



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 2001 Australian population (ABS 2003) has been used as the standard population for all intra-Australia comparisons. The 1991 Australian population was used for these comparisons in previous editions of *Australia's health* back 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 A4: Age composition of the Australian population at 30 June 2001, and of European and World Standard Populations

Age group (years)	Australia, 30 June 2001	European Std	World Std
0	253,031	1,600	2,400
1-4	1,029,326	6,400	9,600
5-9	1,351,664	7,000	10,000
10-14	1,353,177	7,000	9,000
15-19	1,352,745	7,000	9,000
20-24	1,302,412	7,000	8,000
25-29	1,407,081	7,000	8,000
30-34	1,466,615	7,000	6,000
35-39	1,492,204	7,000	6,000
40-44	1,479,257	7,000	6,000
45-49	1,358,594	7,000	6,000
50-54	1,300,777	7,000	5,000
55-59	1,008,799	6,000	4,000
60-64	822,024	5,000	4,000
65-69	682,513	4,000	3,000
70-74	638,380	3,000	2,000
75-79	519,356	2,000	1,000
80-84	330,050	1,000	500
85 and over	265,235	1,000	500
Total	19,413,240	100,000	100,000

Source: ABS 2003; 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 deaths follows the Tenth Revision of the *International Classification of Diseases* (WHO 1992). Diseases treated in hospitals and the procedures performed during a hospital stay are classified using the third edition of the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian modification* (ICD-10-AM) (NCCH 2002).

Symbols

\$	Australian dollars, unless otherwise specified	n.p.	not published by the data source
—	nil or rounded to zero	npr	not previously reported
%	per cent	ppm	parts per million
g	gram	wk	week
kg	kilogram	>	more than
kJ	kilojoule	<	less than
km ²	square kilometres	≥	more than or equal to
'000	thousands	≤	less than or equal to
m	million	*	value subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and/or the relative standard error is 25% to 50%.
mm	millimetre		
mm Hg	millimetres of mercury		
mmol/L	millimoles per litre		
n.a.	not available	**	value subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and/or the relative standard error is more than 50%.
..	not applicable		
nec	not elsewhere classified		

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2003. Australian demographic statistics, September quarter 2002. ABS cat. no. 3101.0. Canberra: ABS.

NCCH (National Centre for Classification in Health) 2002. The international statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision, Australian modification (ICD-10-AM). 3rd edition. Sydney: University of Sydney.

WHO (World Health Organization) 1992. International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision, volumes 1 and 2. Geneva: WHO.

WHO 1996. World health statistics annual, 1995. Geneva: WHO.



Abbreviations

AACR	Australasian Association of Cancer Registries
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACI	acute myocardial infarction
ACIR	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
ACSQHC	Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care
ADHD	attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service
AHCA	Australian Health Care Agreements
AHIC	Australian Health Information Council
AHMAC	Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
AHMC	Australian Health Ministers' Conference
AHMS	Australian Health Measurement Survey
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ALOS	average length of stay
AMD	age-related macular degeneration
ANZDATA	Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry
AR-DRG	Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group
ARI	acute respiratory infection
ART	assisted reproductive technology
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographic Classification
ASHR	Australian Study of Health and Relationships
AusDiab	Australian Diabetes, Obesity and Lifestyle Study
BEACH	Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health
BMI	body mass index
BSE	bovine spongiform encephalopathy
CABG	coronary artery bypass grafting
CATI	computer-aided/assisted telephone interview
CHD	coronary heart disease
CHINS	Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey
CJD	Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DALY	disability-adjusted life year
DDD	defined daily dose
DFLE	disability-free life expectancy
DHAC	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
DHS	Department of Human Services (Victoria)

DMFT	decayed, missing or filled teeth
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
DRG	diagnosis related group
DVA	Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs
ESKD	end-stage kidney disease
FCTC	World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
FOBT	faecal occult blood test
GDP	gross domestic product
GIFT	gamete intra-fallopian transfer
GP	general practitioner
GRIM	General Record of Incidence of Mortality
HBV	hepatitis B virus
HCV	hepatitis C virus
HDL	high-density lipoprotein
HDSC	Health Data Standards Committee
Hib	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HSVD	heart, stroke or vascular diseases
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICD-10-AM	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
ICPC	International Classification of Primary Care
ICSI	intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection
IFG	impaired fasting glucose
IGT	impaired glucose tolerance
IPD	invasive pneumococcal disease
IRSD	Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage
IVF	in-vitro fertilisation
LDL	low-density lipoprotein
LE	life expectancy
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
MIR	mortality to incidence ratio
MMR	maternal mortality rate
MMR	measles, mumps and rubella
MND	motor neurone disease
MS	multiple sclerosis
MSIC	medically supervised injecting centre

NAGATSIHID	National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data
NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
NATSINWP	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Working Party
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NCCH	National Centre for Classification in Health
NCHECR	National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
NCIRS	National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
NCSCH	National Cancer Statistics Clearing House
NDR	National Diabetes Register
NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
NDSS	National Diabetes Services Scheme
NHDC	National Health Data Committee
NHFA	National Heart Foundation of Australia
NHIG	National Health Information Group
NHIMG	National Health Information Management Group
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHPA	National Health Priority Area
NHPC	National Health Performance Committee
NHS	National Health Survey
NNDSS	National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System
NPIWG	National Public Health Information Working Group
NSAID	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
NSMHW	National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing
OATSIH	Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Pap	Papanicolaou (cervical smear test)
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PCI	percutaneous coronary intervention
PEI	patient episode initiation
PHIAC	Private Health Insurance Administration Committee
PHIIS	Private Health Insurance Incentives Scheme
PSA	prostate-specific antigen
RFE	reason for encounter
RPBS	Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
RSE	relative standard error
RSV	respiratory syncytial virus
SAI	Standards Australia International
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
SCRCSPP	Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision

SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SH&FPA	Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome
SIGNAL	Strategic Inter-Governmental Nutrition Alliance
SIMC	Statistical Information Management Committee
SLA	statistical local area
SLTEC	shiga-like toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i>
SMR	standardised mortality ratio
SPP	Specific Purpose Payment
SPR	standardised prevalence ratio
STI	sexually transmitted infection
TAFE	technical and further education
TB	tuberculosis
TG	triglyceride
TSE	transmissible spongiform encephalopathy
URTI	upper respiratory tract infection
vCJD	variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
VTEC	verotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>
VVCS	Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO-ISH	World Health Organization–International Society of Hypertension
YLD	years lost due to disability
YLL	years of life lost (due to premature mortality)

Places

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Aust	Australia
Can	Canada
Fra	France
Ger	Germany
Jpn	Japan
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NZ	New Zealand
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
USSR	former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia