

NEW ISSUE



**AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY
1977-78
DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY
DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY**

CATALOGUE NO. 4321.0

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY

1977-78

DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY

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Catalogue No. 4321.0

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

2. Although a summary publication, *Australian Health Survey, 1977-78* (4311.0) containing some data relating to days of reduced activity was released during 1979, this publication contains detailed results for the topic of days of reduced activity. Other publications from the survey contain tables on different aspects of the survey. A description of all topics collected in the survey is contained in *Australian Health Survey 1977-78 Information Paper* (4340.0).

Scope and coverage

3. 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 holidaying in Australia, were excluded from the survey. The exclusion of persons in hospitals, nursing homes and other health institutions should be borne in mind in assessing the significance of the results.

Survey method

4. Each person over the age of 14 was interviewed personally, except those persons either too old or too sick to be interviewed, where relatives were interviewed on their behalf. Wherever possible, information for children aged less than 15 years was obtained from their mothers. The questions relating to days of reduced activity were only asked in relation to those persons aged 2 years or more. These questions referred to days of reduced activity in the two week period preceding the day of interview.

Definitions

5. *Reduced activity days* - a day of reduced activity is one in which a person cut down on his/her usual activities for all or most of that day, due to illness or injury.

6. *Bed-disability days* - a day of bed-disability is one in which a person stayed in bed for all or most of the day due to illness or injury. A day spent in bed due to illness or injury is also a day of reduced activity.

7. *Days lost from school* - a day lost from school is a normal school day on which a student did not attend school for all or most of the day because of illness or injury. The questions relating to days lost from school were asked of all persons aged 6 to 14 years and persons aged 15 and over who stated that their usual major activity was either 'full-time tertiary student' or 'school student'. A day lost from school due to illness or injury is also a day of reduced activity.

8. *Days lost from work* - a day lost from work is a day for which a person did not work at his/her job or business for all or most of the normal work day due to illness or injury. The questions relating to days lost from work were asked of all persons aged 15 years or more who stated that they had a full-time or part-time job or business in the week before interview including persons who had a job but were sick or on leave in the week before interview. Persons who reported that their usual major activity was either 'full-time tertiary student' or 'school student' were EXCLUDED from tables showing days lost from work even though they may have had a job or business. A day lost from work due to illness or injury is also a day of reduced activity.

9. *Average days per persons concerned* (for reduced activity, bed-disability and days lost from school or work) is the number of days obtained by dividing the total number of days reported for the relevant category by the number of persons concerned (i.e. the number of persons in that category reporting one or more days).

10. *Recent illness* - illness, injury or other health problem which caused some complaint or symptom of illhealth in the two weeks prior to interview.

Sample design

11. Households were randomly selected for inclusion in the survey, using a stratified multi-stage area sample design. Approximately 15,000 dwellings were selected for inclusion in the survey.

Estimation procedure

12. 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. Population benchmarks for the Australian Health Survey were derived from an average of the four mid-quarterly population estimates for 1977-78 adjusted for the scope of the survey (see paragraph 3).

Reliability of the estimates

13. Since the estimates are based on a sample they are subject to sampling variability (see technical note, page 16 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.

14. In addition to the sampling errors, the survey results are subject to non-sampling errors: i.e. those inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers or respondents, processing errors, and non-response. Such errors may occur in any statistical collection, whether it be 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, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

Interpretation of results

15. The following factors should be considered in interpreting the results in this publication:

- (a) Persons who have permanently reduced their usual activities because of a long-term illness injury or impairment might not report any reduced activity days during the two week period. Therefore, absence of reduced activity days does not necessarily imply freedom from illness, injury or impairment.
- (b) Days of reduced activity for persons who were hospitalised for the whole 2 week period or longer are excluded because of the survey design (see paragraph 3).
- (c) Days lost from school or work refer only to those days lost due to that person's own illness or injury and do not include days where a person stays home from school or work to look after another member of the household who is ill.
- (d) Days lost from work refer only to those days lost through illness or injury and do not include days lost due to industrial disputes, unemployment or other reasons.

Related publications

16. 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 1977-78, Chronic conditions (illnesses and permanent disabilities) (4314.0)

Australian Health Survey 1977-78, Episodes (admissions and discharges) in Hospital (4317.0)

Australian Health Survey 1977-78, Doctor Consultations (4319.0)

17. Future ABS publications from the 1977-78 Australian Health Survey will provide further details on the topics of recent illness, consultations with health professionals other than doctors and dentists, and concepts and methodology.

18. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (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 13.

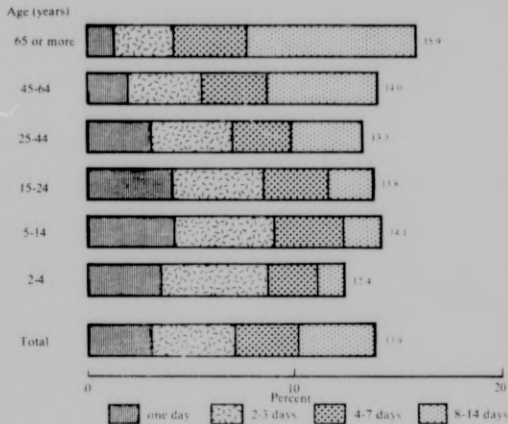
19. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Days of reduced activity

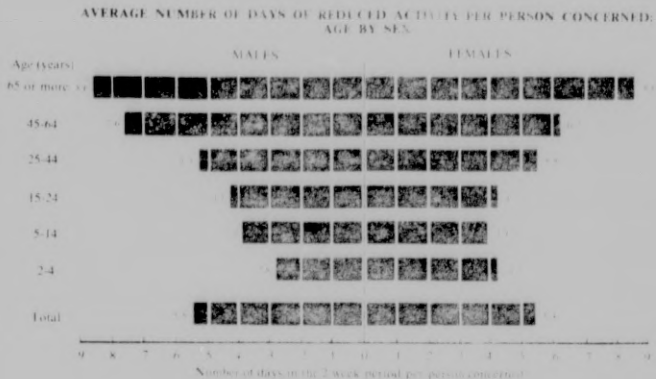
Approximately 14 per cent of the Australian population aged 2 years or more (1,849,600 persons) had one or more days of reduced activity due to illness or injury in the two weeks before interview. A higher proportion of females than males (15.1 and 12.7 per cent respectively) had one or more days of reduced activity. As the diagram below shows the proportion of persons in each age group who reported more than 7 days of reduced activity (due to illness or injury in the previous two weeks) increased with age from 1.2 per cent of persons aged 2 to 4 years to 8.2 per cent of persons aged 65 years or more.

PERCENT OF POPULATION REPORTING ONE OR MORE DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY: NUMBER OF DAYS BY AGE



The above trend is also reflected in Table 1 which shows the average number of days of reduced activity per person reporting one or more days. The average ranges from 3.5 days for persons aged 2 to 4 years to 8.6 days for persons aged 65 years or more.

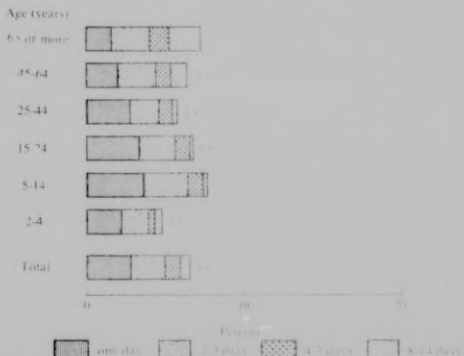
The diagram below shows that for most age groups the average number of days of reduced activity for males is similar to that for females in the same age group, and is 5.5 days overall for males and 5.4 days overall for females.



Bed-disability days

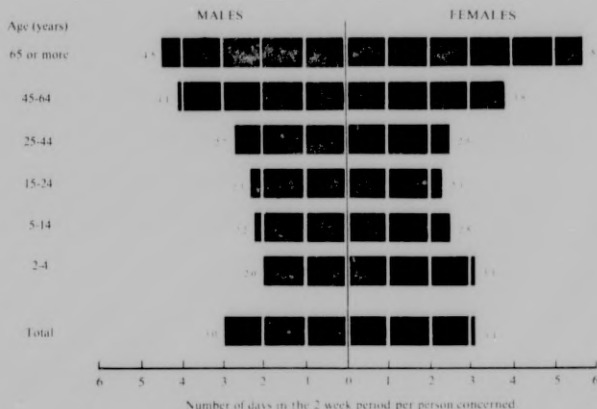
Approximately 7 per cent of the Australian population aged 2 years or more (868/909 persons) had one or more days in bed due to illness or injury in the two weeks before interview. A greater percentage of females than males (7.4 and 5.6 respectively) had one or more bed-disability days. The age group with the highest proportion of persons with one or more bed-disability days was the 5 to 14 year group (7.7 per cent) although approximately 8.4 per cent of these persons reported 3 or less days of reduced activity. The age group with the largest proportion of persons having spent 8 or more days of the two week period in bed, is the 65 years or more age group.

**PERCENT OF POPULATION REPORTING ONE OR MORE BED-DISABILITY DAYS:
NUMBER OF DAYS BY AGE**



The average number of bed-disability days was 3.0 and ranged from 2.3 days for persons aged 15-24 to 5.2 days for persons aged 65 years or more. As with reduced activity days the average number of bed-disability days for males and females is similar for most age groups.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF BED-DISABILITY DAYS PER PERSON CONCERNED:
AGE BY SEX



Relationship between reduced activity days and bed-disability days

While 14 per cent of the Australian population had one or more days of reduced activity only 7 per cent had any bed-disability days in the two week reference period. Therefore approximately one half of persons with reduced activity days had some bed-disability days as a component of their reduced activity.

Similarly the average number of days of reduced activity was 5.5 days while the average number of bed-disability days was 3.0. Thus taken on average about 3 out of 5 reduced activity days involved a stay in bed.

Relationship between reduced activity days and recent illness

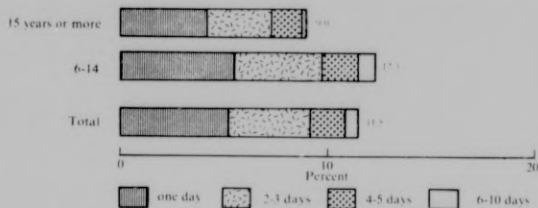
While approximately 65 per cent of the Australian population aged 2 years or more reported one or more illnesses in the two weeks before interview only 14 per cent of the population reduced their activities for one or more days due to illness (i.e. only one in every five persons with a recent illness reduced their activity). The proportion of persons reporting days of reduced activity increases with the number of recent illnesses per person, ranging from 17.6 per cent of persons with one recent illness up to 40.4 per cent of persons with five or more recent illnesses.

This relationship to recent illness is similar for bed-disability days, with the proportion of persons with one or more bed-disability days ranging from 8.5 per cent of persons reporting one recent illness up to 18.8 per cent of persons reporting five or more recent illnesses.

Days lost from school

11.5 per cent of students (defined as all persons aged 6 to 14 years and full-time students aged 15 years or more) lost one or more days from school due to illness or injury in the two week reference period. Almost half of these students (45.9 per cent) lost only one day from school. A higher proportion of females than males (12.6 and 10.4 per cent respectively) had one or more days lost from school. As the diagram below shows a higher proportion of students aged 6 to 14 years lost days from school than those aged 15 years or more.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS WITH ONE OR MORE DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL



STUDENTS: AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL PER PERSON CONCERNED BY AGE BY SEX

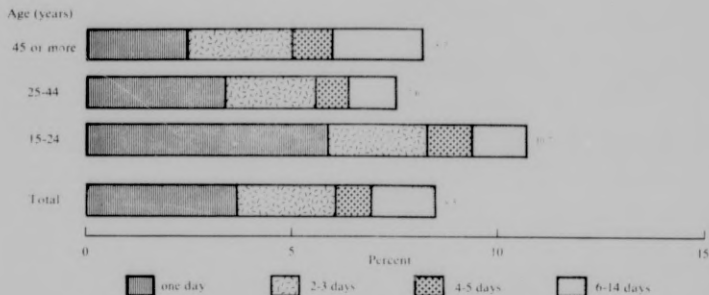


Number of days in the 2 week period per person concerned

Days lost from work

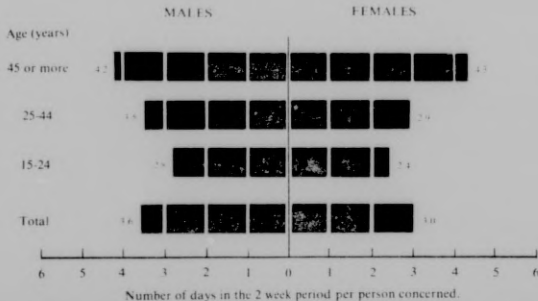
8.5 per cent of persons aged 15 years or more who work (either part- or full-time) had one or more days off work due to illness or injury in the two weeks before interview. A higher proportion of females than males (9.1 and 8.2 per cent respectively) had one or more days off work. The age group with the highest proportion of persons with days lost from work is the 15 to 24 year group (10.7 per cent) although the majority of these persons lost only one day from work. This aspect is reflected in the statistics relating to the average number of days lost from work per person concerned (Table 11) in which the 15 to 24 year age group reported the lowest average number of days lost from work per person concerned (2.6 days).

PERCENT OF PERSONS WORKING WITH ONE OR MORE DAYS LOST FROM WORK
BY AGE



As the diagram below shows the average number of days lost from work per person concerned is higher for males than females (3.6 and 3.0 days respectively) and this difference occurs primarily in the 15 to 24 and 25 to 44 year age groups.

PERSONS WORKING: AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS LOST FROM WORK PER PERSON
CONCERNED BY AGE BY SEX



AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78
SECTION I. REDUCED ACTIVITY DAYS

TABLE 1. PERSONS : DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY AGE BY SEX

Number of days	Age (years)						Total
	2-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 or more	
MALES ('000)							
None	320.3	1,102.0	1,048.4	1,717.4	1,186.7	443.1	5,817.9
1	11.8	51.7	41.8	47.6	24.5	*5.0	182.4
2-3	22.4	65.7	36.6	63.5	39.3	17.6	245.0
4-7	*8.7	42.5	32.7	53.2	35.9	16.0	189.1
8-14	*	23.9	22.2	55.3	85.4	40.9	229.8
Males (a)	365.4	1,288.4	1,183.9	1,939.8	1,375.1	524.2	6,676.8
FEMALES ('000)							
None	310.4	1,048.2	964.0	1,573.5	1,157.3	584.6	5,638.0
1	13.4	53.5	53.2	69.7	31.0	11.4	232.2
2-3	15.3	54.0	65.3	83.7	58.2	17.3	294.7
4-7	9.5	42.2	42.2	57.5	48.6	26.8	226.3
8-14	*6.1	20.3	29.8	73.4	61.8	59.7	231.1
Females (a)	355.8	1,219.4	1,156.7	1,861.0	1,358.8	700.4	6,652.1
PERSONS ('000)							
None	630.8	2,150.2	2,012.4	3,290.9	2,343.9	1,027.7	11,455.9
1	25.2	105.2	95.0	117.3	55.5	16.5	414.7
2-3	37.7	119.8	101.8	147.2	97.4	34.9	538.8
4-7	18.2	84.8	74.9	110.7	83.9	42.8	415.3
8-14	*8.3	44.2	52.0	128.7	147.1	100.6	480.8
Persons (a)	721.3	2,507.7	2,340.7	3,800.8	2,733.9	1,224.6	13,328.9
TOTAL DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY ('000)							
Males	125.8	716.2	577.8	1,173.3	1,411.5	682.0	4,686.7
Females	184.7	655.6	797.9	1,550.3	1,238.3	985.0	5,411.8
Total days	310.6	1,371.8	1,375.7	2,723.6	2,649.9	1,667.0	10,098.6
AVERAGE DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY PER PERSON CONCERNED							
Males	2.8	3.9	4.3	5.3	7.6	8.6	5.5
Females	4.2	3.9	4.2	5.5	6.2	8.6	5.4
Persons	3.5	3.9	4.3	5.4	6.9	8.6	5.5

(a) Includes 23,500 persons (12,600 males and 10,900 females) who did not state whether they had any days of reduced activity.

TABLE 2. PERSONS : DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY STATE ('000)

Number of days	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
PERSONS									
None	3,998.5	3,119.5	1,730.8	1,070.3	970.4	340.7	58.0	167.7	11,455.9
1	152.0	107.2	57.3	39.6	38.6	9.2	2.7	8.1	414.7
2-3	191.6	138.4	90.6	44.9	46.7	14.5	2.7	9.5	538.8
4-14	353.7	229.9	128.3	64.3	75.3	25.9	5.2	13.4	896.0
Persons (a)	4,703.8	3,603.6	2,009.0	1,221.1	1,133.3	390.4	68.6	199.1	13,328.9
DAYS									
Total days	3,949.6	2,578.7	1,471.4	726.9	844.1	317.2	58.2	152.6	10,098.6

(a) Includes 23,500 persons who did not state whether they had any days of reduced activity.

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TABLE 3. PERSONS : DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY NUMBER OF RECENT ILLNESSES REPORTED (a)

Number of days	Number of recent illnesses						Total
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	
PERSONS ('000)							
None	4,599.9	3,677.0	1,827.3	807.6	338.9	205.2	11,453.9
1	*7.5	203.7	107.3	49.8	26.7	19.7	414.7
2-3	*4.2	219.3	143.8	78.0	42.1	31.3	538.8
4-7	*3.3	165.2	111.4	65.7	34.5	35.2	415.3
8-14	*8.4	177.5	126.2	63.9	52.1	52.8	480.8
Persons (b)	4,630.8	4,470.1	2,320.6	1,067.2	495.8	344.4	13,328.9
PER CENT							
None	99.3	82.3	78.7	75.7	68.4	59.6	85.9
1	*0.2	4.6	4.6	4.7	5.4	5.7	3.1
2-3	*0.1	5.4	6.2	7.3	8.5	9.1	4.0
4-7	*0.1	3.7	4.8	6.2	7.0	10.2	3.1
8-14	*0.2	4.0	5.4	6.0	10.5	15.3	3.6
Total (b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 10. (b) Includes 23,500 persons (9.2 per cent of the total population) who did not state whether they had any days of reduced activity.

TABLE 4. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE : DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY USUAL MAJOR ACTIVITY BY SEX

Usual major activity							
Number of days	Working	Retired	Engaged in home duties	Permanently unable to work	Full-time student	Other activity	Total (a)
MALES ('000)							
None	3,437.7	494.5	18.2	42.3	322.4	78.5	4,395.6
1	97.5	*8.2	*	*	11.3	*	119.0
2-3	115.0	21.3	*	*2.3	10.3	*7.3	156.9
4-7	108.4	16.4	*	*	*7.2	*2.7	137.8
8-14	113.2	62.5	*	13.3	*4.1	*8.7	203.8
Males (b)	3,878.3	604.5	22.1	61.5	352.1	98.5	5,023.0
FEMALES ('000)							
None	1,391.2	115.4	2,441.6	16.2	278.2	35.2	4,279.4
1	69.7	*3.1	78.3	*	13.6	*	165.3
2-3	72.2	*3.7	122.0	*2.6	20.5	*3.0	224.4
4-7	52.8	*5.2	99.1	*	15.7	*	174.5
8-14	42.2	18.0	147.3	*6.5	*8.0	*2.6	224.6
Females (b)	1,631.5	145.5	2,892.8	27.2	336.8	41.4	5,076.9
PERSONS ('000)							
None	4,828.9	609.9	2,459.9	58.5	600.5	113.7	8,674.9
1	167.1	11.2	78.3	*	24.9	*	284.3
2-3	187.2	25.0	122.7	*4.9	30.8	10.3	381.3
4-7	161.2	21.6	100.4	*3.2	22.8	*3.1	312.3
8-14	155.4	80.6	149.1	19.9	12.1	11.3	428.4
Persons (b)	5,509.8	750.0	2,914.8	88.8	692.7	139.9	10,100.0
TOTAL DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY ('000)							
Males	2,360.7	977.1	*31.4	194.5	129.3	150.2	3,844.7
Females	1,063.8	269.3	2,844.9	*105.2	241.4	*46.0	4,571.5
Total days	3,424.5	1,246.4	2,876.3	299.8	370.7	196.2	8,416.2
AVERAGE DAYS OF REDUCED ACTIVITY PER PERSON CONCERNED							
Males	5.4	9.0	*8.2	10.7	3.9	7.3	6.2
Females	4.5	9.0	6.4	9.6	4.2	7.6	5.8
Persons	5.1	9.0	6.4	10.3	4.1	7.5	6.0

(a) Includes 4,000 persons aged 15 years or more who did not state their usual major activity. (b) Includes 18,700 persons (10,000 males and 8,700 females) aged 15 years or more who did not state whether they had any days of reduced activity.

11
AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977/78
SECTION 2. RED-DISABILITY DAYS

TABLE 5. PERSONS : DAYS OF RED-DISABILITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY AGE BY SEX

	Age (years)						
Number of days	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 or more	Total
MALES ('000)							
None	349.7	1,194.4	1,128.5	1,059.2	1,266.7	485.0	6,295.6
1	*7.5	45.0	25.3	18.2	73.8	10.4	150.2
2-3	*7.4	34.7	21.3	32.7	79.8	11.4	196.7
4-7	*	11.8	*8.1	14.7	18.8	*6.7	65.8
8-14	*	*	*	*4.2	11.9	*7.7	26.8
Males (a)	385.4	1,285.4	1,185.9	1,095.8	1,371.1	524.2	6,678.3
FEMALES ('000)							
None	317.1	1,118.4	1,050.6	1,729.4	1,247.5	449.0	6,151.9
1	*7.4	45.4	22.3	43.0	26.8	*7.9	204.5
2-3	*5.9	37.1	34.3	38.6	77.2	18.9	174.0
4-7	*2.5	14.1	14.3	19.3	9.1	*7.6	66.9
8-14	*2.9	*4.4	*3.2	*6.7	15.2	17.1	49.0
Females (a)	355.8	1,219.4	1,116.7	1,861.0	1,338.8	500.4	6,632.1
PERSONS ('000)							
None	666.8	2,312.8	2,179.2	3,788.6	2,514.2	1,134.0	12,447.5
1	14.8	90.4	47.4	61.3	100.6	18.2	304.7
2-3	13.3	71.8	55.6	70.9	156.0	36.2	350.7
4-7	*3.2	29.8	30.4	34.1	23.9	16.3	127.7
8-14	*3.0	*6.2	*4.3	10.4	27.1	24.8	78.9
Persons (a)	721.3	2,307.7	2,345.7	3,890.8	2,733.9	1,234.6	13,328.9
TOTAL DAYS OF RED-DISABILITY ('000)							
Males	*31.4	205.9	121.1	241.1	344.1	171.8	1,112.5
Females	*58.2	256.9	238.1	322.6	345.0	294.1	1,514.9
Total days	89.6	462.8	359.2	563.7	689.1	465.9	2,627.3
AVERAGE DAYS OF RED-DISABILITY PER PERSON CONCERNED							
Males	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.7	4.1	4.1	1.0
Females	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.5	3.8	5.7	3.1
Persons	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.6	4.0	5.2	2.0

(a) Includes 12,500 persons (6,700 males and 5,800 females) who did not state whether they had any red-disability days.

TABLE 6. PERSONS : DAYS OF RED-DISABILITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY STATE ('000)

Number of days	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total
PERSONS									
None	4,191.7	3,342.6	1,889.3	1,346.6	1,054.8	372.4	62.4	145.6	12,447.5
1	120.4	101.4	44.9	24.1	33.1	7.0	2.8	7.0	304.7
2-3	114.7	91.7	39.5	24.2	27.3	7.2	1.0	4.2	350.7
4-14	72.9	63.4	34.1	10.7	15.2	3.8	1.2	2.1	203.2
Persons (a)	4,703.8	3,603.6	2,009.0	1,221.3	1,133.3	390.4	68.6	199.3	13,328.9
DAYS									
Total days	964.7	703.0	403.1	146.2	206.3	54.3	15.9	34.9	2,627.3

(a) Includes 12,500 persons who did not state whether they had any red-disability days.

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TABLE 7. PERSONS : DAYS OF BED-DISABILITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY NUMBER OF RECENT ILLNESSES REPORTED (a)

Number of days	Number of recent illnesses						Total
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	
PERSONS ('000)							
None	4,616.1	4,067.5	2,076.1	911.8	411.4	279.6	12,447.5
1	*4.2	165.5	105.6	41.6	20.1	19.6	354.7
2-3	*3.2	155.2	84.0	43.1	23.7	24.5	330.7
4-7		49.1	36.0	16.8	10.2	13.2	127.7
8-14		31.9	17.1	12.8	*6.0	*7.4	75.8
Persons (b)	4,630.8	4,470.1	2,304.6	1,067.2	498.8	344.4	13,325.9
PER CENT							
None	96.7	91.4	89.1	89.2	87.4	81.2	93.4
1	*0.1	3.7	4.5	1.9	4.1	5.7	2.7
2-3	*0.1	3.0	3.6	4.0	5.2	7.1	2.3
4-7		1.1	1.6	1.6	2.1	3.8	1.0
8-14		0.7	0.7	1.2	*1.2	*2.1	0.6
Total (b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 16. (b) Includes 12,500 persons (0.1 per cent of the total population) who did not state whether they had any bed-disability days.

TABLE 8. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE : DAYS OF BED-DISABILITY IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY USUAL MAJOR ACTIVITY BY SEX

Number of days	Usual major activity					Total (a)	
	Working	Retired	Engaged in home duties	Permanently unable to work	Full-time student		Other activity
MALES ('000)							
None	1,699.7	548.2	22.1	48.6	542.1	86.7	4,751.5
1	71.8	15.1	*	*	*7.5	*	97.8
2-3	64.7	16.6	*	*4.6	*4.0	*4.7	94.7
4-7	35.2	11.4	*	*2.3	*	*	48.3
8-14	*1.9	12.1	*	*1.5	*	*	24.9
Males (b)	1,874.2	604.5	22.1	61.6	556.1	98.3	3,024.0
FEMALES ('000)							
None	1,504.7	130.9	2,703.2	19.8	295.7	39.2	4,639.4
1	65.0	*	67.0	*	17.2	*	151.7
2-3	40.0	*3.4	67.5	*2.8	17.2	*	131.0
4-7	13.8	*4.0	25.8	*	*5.5	*	50.4
8-14	*4.9	*6.1	26.5	*3.1	*	*	41.7
Females (b)	1,632.5	143.5	2,802.8	27.2	336.6	47.4	5,078.9
PERSONS ('000)							
None	3,204.4	679.1	2,725.2	68.4	838.0	127.9	9,447.9
1	136.8	16.3	67.0	*	24.8	*2.5	249.5
2-3	104.7	20.0	67.5	*7.4	21.3	*4.8	225.6
4-7	49.0	15.3	25.8	*1.3	*6.9	*2.3	98.6
8-14	12.9	18.1	26.5	*4.6	*	*2.1	66.6
Persons (b)	3,509.8	790.0	2,914.0	88.8	692.7	139.9	10,100.0
TOTAL DAYS OF BED-DISABILITY ('000)							
Males	479.9	260.9	*	*73.2	*25.5	*40.7	876.2
Females	281.3	*104.6	460.1	*54.4	84.9	*	1,199.8
Total days	761.2	365.4	460.1	*127.7	108.4	*85.2	2,077.9
AVERAGE DAYS OF BED-DISABILITY PER PERSON CONCERNED							
Males	2.7	4.7	*	6.1	1.8	*6.1	3.3
Females	2.3	7.2	3.5	*7.4	2.1	*	3.2
Persons	2.5	5.2	3.5	6.6	2.0	4.6	3.2

(a) Includes 4,000 persons aged 15 years or more who did not state their usual major activity. (b) Includes 11,700 persons (5,500 males and 6,200 females) aged 15 years or more who did not state whether they had any bed-disability days.

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AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78
SECTION 3. DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL

TABLE 9. PERSONS AGED 6 TO 14 YEARS AND FULL-TIME STUDENTS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE :
DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY AGE BY SEX

Number of days	Age (years)		Total
	6-14	15 years or more	
MALES ('000)			
None	1,016.3	321.1	1,337.4
1	60.8	15.1	75.8
2-3	48.0	*6.0	54.0
4-5	18.3	"	20.0
6-10	*6.4	"	*6.4
Males (a)	1,149.8	356.1	1,505.9
FEMALES ('000)			
None	942.5	288.2	1,230.7
1	64.2	13.9	78.1
2-3	43.7	16.0	59.7
4-5	21.2	*7.9	29.1
6-10	10.9	"	12.2
Females (a)	1,082.5	336.6	1,419.1
PERSONS ('000)			
None	1,958.8	609.2	2,568.0
1	124.9	29.0	153.9
2-3	91.7	22.0	113.7
4-5	39.5	9.6	49.1
6-10	17.3	"	18.6
Persons (a)	2,232.3	692.7	2,925.0
TOTAL DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL PER PERSON CONCERNED			
Males	109.2	35.3	344.6
Females	352.0	92.2	444.2
Total days	661.2	127.5	788.7
AVERAGE DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL PER PERSON CONCERNED			
Males	2.3	1.6	2.2
Females	2.5	2.4	2.5
Persons	2.4	2.1	2.4

(a) Includes 21,700 persons (12,300 males and 9,400 females) who did not state whether they had lost any days from school.

TABLE 10. PERSONS AGED 6 TO 14 YEARS AND FULL-TIME STUDENTS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE :
DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY STATE ('000)

Number of days	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
PERSONS									
None	864.2	728.1	378.7	232.1	119.0	76.0	14.0	45.9	2,568.0
1	50.3	45.1	23.9	10.6	1.8	3.6	1.0	3.8	153.9
2-3	46.2	25.3	14.0	12.3	10.2	2.9	*0.6	2.3	113.7
4-10	29.0	18.8	8.4	*5.1	*4.1	*1.0	*0.6	*0.8	67.7
Persons (a)	997.8	833.7	428.4	261.3	250.1	84.2	16.2	53.3	2,925.0
DAYS									
Total days	318.7	206.2	97.9	67.9	64.2	15.9	5.7	12.2	788.7

(a) Includes 21,700 persons who did not state whether they had lost any days from school.

**AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 1977-78
SECTION 4. DAYS LOST FROM WORK**

TABLE 11. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE WHO ARE WORKING : DAYS LOST FROM WORK IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY AGE BY SEX

Number of days	Age (years)			Total
	15-24	25-44	45 or more	
MALES ('000)				
None	656.5	1,686.9	1,089.0	3,432.5
1	27.1	60.6	31.4	129.2
2-3	16.1	41.5	30.5	88.1
4-5	*8.0	14.9	9.8	32.6
6-14	9.5	23.7	26.5	59.7
Males (a)	731.2	1,843.4	1,196.2	3,770.9
FEMALES ('000)				
None	468.5	846.2	453.0	1,767.6
1	38.6	34.3	11.7	84.6
2-3	15.0	20.6	12.8	48.4
4-5	*6.6	*6.0	*7.0	19.7
6-14	*5.5	9.5	11.4	26.4
Females (a)	541.4	930.8	506.4	1,978.6
PERSONS ('000)				
None	1,125.0	2,533.1	1,541.9	5,200.1
1	75.7	95.0	43.1	213.8
2-3	31.1	62.1	43.3	136.5
4-5	14.6	21.0	16.8	52.3
6-14	15.0	33.2	37.9	86.1
Persons (a)	1,272.6	2,774.3	1,702.6	5,749.5
TOTAL DAYS LOST FROM WORK ('000)				
Males	200.9	493.3	409.6	1,103.8
Females	156.4	204.3	182.7	543.4
Total days	357.3	697.6	592.3	1,647.2
AVERAGE DAYS LOST FROM WORK PER PERSON CONCERNED				
Males	2.8	3.5	4.2	3.6
Females	2.4	2.9	4.3	3.0
Persons	2.6	3.3	4.2	3.4

(a) Includes 60,800 persons (28,800 males and 32,000 females) who did not state whether they had lost any days from work.

TABLE 12. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE WHO ARE WORKING : DAYS LOST FROM WORK IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY STATE ('000)

Number of days	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	N.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Abstr.
PERSONS									
None	1,807.8	1,454.3	745.9	462.3	461.4	151.5	32.5	84.3	5,200.1
1	69.4	60.1	33.6	26.4	14.1	5.8	1.0	3.3	213.8
2-3	51.6	33.7	18.9	14.2	10.6	3.8	0.9	2.8	136.5
4-14	54.0	36.4	19.6	11.3	8.5	4.4	1.2	3.1	138.4
Persons (a)	2,002.8	1,599.8	826.2	521.1	503.0	166.1	35.8	94.8	5,749.5
DAYS									
Total days	608.0	420.3	245.9	152.4	124.6	48.7	12.8	34.4	1,647.2

(a) Includes 60,800 persons who did not state whether they had lost any days from work.

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TABLE 13. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE WHO ARE WORKING: DAYS LOST FROM WORK IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY OCCUPATION ('000)

Occupation (a)	Number of days				Total (b)
	None	One	2-3	4-14	
Professional, Technical and Related Workers	746.8	36.0	19.4	17.7	821.1
Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	284.8	*6.9	*2.9	*4.2	302.4
Clerical Workers	849.3	44.0	28.1	14.5	946.6
Sales Workers	504.7	18.2	11.4	*8.9	548.4
Farmers, Fishermen and Related Workers	392.6	*8.9	*5.4	*6.7	407.7
Miners, Quarrymen and Related Workers	39.4	*	*	*3.5	44.1
Transport and Communication Workers	272.1	10.8	*8.6	9.5	304.2
Tradesmen, Production-Process Workers and Labourers	1,569.6	70.4	48.6	56.1	1,760.6
Service, Sport and Recreation Workers	469.8	16.5	10.2	15.0	520.6
Members of Armed Services	32.1	*	*	*	35.4
Persons (c)	5,200.1	213.8	136.5	138.4	5,749.5

(a) Occupation categories are the major occupation groupings as used in the 1976 Population Census. (b) Includes 60,800 persons who did not state whether they had lost any days from work. (c) Includes 52,500 persons who did not state their occupation.

TABLE 14. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE WHO ARE WORKING: DAYS LOST FROM WORK IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE INTERVIEW BY OCCUPATION BY AGE

Occupation (a)	Age (years)			Total
	15-24	25-44	45 or more	
PERSONS WITH ONE OR MORE DAYS LOST FROM WORK ('000)				
Professional, Technical and Related Workers	18.3	35.1	19.7	73.2
Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	*	*6.9	*6.8	14.1
Clerical Workers	36.9	34.1	15.6	86.6
Sales Workers	14.4	13.0	11.0	38.5
Farmers, Fishermen and Related Workers	*2.3	*7.8	10.8	20.9
Miners, Quarrymen and Related Workers	*	*2.9	*	*4.7
Transport and Communication Workers	*2.7	15.9	10.4	28.9
Tradesmen, Production-Process Workers and Labourers	48.1	75.1	51.9	175.1
Service, Sport and Recreation Workers	10.9	18.3	12.6	41.7
Members of Armed Services	*	*	*	*
Persons (b)	136.3	211.2	141.1	488.7

TOTAL DAYS LOST FROM WORK ('000)

Professional, Technical and Related Workers	*33.5	94.7	*75.1	203.2
Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	*	*14.3	*35.8	*50.5
Clerical Workers	70.8	82.6	*62.8	217.2
Sales Workers	*35.3	*37.1	*53.2	125.6
Farmers, Fishermen and Related Workers	*	*34.2	*40.1	84.9
Miners, Quarrymen and Related Workers	*	*	*	*
Transport and Communication Workers	*	*56.5	*43.7	108.9
Tradesmen, Production-Process Workers and Labourers	156.2	266.0	211.4	633.7
Service, Sport and Recreation Workers	*31.6	*74.1	*53.0	158.7
Members of Armed Services	*	*	*	*
Total days (c)	357.3	697.6	592.3	1,647.2

AVERAGE DAYS LOST FROM WORK PER PERSON CONCERNED

Professional, Technical and Related Workers	1.8	2.7	3.8	2.8
Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	*	*2.1	*5.2	3.6
Clerical Workers	1.9	2.4	4.1	2.5
Sales Workers	2.4	2.9	*4.8	3.3
Farmers, Fishermen and Related Workers	*	*4.4	*3.7	4.1
Miners, Quarrymen and Related Workers	*	*9.1	*	*8.7
Transport and Communication Workers	*3.2	3.6	*4.2	3.8
Tradesmen, Production-Process Workers and Labourers	3.3	3.5	4.1	3.6
Service, Sport and Recreation Workers	*2.9	4.1	4.2	3.8
Members of Armed Services	*	*	*	*
Total (c)	2.6	3.3	4.2	3.4

(a) Occupation categories are the major occupation groupings as used in the 1976 Population Census. (b) Includes 2,900 persons who had one or more days lost from work but did not state their occupation. (c) Includes 10,100 days lost from work reported by persons who did not state their occupation.

[illegible]

Therefore there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is in the range 8.0 to 9.2 days and about nineteen chances in twenty that it is in the range 7.4 to 9.8 days.

10. 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:

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

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.

11. An example of the use of the above formula is as follows. The difference between the estimates of the number of females and males with 8 to 14 days of bed-disability (Table 5) is

$$49,000 - 26,800 = 22,200$$

12. 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 5,300 and 3,900 respectively. Therefore the standard error of the difference 22,200 is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Standard error (49,000 - 26,800)} \\ &= \sqrt{(5,300)^2 + (3,900)^2} \\ &= 6,600 \text{ (rounded to nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

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 15,600 to 28,800 and about 19 chances in 20 that this difference is between 9,000 and 35,400.

13. 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 interviewers 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.