

# The Relationship of Geographic Variation of GP Access to Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations

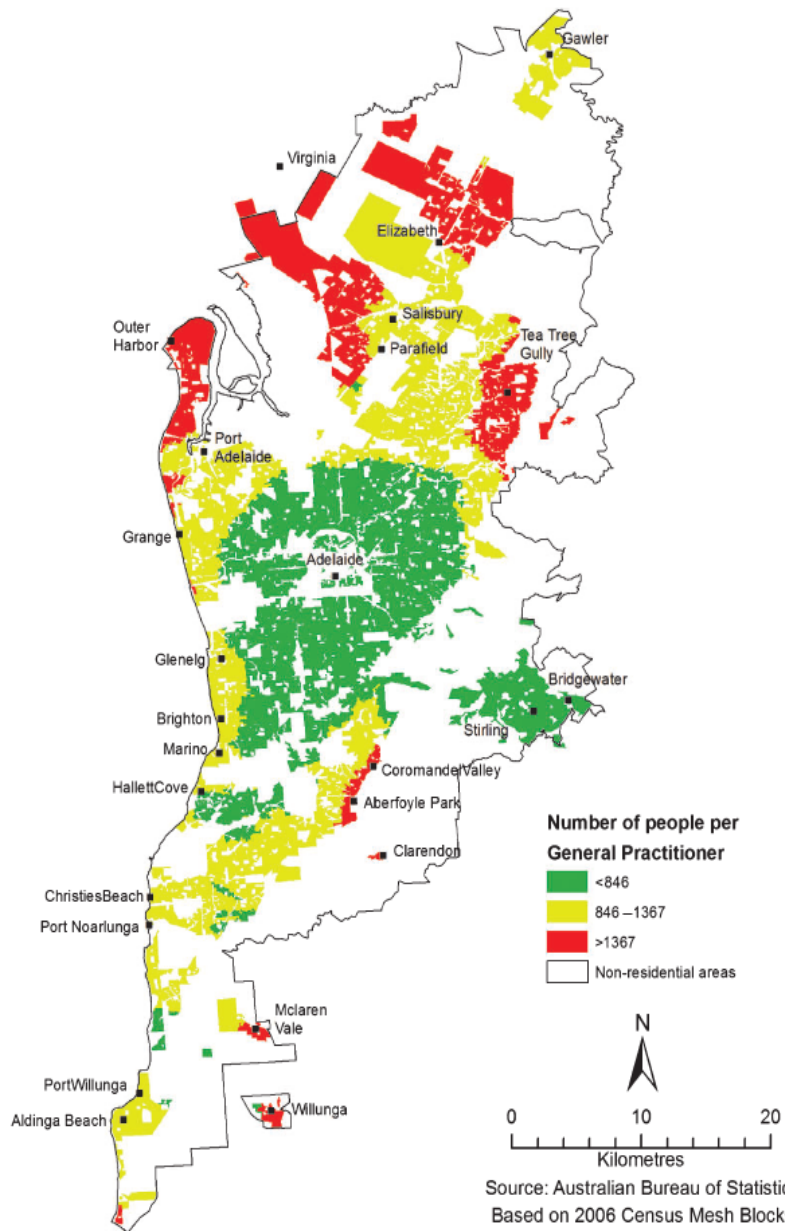
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# GP Access Can Be Determined in Many Different Ways

- Geographic variation in ratios of GPs to population
- Patient experience
- Financial barriers to health care
- Level of expertise/capability at point of care
- Cultural barriers
- Need versus available services

# Earlier Study: Geographic Variation in GP Access in Metropolitan Adelaide

- Looked at GP to Population Ratios for Small Areas
- Used Mesh Block – Smallest data unit (about 40 house-holds)
- Data on GPs location from General Practice SA and the population from latest census (2006).



Roeger, Reed, Smith,  
Australian Journal of  
Primary Health Care, 2011

# Findings

- An inequitable spatial distribution of GPs within metropolitan Adelaide was found.
- Approximately 16% of residents considered to be living in areas of GP workforce shortage.
- Residents in the outer suburbs and those with lower social economic status appeared to be the most disadvantaged.

# Current Study

- Seeks to test whether variation in GP Access corresponds to areas of highest rates of preventable hospitalisations.
- Data is currently being analysed and detailed results will be available soon.