



Methods and conventions

Methods

Details of methods used in particular sections of the report are included in the text and Boxes, and in footnotes to Figures and Tables. Entries in columns of tables may not add to the totals shown, due to rounding.

Age-standardisation has been used to facilitate the comparison of populations with differing age compositions, either different populations at one time or the same population at different times. The 1991 Australian population (ABS 1993) has been used as the standard population for all intra-Australia comparisons. The 1988 Australian population was used for these comparisons in editions of *Australia's Health* prior to the 1996 edition; some statistics may thus differ slightly from those in previous editions.

The European and the World Standard Populations have been used for some international comparisons. Details of these standard populations are provided.

Table A1: Age composition of the Australian population at 30 June 1991, and of European and World Standard Populations

Age group (years)	Australia, 30 June 1991	European Std	World Std
0	259,085	1,600	2,400
1-4	1,012,618	6,400	9,600
5-9	1,272,208	7,000	10,000
10-14	1,241,619	7,000	9,000
15-19	1,364,074	7,000	9,000
20-24	1,396,764	7,000	8,000
25-29	1,399,663	7,000	8,000
30-34	1,425,735	7,000	6,000
35-39	1,328,387	7,000	6,000
40-44	1,294,271	7,000	6,000
45-49	1,029,145	7,000	6,000
50-54	846,934	7,000	5,000
55-59	725,950	6,000	4,000
60-64	736,868	5,000	4,000
65-69	671,390	4,000	3,000
70-74	510,755	3,000	2,000
75-79	384,495	2,000	1,000
80-84	229,828	1,000	500
85 and over	154,247	1,000	500
Total	17,284,036	100,000	100,000

Sources: ABS 1993; WHO 1996.

Within Australia, most regional comparisons are among States and Territories. For within-State comparisons, Australian Bureau of Statistics sources use capital city statistical areas and the rest of each State. Definitions for regional comparisons from other sources are not consistent, and are stated at appropriate places in the text.

Average annual rates of change or growth rates have been calculated as geometric rates:

$$\text{Average rate of change} = ((P_n/P_o)^{1/N} - 1) \times 100$$

where P_n = value in later time period

P_o = value in earlier time period

N = number of years between the two time periods.

The classification of diseases follows the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (WHO 1977), and as adapted for hospital indexing by the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) (CPHA 1991).

Symbols

\$	Australian dollars, unless otherwise specified
—	zero
%	per cent
g	gram
kcal	kilocalorie
kg	kilogram
kJ	kilojoule
km ²	square kilometres
mm Hg	millimetres of mercury
mmol/L	millimoles per litre
n.a.	not applicable, not available
nec	not elsewhere classified
wk	week

References

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1993. Estimated resident population by sex and age. States and Territories of Australia. June 1991 and preliminary June 1992. Cat. No. 3201.0. Canberra: ABS.
- Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities (CPHA) 1991. The international classification of diseases, 9th revision, clinical modification, 8th edition. Ann Arbor, Michigan: CPHA.
- World Health Organization (WHO) 1977. Manual of the international statistical classification of diseases, injuries and causes of death. Ninth revision, volumes 1 and 2. Geneva: WHO.
- World Health Organization (WHO) 1996. World health statistics annual, 1995. Geneva: WHO.