	32.2	318.5
Hospital doctor:	Person's usual doctor	22.3	58.5	*7.7	89.1
	Not person's usual doctor	55.5	145.4	27.3	230.2
Total consulted hospital doctor		77.8	203.8	35.0	319.4
Total males who consulted a doctor (c)		686.8	1 947.8	204.8	2 854.0
FEMALES					
General practitioner:	Person's usual doctor	630.7	1 573.6	115.4	2 326.5
	Not person's usual doctor	81.7	265.3	63.4	411.5
Total consulted general practitioner		712.4	1 838.9	178.8	2 737.8
Specialist:	Person's usual doctor	42.0	69.3	*8.2	120.1
	Not person's usual doctor	127.3	201.5	22.5	352.2
Total consulted specialist		169.3	270.7	30.8	472.5
Hospital doctor:	Person's usual doctor	22.9	58.0	*4.2	85.4
	Not person's usual doctor	44.3	138.2	24.7	208.4
Total consulted hospital doctor		67.2	196.1	28.9	295.8
Total females who consulted a doctor (c)		954.4	2 310.1	239.3	3 516.1
PERSONS					
General practitioners:	Person's usual doctor	1 058.9	2 901.4	199.6	4 174.4
	Not person's usual doctor	158.0	492.1	116.1	769.7
Total consulted general practitioner		1 216.8	3 393.5	315.8	4 944.1
Specialist:	Person's usual doctor	65.6	117.6	15.8	199.6
	Not person's usual doctor	202.7	339.4	47.2	591.2
Total consulted specialist		268.2	457.1	63.0	790.7
Hospital doctor:	Person's usual doctor	45.2	116.4	12.0	174.6
	Not person's usual doctor	59.8	283.6	52.0	458.6
Total consulted hospital doctor		144.9	400.0	64.0	612.2
Total persons who consulted a doctor (c)		1 644.2	4 257.9	444.1	6 370.1

(a) Excludes 56 100 males and 112 600 females whose most recent consultation in the three months before interview was during a stay in hospital, or by telephone, or through some other person.

(b) Includes 14 600 males and 12 200 females who did not know or did not state their degree of satisfaction.

(c) Includes 9 900 males and 12 200 females who did not state the type of doctor consulted most recently.

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TABLE 10. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW (a) : MAIN REASON FOR MOST RECENT CONSULTATION BY LOCATION OF CONSULTATION

Main reason for most recent consultation	Location of most recent consultation						Total all places
	Doctor's Surgery	Patient's Home	Hospital		School, Work or other clinic		
			Outpatient Department	Casualty Department			
MALES							
Immunisation/vaccination	16.0	*	*	*	42.7		85.7
Eye test	41.4	*	*6.7	*	*	*	47.8
Renewal of prescription	109.7	*	*7.1	*	*4.4	*	181.8
Certificate other than prescription	48.7	*	*	*	*0.5	*	51.5
Any sickness, illness, injury, or infection	1 308.0	79.0	271.9	59.6	59.6		2 198.6
Other reason	25.1	*4.1	31.0	22.4			289.8
Total males who consulted a doctor	174.1	96.8	251.6	17.9	71.6		7 814.0
FEMALES							
Immunisation/vaccination	79.4	*1.7	*4.0	*	*	*	87.3
Eye test	22.7	*	*1.5	*	*	*	24.7
Renewal of prescription	148.8	*	21.0	*	*0.4	*	190.5
Certificate other than prescription	102.5	*7.1	10.1	11.6			211.5
Any sickness, illness, injury, or infection	1 382.0	102.5	395.8	56.1	56.1		2 512.5
Other reason	33.7	17.5	55.2	19.0			425.5
Total females who consulted a doctor	1 219.4	148.0	257.1	77.2	71.6		5 176.1
PERSONS							
Immunisation/vaccination	111.4	*4.8	*4.8	42.0			172.9
Eye test	41.3	*	2.7	*	*	*	46.7
Renewal of prescription	148.8	*	27.0	*	*0.4	*	196.5
Certificate other than prescription	111.6	*8.7	17.8	16.0			194.1
Any sickness, illness, injury, or infection	1 794.0	181.5	667.7	75.7	75.7		4 154.8
Other reason	64.3	21.5	86.1	41.4			712.2
Total persons who consulted a doctor	1 597.4	218.8	508.6	125.1	143.2		6 770.1

(a) Excludes 18 700 males and 112 500 females whose most recent consultation in the three months period was during a stay in hospital, or by telephone, or through some other person.

TABLE 11. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW (a) : MAIN REASON FOR MOST RECENT CONSULTATION BY TYPE OF SERVICE ARRANGED (b) AT THAT CONSULTATION

Service arranged at most recent consultation (c)	Main reason for most recent consultation						Total persons consulting a doctor (d)
	Immunisation/vaccination	Eye test	Renewal of prescription	Certificate other than prescription	Any sickness, illness, injury, or infection	Other	
	PERSONS						
Further consultation	50.8	17.7	149.7	107.5	11.4	1 266.1	256.2
Admission to hospital	*	*	25.2	*1.0	*	96.5	24.7
Home	*	*	5.8	*1.0	*4.4	397.0	85.1
School test	*0.0	*1.7	47.8	25.2	*0.9	592.9	85.7
Referral to specialist	*	10.0	11.0	11.8	*1.0	355.5	44.0
Visit from nurse	*	*	*	*	*	28.2	*5.5
None of the above services arranged (c)	144.1	55.4	45.0	176.2	55.5	2 811.0	371.1
Total persons consulting a doctor (d)	170.9	104.5	196.3	594.1	74.0	4 515.6	712.2

(a) Excludes 18 700 males and 112 500 females whose most recent consultation in the three months period was during a stay in hospital, or by telephone, or through some other person.

(b) Only the services shown in the table were specifically covered in the survey.

(c) Other services may have been arranged but they were not recorded.

(d) The sum of services recorded against each main reason may exceed the total number of persons consulting a doctor for that reason because more than one service may have been arranged at a consultation.

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TABLE 12. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW (a) : TYPE OF SERVICE ARRANGED (b) AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION BY LOCATION OF THAT CONSULTATION

Service arranged at most recent consultation (b)	Location of most recent consultation				Total all places
	Doctor's Surgery	Patient's Home	Hospital Outpatient/Casualty Department (c)	School, Work or other Clinic	
PERSONS WHO HAD ONLY ONE SERVICE ARRANGED					
Further consultation	1 110.5	52.6	165.1	27.8	1 356.0
Admission to hospital	13.5	*	*4.3	*	18.7
X-ray	107.0	*	36.9	*8.8	155.4
Blood test	124.2	*	13.0	*4.1	145.5
Referral to specialist	110.7	*5.6	*8.0	*	124.3
Visit from nurse	12.5	*3.2	*	*	19.0
PERSONS WHO HAD A FURTHER CONSULTATION AND ONLY ONE OTHER SERVICE ARRANGED					
Admission to hospital with a further consultation	42.4	*	*2.5	*	45.7
X-ray with a further consultation	95.5	*5.2	29.5	*2.8	130.9
Blood test with a further consultation	108.9	*5.1	42.4	*	156.4
Referral to specialist with a further consultation	54.9	*	*7.7	*	63.1
Visit from nurse with a further consultation	*2.6	*4.5	*	*	9.2
ALL PERSONS					
Further consultation	1 529.0	66.4	288.7	37.5	1 921.6
Admission to hospital	115.1	*2.9	19.6	*	138.5
X-ray	321.7	*5.4	120.1	19.6	466.7
Blood test	353.4	*7.9	104.1	15.0	480.5
Referral to specialist	279.5	*5.3	48.6	*4.0	337.4
Visit from nurse	19.1	*8.3	*6.6	*	35.6
None of the above services arranged (d)	3 586.5	158.2	230.6	85.8	3 845.1
Total persons consulting a doctor (e)	5 592.4	218.8	613.7	145.2	6 370.1

(a) Excludes 56 100 males and 112 500 females whose most recent consultation in the three months period was during a stay in hospital, or by telephone, or through some other person.

(b) Only the services shown in the table were specifically covered in the survey.

(c) Includes 105 100 consultations at hospital casualty departments.

(d) Other services may have been arranged but they were not recorded.

(e) The sum of services arranged at each location may exceed the total number of persons consulting a doctor at that location because more than one service may have been arranged at a consultation.

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TABLE 15. PERSONS WHO CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN THE THREE MONTHS BEFORE INTERVIEW (a); TYPE OF SERVICE ARRANGED (b) AT MOST RECENT CONSULTATION BY DEGREE OF SATISFACTION WITH THAT CONSULTATION

Service arranged at most recent consultation (b)	Degree of satisfaction			Total(c)
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	
PERSONS WHO HAD ONLY ONE SERVICE ARRANGED				
Further consultation	405.1	656.8	98.0	1 356.0
Admission to hospital	*4.8	15.6	*	19.7
X-ray	35.9	101.2	17.8	155.4
Blood test	34.4	100.0	9.0	143.5
Referral to specialist	28.2	81.5	11.7	124.5
Visit from nurse	*5.9	13.1	*	19.0
PERSONS WHO HAD A FURTHER CONSULTATION AND ONLY ONE OTHER SERVICE ARRANGED				
Admission to hospital with a further consultation	16.9	37.2	*	45.7
X-ray with a further consultation	29.5	84.2	16.7	130.9
Blood test with a further consultation	50.5	33.6	12.3	156.4
Referral to specialist with a further consultation	11.6	43.9	*4.3	61.1
Visit from nurse with a further consultation	*2.7	*5.4	*	9.0
ALL PERSONS				
Further consultation	568.5	1 205.7	140.1	1 921.6
Admission to hospital	46.0	85.8	*8.1	139.5
X-ray	111.4	297.9	55.0	466.7
Blood test	141.8	296.8	41.2	480.5
Referral to specialist	84.9	219.8	31.4	337.4
Visit from nurse	10.2	24.1	*	35.6
None of the above services arranged (d)	926.9	2 657.6	249.2	3 845.1
Total persons consulting a doctor (e)	1 641.2	4 257.9	444.1	6 370.1

(a) Excludes 56 100 males and 112 600 females whose most recent consultation in the three months period was during a stay in hospital, or by telephone, or through some other person.

(b) Only the services shown in the table were specifically covered in the survey.

(c) Includes 14 600 males and 12 200 females who did not know or did not state their degree of satisfaction.

(d) Other services may have been arranged but they were not recorded.

(e) The sum of the services recorded against each degree of satisfaction may exceed the total number of persons reporting that degree of satisfaction because more than one service may have been arranged at a consultation.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

## Estimation procedure

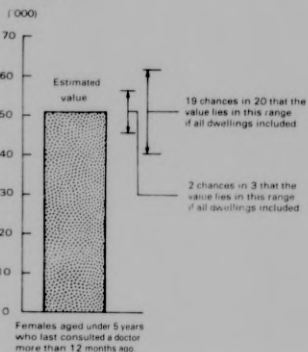
Estimates derived from the survey are obtained by using a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

## Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard error of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given below. These figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude. An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows: Table 1 shows that the estimated number of females aged under 5 years who last consulted a doctor more than 12 months ago is 50,900. From the table below it will be seen that the estimate has a standard error of about 5,400 and therefore there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if

all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 45,500 to 56,300 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 40,100 to 61,700. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



The size of the standard error in relation to the estimate indicates that the actual value could be greater or less (within standard error ranges) than the published figure. Estimates to which a person may contribute more than once (e.g. Total number of doctor consultations, Table 5) would be expected to have slightly higher standard errors than indicated in Table A.

TABLE A: STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES - PERSONS

Size of estimate (persons)	Australia									
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Number	Per cent estimate
150							70			
200							80			
250							90			
300							100			
350							110			
400							120			
450							130			
500							140			
600							150			
800							170			
1,000							200			
1,500							240			
2,000							280			
2,500							320			
3,000							350			
4,000							410			
5,000							460			
6,000							500			
8,000							580			
10,000							660			
20,000							940			
30,000							1,200			
50,000							1,500			
100,000							2,500			
200,000							3,500			
300,000							4,900			
500,000										
1,000,000										
2,000,000										
5,000,000										
1,800	1,200	1,000	920	640	740	300	350	240	1,200	46.9
1,300	1,300	1,100	960	750	1,000	380	350	300	1,300	42.8
1,500	1,500	1,300	1,100	1,200	1,200	470	410	330	1,500	37.2
1,700	1,700	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	540	410	330	1,700	33.3
1,900	1,900	1,600	1,400	1,400	1,400	600	460	380	1,800	30.4
2,200	2,200	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700	750	580	470	2,100	26.4
2,500	2,500	2,100	1,900	1,900	1,900	840	660	530	2,400	23.7
2,800	2,800	2,300	2,100	2,100	2,100	910	750	600	2,800	16.8
3,600	3,600	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,800	1,000	840	660	3,000	13.8
4,500	4,500	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	1,200	940	750	4,000	10.7
6,000	6,000	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	1,500	1,200	940	5,400	7.6
8,200	8,200	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	2,000	1,500	1,100	7,600	5.4
11,300	11,300	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	2,500	2,000	1,500	13,300	4.4
13,600	13,600	15,700	15,700	15,700	15,700	3,200	2,500	1,900	17,200	3.4
17,300	17,300	20,700	20,700	20,700	20,700	4,100	3,200	2,500	24,500	2.4
23,800	23,800	30,100	30,100	30,100	30,100	5,700	4,500	3,500	34,800	1.7
32,900	32,900	43,800	43,800	43,800	43,800	9,700	7,500	5,800	55,400	1.1

Brackets around standard errors indicate a relative standard error exceeding 25%.

4. As the standard errors in the table show, the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates would thus be subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates with relative standard errors between 25% and 50% have been included and are preceded by the symbol \*. Considerable care should be exercised in using them because they are subject to such high errors. Estimates with relative standard errors greater than 50% have not been shown and although figures for these components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

5. The reliability of an estimated percentage or rate computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the relative standard error of the estimated percentage will generally be lower than the relative standard error of the estimate of the numerator. The relative standard errors of the numerator can be obtained from Table A.

6. Approximate standard errors on rates or percentages may be derived by first obtaining the relative standard error of the number of persons corresponding to the numerator of this rate or percentage and then applying this figure to the estimated rate or percentage. An example of this calculation is as follows: Table 5 shows that the consultation rate per hundred persons aged under 5 years in the two weeks before interview is 30.5 and that the numerator of this rate is 355,100. By interpolation from Table A the standard error of the numerator is 14,400, which is a relative standard error of 4.1 per cent. The standard error on this rate of 30.5 can then be approximated by:

Rate x Relative standard error

$$= 30.5 \times \frac{4.1}{100.0}$$

$$= 1.3$$

Therefore there are 2 chances in 3 that the rate that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is in the range 29.2 to 31.8 per hundred and 19 chances in 20 that it is in the range 27.9 to 33.1 per hundred.

7. Published figures may also be used to estimate the difference between two survey estimates (estimates of numbers, rates or percentages). Such a figure is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two survey estimates depends on the standard errors of the original estimates and on the relationship (correlation) between the two original estimates. An approximate standard error of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

Standard error (x-y)

$$= \sqrt{\text{Standard error (x)}^2 + \text{Standard error (y)}^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics or sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

8. An example of the use of the above formula is as follows. The difference between the estimates of the number of females and males who consulted a doctor at their home in the two weeks before interview (Table 6) is

$$81,400 - 42,400 = 39,000$$

9. The standard error of this estimate is as follows. From Table A the standard errors of each of the two original estimates can be approximated as 6,800 and 4,900 respectively. Therefore the standard error on the difference 39,000 is given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Standard error (81,400 - 42,400)} \\ &= \sqrt{(6,800)^2 + (4,900)^2} \\ &= 8,400 \text{ (rounded to nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

Thus there are about 2 chances in 3 that the difference that would have been obtained, if all dwellings had been included in the survey is within the range 30,600 to 47,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that this difference is between 22,200 and 55,800.

10. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewees and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.