



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 deaths follows the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (WHO 1977). Diseases treated in hospitals and the procedures performed during a hospital stay are classified using the Australian version of the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM (see Box 5.7, page 274).

Symbols

\$ Australian dollars, unless otherwise specified

– nil or rounded to zero

% per cent

g gram

kcal kilocalorie

kg kilogram

kJ kilojoule

km² square kilometres

'000 thousands

m million

mm millimetre

mm Hg millimetres of mercury

mmol/L millimoles per litre

n.a. not available

.. not applicable

nec not elsewhere classified

n.p. not published by the data source

npr not previously reported

wk week

- > more than
- < less than
- ≥ more than or equal to
- ≤ less than or equal to
- * value subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and/or the relative standard error is 25% to 50%.
- ** value subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and/or the relative standard error is more than 50%.

References

- ABS 1993. Estimated resident population by sex and age, States and Territories of Australia, June 1991 and preliminary June 1992. ABS Cat. No. 3201.0. Canberra: ABS.
- WHO 1977. Manual of the international statistical classification of diseases, injuries and causes of death, 9th Revision, Volumes 1 and 2. Geneva: WHO.
- WHO 1996. World health statistics annual, 1995. Geneva: WHO.