

Presentation for the National Centre for Geographic and Resource Analysis in Primary Health Care

Health Information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

Louise Gates
Director
Health Section



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



Australian Health Survey

The survey has been planned in consultation with a wide range of health stakeholders. The new components of the survey have been made possible through additional funding from the Department of Health and Ageing and the National Heart Foundation of Australia.



What are some of the questions?

- Are Australians healthy?
- What kind of health conditions do we have?
- How accessible are health services?
- What are we eating and drinking?
- How many of us smoke?
- Are we getting enough nutrients in our diet?
- How do our physical activity patterns play a role in our health?
- Are there differences between population groups?



Structure of the Australian Health Survey

General population sample size = 26,000 households



NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY (NHS)

16,000 Households

1 Adult + 1 child = 21,120 persons

Detailed conditions
Medications and supplements
Health related actions
Days of reduced activity
Social & emotional wellbeing (18+)
Physical activity (15+)
Private health insurance status (18+)
Breastfeeding (0-3)
Disability status
Alcohol consumption (15+)
Family stressors (15+)
Personal income (15+)
Financial stress

CORE CONTENT

Household information
Demographics
Self-assessed health status (15+)
Self-assessed body mass (15+)
Smoking (15+)
Physical measures (2+)
Fruit & veg consumption (2+)
Salt use (2+)
Blood pressure (5+)
Female life stage (10+)

NATIONAL NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SURVEY (NNPAS)

10,000 Households

1 Adult + 1 child (2+) = 12,890 persons

Food security
Food avoidance
Dietary recall
Physical activity
Selected conditions

NNPAS

Telephone follow-up
2nd dietary recall
8-day pedometer (5+)

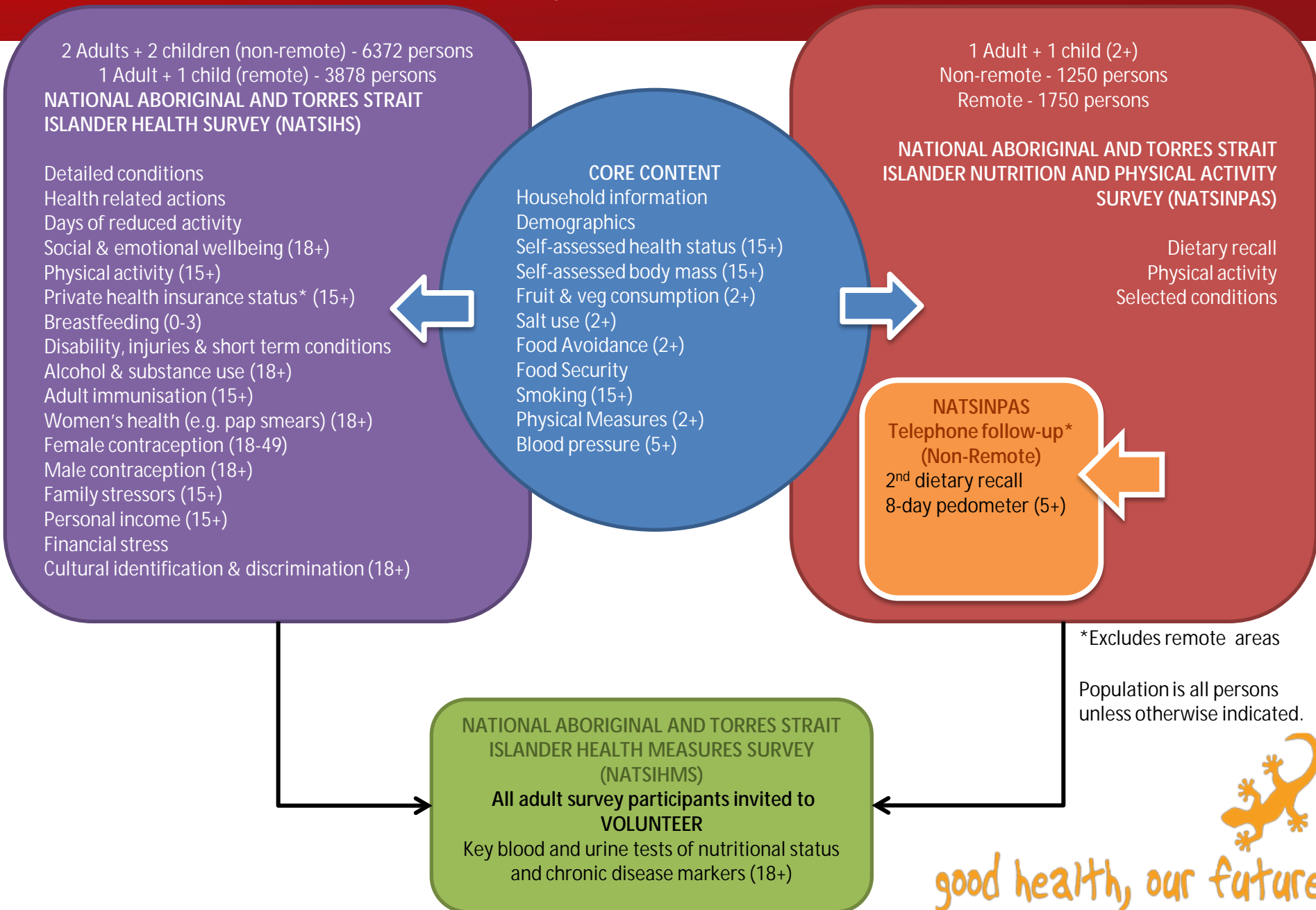
NATIONAL HEALTH MEASURES SURVEY (NHMS)

All survey participants (aged 5 yrs +) invited to VOLUNTEER

Key blood tests (12yrs +) and urine tests (5yrs +) of nutritional status and chronic disease markers

Proposed Structure of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

Sample size = 7,700 households



Release schedule – 15 October

- *Australian Health Survey: First Results, 2011-12*
(cat. no. 4364.0.55.001)
 - focus on risk factors and long-term health conditions
- *Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13*
(cat. no. 4363.0.55.001)
- *Profiles of Health, Australia, 2011-13*
(cat. no. 4338.0)



Release schedule – 2013

Content	Date	Description
Health service usage	February 2013	Focus on health services and actions taken, including medications
Conditions and risk factors – revised release	May 2013	Revised indicators from earlier releases plus additional material and depth of analysis, based on full AHS sample
Physical activity release	June 2013	Focus on pedometer data and physical activity indicators from NNPAS
Biomedical measurements	June 2013	Focus on high level results from the biomedical measures
Nutrition	September 2013	Selected highlights from Nutrition component of NNPAS
Basic CURF releases and data access tools	Second half of 2013	Multiple CURFs will be released that combine the common elements of the AHS



Release schedule – 2014

Content	Date	Description
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)	September 2013	Focus on health risk factors, for COAG reporting
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS)	June 2014	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander biomedical measurements	2nd half of 2014	



New data products

- Survey Table Builder
 - build customised tables through drag-and-drop interface
 - available 2013
- ABS.Stat
 - aggregate data in flexible and dynamic way
 - machine-to-machine data exchange
 - <http://stat.abs.gov.au/#>



National Health Survey

2007-08: 20,800 people (data since 1977)

Personal interview

One adult (18+) and one child (where applicable) for each dwelling

- prevalence of long term health conditions (cardio-vascular, cancer, arthritis, asthma, diabetes, mental health etc.)
- health risk factors and lifestyle (smoking, alcohol, BMI, fruit and veg, physical activity)
- use of health services (GP, specialist, allied health)
- use of medications
- medications for specific health conditions



Patient Experience Survey (PEX)

2010-11: 27,000 people (data since 2009)

computer assisted telephone interview

- general practitioners
- medical specialists
- dental professionals
- imaging and pathology
- after hours care
- hospital/emergency departments
- care experience
- information provision
- Waiting times
- Barriers to access



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

2004-05: 10,400 people

Personal interview

6 yearly – remote areas and discrete Indigenous communities

- prevalence of long term health conditions (cardio-vascular, cancer, arthritis, asthma, diabetes, mental health etc.)
- health risk factors and lifestyle (smoking, alcohol, BMI, fruit and veg, physical activity)
- use of health services (GP, specialist, allied health)
- use of medications
- medications for specific health conditions



get
involved

good health, our future
Information for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

Collect information about

- people with a disability
- older people (i.e. those aged 60 years and over)
- people who provide assistance to older people and people with disabilities.

Disability = any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts daily activities that has lasted or is likely to last at least 6 months e.g. Range from loss of sight not corrected by glasses, arthritis that causes difficulty dressing and dementia that requires constant help and supervision

Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (SMHWB)

2007 - Measures the nature and severity of mental illness in Australia

- selected lifetime and 12 month mental disorders
- 3 major groups – anxiety disorders, affective disorders and substance use disorders
- levels of impairment
- health services used for mental health problems
- physical conditions
- social networks
- includes people who don't access health services

Providing information at small area levels

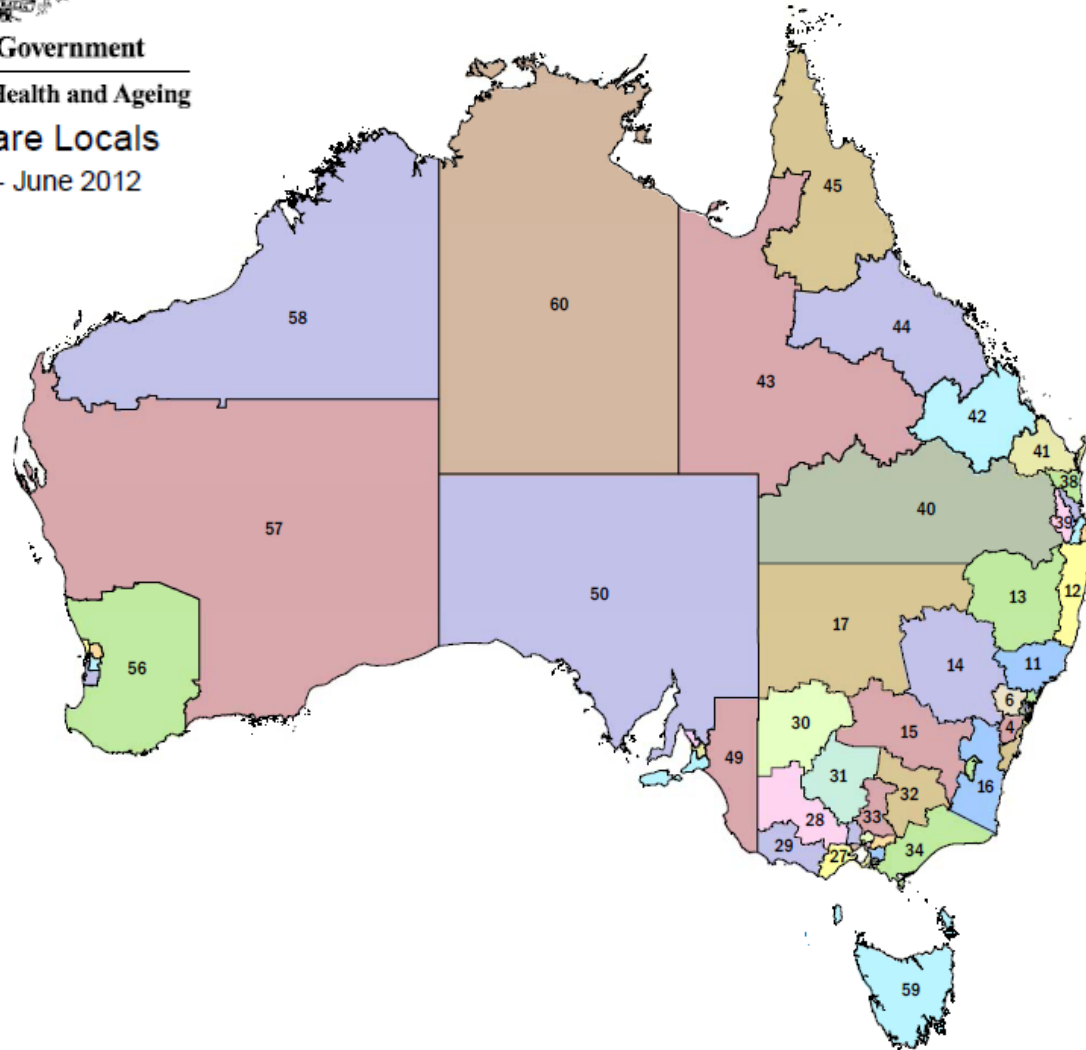


Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

61 Medicare Locals

Boundaries - June 2012

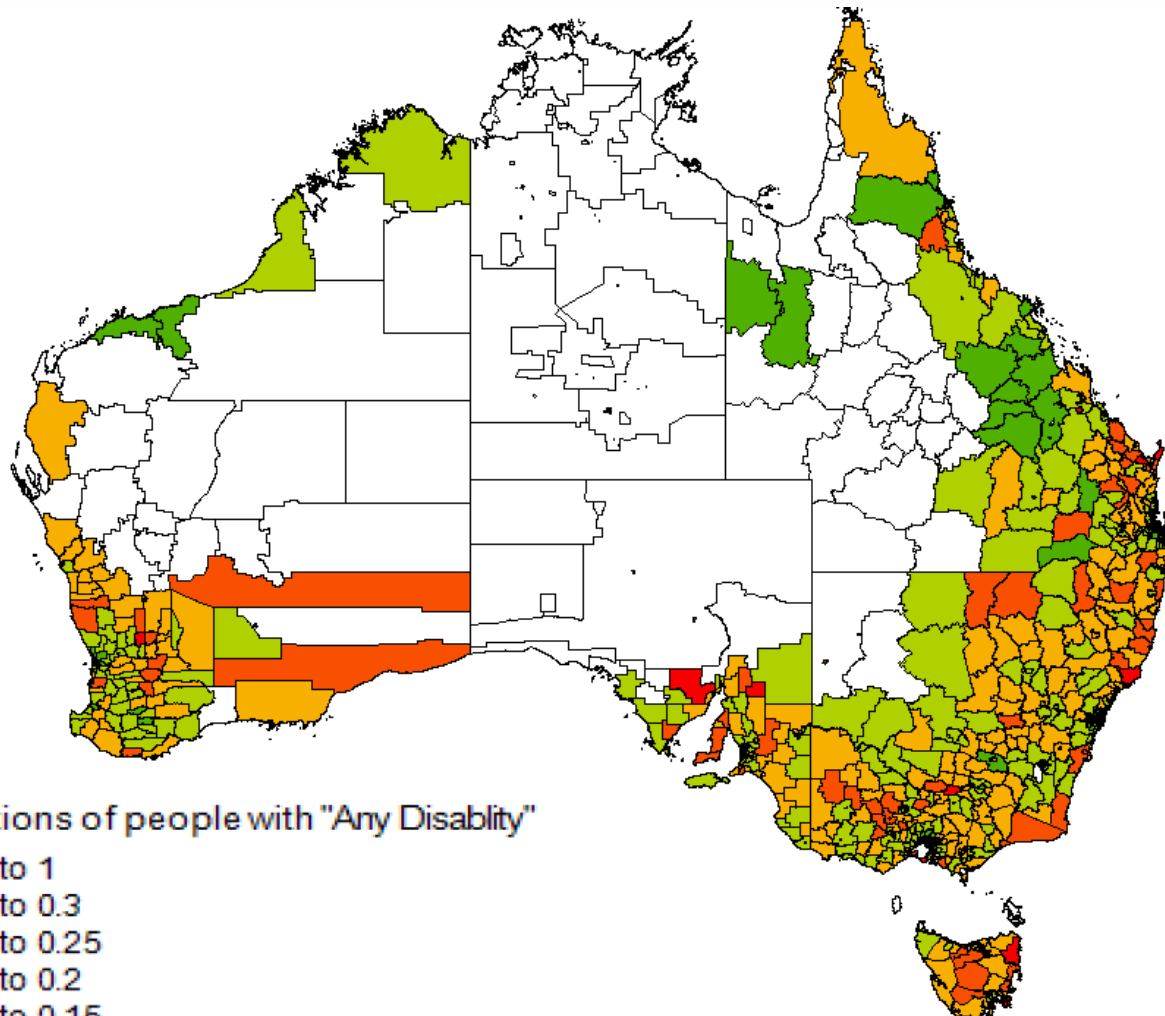


Small area estimation

- Governments are increasingly interested in the characteristics of small areas.
- Small area estimation is one way of fulfilling these requests.
- Uses the known characteristics of a region to model predicted values of a particular variable.
- Best for variables that are closely correlated with demographic variables and have relatively high prevalence.



Small area estimation



Proportions of people with "Any Disability"

- 0.3 to 1
- 0.25 to 0.3
- 0.2 to 0.25
- 0.15 to 0.2
- 0.1 to 0.15
- 0 to 0.1
- No Predictions

Contact details for Health:

Louise Gates

Director

louise.gates@abs.gov.au

02 6252 6415

Sally Rayner

Assistant Director

sally.rayner@abs.gov.au

02 6252 6014