



# statistical indicators



## NSW Parliamentary Research Service

### Health Indicators for NSW

Statistical Indicators 6/12

by Talina Drabsch

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# Health Indicators for NSW

by

Talina Drabsch

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## **SUMMARY**

This paper contains a selection of health statistical indicators in New South Wales. It aims to provide a snapshot of health trends, with a focus on the overall situation in NSW. Where relevant, comparisons are made to the situation in the other Australian States and Territories. For some of the indicators, figures for the various regions within New South Wales are included.

This paper updates the health section of *Health, Education and Community Indicators for NSW* published in 2010 as part of the statistical indicators series. There have been some structural changes as NSW is no longer divided into eight health areas but rather 15 local health districts.

The sources of the data used are noted at the conclusion of each indicator. The Australian Bureau of Statistics and Health Statistics NSW are the major sources for the paper, but a number of other references have been utilised and are acknowledged where relevant.



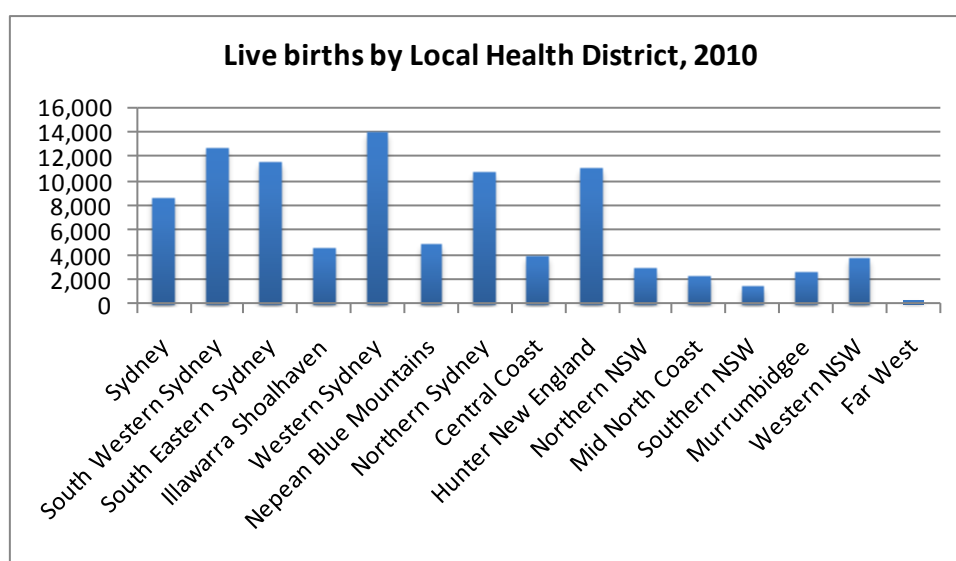


## BIRTHS

94,987 babies were born in NSW in 2010 (down from 95,837 in 2009 but greater than the 92,075 born in 2006). 14.7% of all births were in Western Sydney, the greatest proportion of all local Health Districts, followed by 13.3% in South Western Sydney. The highest fertility rate was in Western NSW at 2.4 children per female whilst Southern NSW had the lowest fertility rate at 1.3.

### Live births by Local Health District, 2010

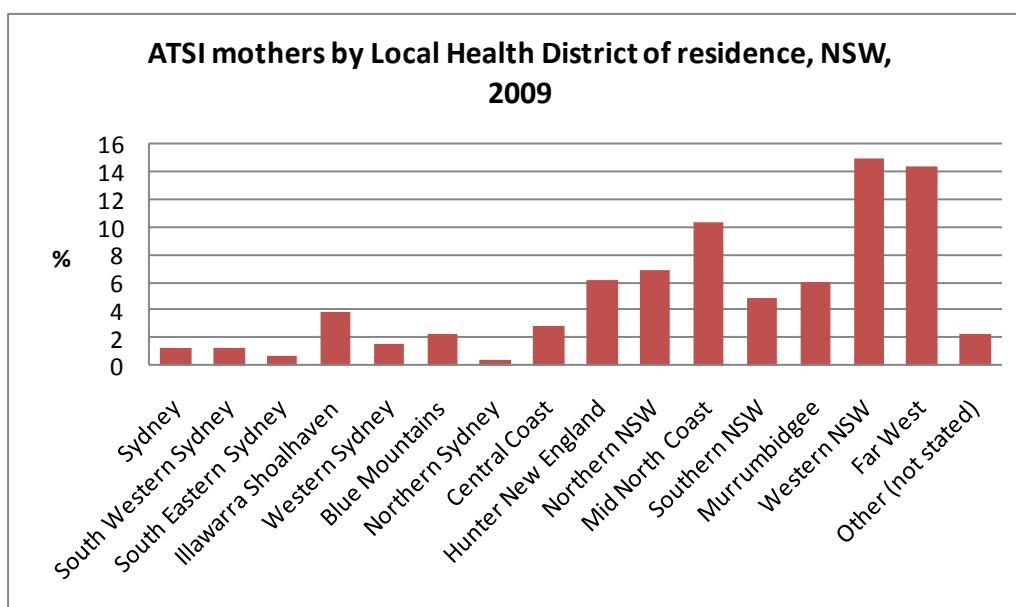
Local Health District	Number of livebirths	% of all births	Total fertility rate
Sydney	8,587	9.0	1.6
South Western Sydney	12,665	13.3	2.0
South Eastern Sydney	11,491	12.1	1.6
Illawarra Shoalhaven	4,456	4.7	1.9
Western Sydney	13,931	14.7	2.2
Nepean Blue Mountains	4,811	5.1	2.0
Northern Sydney	10,770	11.3	1.7
Central Coast	3,803	4.0	2.0
Hunter New England	10,943	11.5	2.1
Northern NSW	2,867	3.0	1.9
Mid North Coast	2,307	2.4	2.3
Southern NSW	1,373	1.4	1.3
Murrumbidgee	2,533	2.7	1.5
Western NSW	3,740	3.9	2.4
Far West	252	0.003	1.5
NSW	94,987	100.0	1.9



The following table compares the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) mothers in NSW in 2009 by Local Health District. Western NSW had the greatest proportion at 14.9% followed by the Far West at 14.4% of all mothers in that Local Health District. The Local Health Districts with the lowest percentage of mothers in 2009 who were ATSI were South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney at 0.6% and 0.3% respectively.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers by Local Health District of residence, NSW 2009

Local Health District	ATSI		Non-ATSI		Not stated		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sydney	105	1.2	8364	98.7	4	0	8473	100
South Western Sydney	170	1.3	12552	98.5	21	0.2	12743	100
South Eastern Sydney	64	0.6	11210	99.4	4	0	11278	100
Illawarra Shoalhaven	170	3.8	4242	96.0	8	0.2	4420	100
Western Sydney	203	1.5	13358	98.4	12	0.1	13573	100
Blue Mountains	113	2.3	4696	97.4	10	0.2	4819	100
Northern Sydney	28	0.3	10295	99.3	49	0.5	10372	100
Central Coast	110	2.8	3798	96.2	41	1	3949	100
Hunter New England	654	6.2	9862	93.7	13	0.1	10559	100
Northern NSW	203	6.9	2735	93.0	2	0.1	2940	100
Mid North Coast	234	10.4	2013	89.4	5	0.2	2252	100
Southern NSW	68	4.8	1351	95.1	2	0.1	1421	100
Murrumbidgee	156	6.0	2460	94.0	0	0	2616	100
Western NSW	553	14.9	3155	85.1	0	0	3708	100
Far West	35	14.4	208	85.6	0	0	243	100
Other (not stated)	38	2.3	1634	97.4	5	0.3	1677	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>2904</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>91963</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>95043</b>	<b>100</b>



#### Sources:

- Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. Health Statistics New South Wales. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au). Accessed 12/9/12.
- Centre for Epidemiology and Research, *NSW Mothers and Babies 2009*, NSW Ministry of Health, 2011, p 26.

## MATERNAL AGE

Over the years there has been a significant rise in the number of women giving birth when aged 35 years or older, increasing from 13.9% of all births in 1995 to 24.1% in 2010. The percentage of teenage mothers has simultaneously decreased – from 5% in 1995 to 2.9% in 2010.<sup>1</sup>

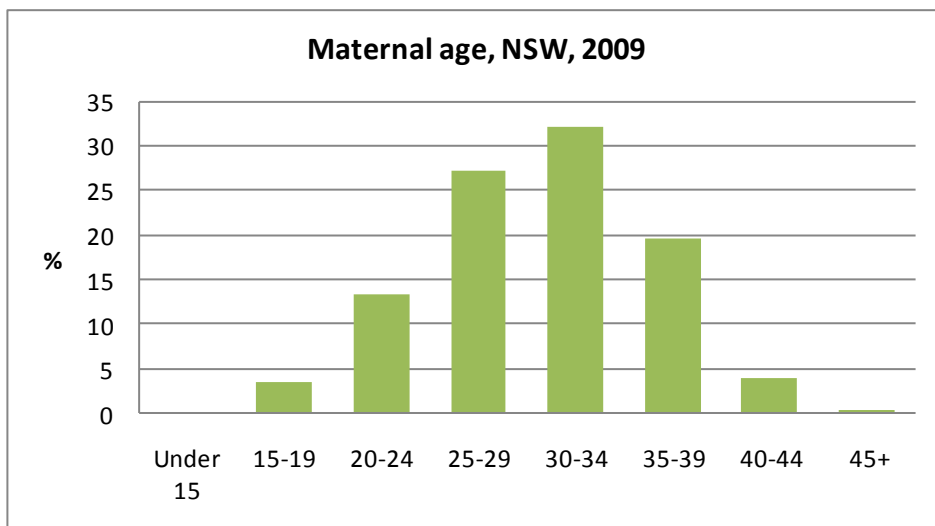
More than half of the women who gave birth in NSW in 2009 were in their thirties. The most common age group was 30 to 34 years, representing 32.2% of all women who gave birth. The proportion of women giving birth under the age of 25 years has continued to decline. In contrast, the proportion of women giving birth in the second half of their twenties rose in 2009 to 27.2%. Slightly more women gave birth in their forties than in their teenage years.

11.9% of those who gave birth in the Far West local health district were aged between 12 and 19 years, the greatest proportion of any local health district. The lowest proportion of teenage mothers giving birth in 2009 was in the Northern Sydney local health district with only 0.5% of mothers being aged 12 to 19 years old.

**Maternal age, NSW, %**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Under 15</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>15-19</b>	4.3	4	4	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.4
<b>20-24</b>	15	14.7	14.3	14.3	13.9	13.9	13.8	13.3
<b>25-29</b>	29	28.4	27.4	26.9	26.9	26.8	26.8	27.2
<b>30-34</b>	32.9	33.5	34.3	34.2	33.7	32.9	32.3	32.2
<b>35-39</b>	15.5	16	16.4	17.1	18.1	19.1	19.6	19.7
<b>40-44</b>	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9
<b>45+</b>	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Not stated</b>	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. Health Statistics New South Wales. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au). Accessed 19/9/12.



\*There were mothers aged under 15 years of age but the percentage rounds to zero and so does not appear on the above graph.

**Source:**

- Centre for Epidemiology and Research, *NSW Mothers and Babies 2009*, NSW Ministry of Health, 2011, p 16.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

In 2010, the male life expectancy at birth in NSW was 79.6 years compared to 84.1 years for a female. Life expectancy in NSW was thus just above the Australian average life expectancies for males and females, which were 79.5 and 84 years respectively.

The highest male life expectancy at birth in Australia for the years 2008-10 was in the Australian Capital Territory at 80.5 years. The ACT also had the highest female life expectancy at 84.7 years.

Whilst life expectancy is a useful indicator, it does not tell us for how many of those years one can expect to enjoy good health. Another related indicator to consider is healthy life expectancy. In 2007, the healthy life expectancy for an Australian male was 72 years and 75 years for an Australian female.<sup>2</sup>

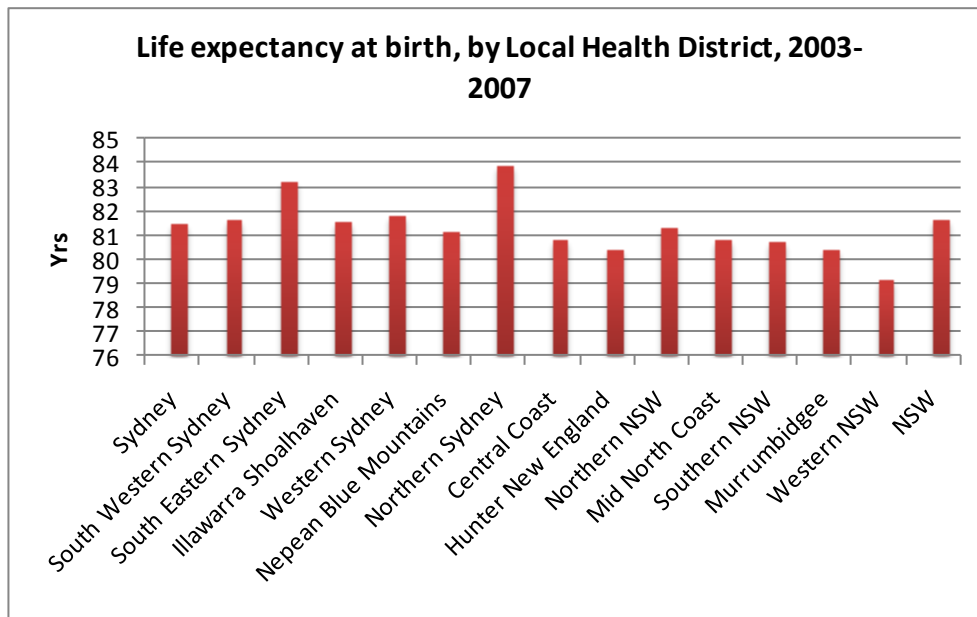
In 2007, the estimated life expectancy for an Aboriginal male in NSW was 69.9 years and 75 years for an Aboriginal female.

	Male	Female
Life expectancy in NSW (2008-10)	79.6	84.1
Life expectancy in NSW – ATSI (2005-07)	69.9	75.0
Healthy life expectancy – Australia (2007)	72.0	75.0

NB. The ABS warns against comparing the figures for Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancies due to a difference in method.

The following chart compares life expectancy in NSW by Local Health District for the years 2003 to 2007. Life expectancy at birth was greatest in the Northern Sydney Local Health District at 83.8 years and lowest in the Western NSW Local Health District at 79.1 years.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organisation, *World Health Statistics 2010*, [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)



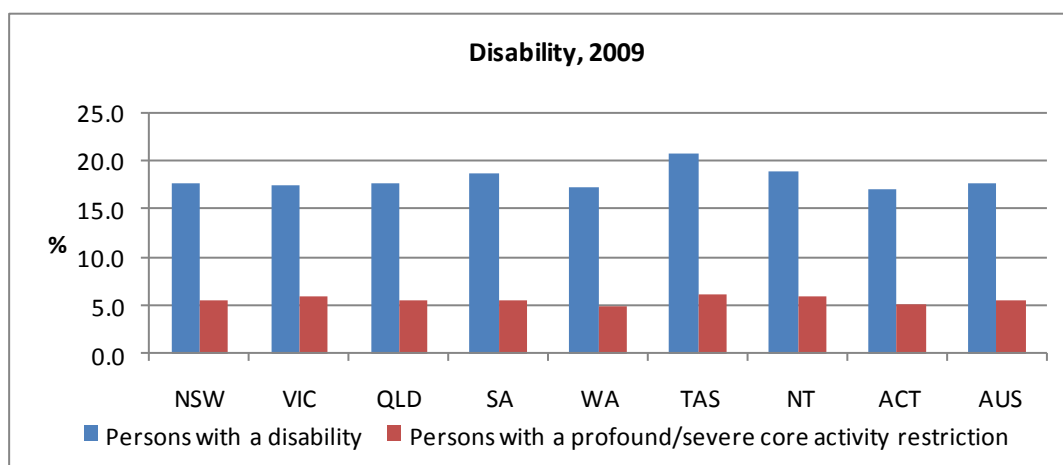
**Sources:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012
- Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. Health Statistics New South Wales. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au). Accessed 12/9/12).

## DISABILITY

A relationship between disability and economic disadvantage has been found. Research shows that: disability may affect income levels; the cost of living may be higher for people with disabilities; and severe disability has been found to be more common in areas where people have fewer economic resources.<sup>3</sup> Having a disability may also decrease the likelihood of a person having a higher educational qualification and may have a bearing on the extent to which a person is able to participate in the labour force, such as whether one works full or part time, or is able to work at all.<sup>4</sup>

In 2009, 17.6% of persons in NSW had some form of disability and 5.5% had a profound or severe core activity restriction. This was a very similar proportion to Australia as a whole. Tasmania had the largest proportion of people with a disability at 20.7% and it also had the greatest proportion of people with a profound or severe core activity restriction at 6.2%.



### Source:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012.

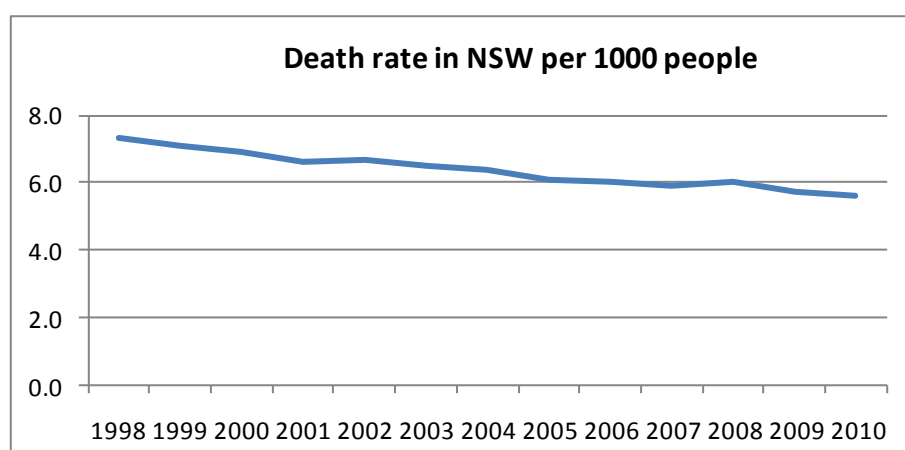
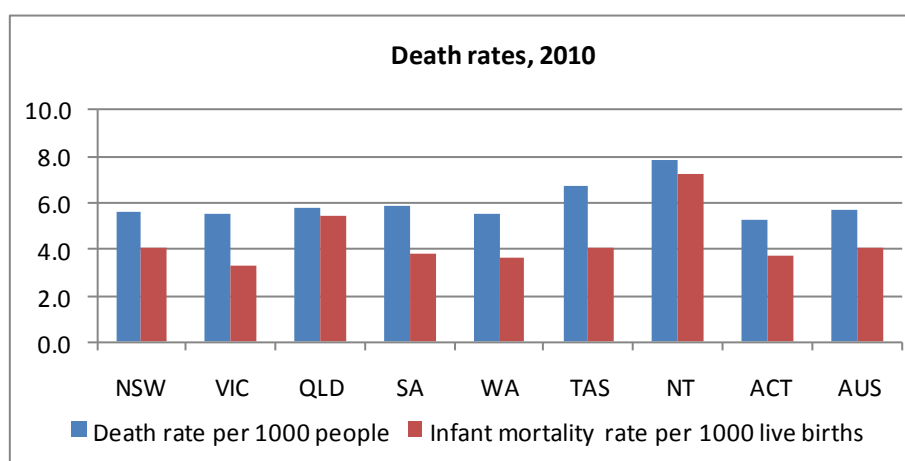
<sup>3</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The geography of disability and economic disadvantage in Australian capital cities*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009, p v.

<sup>4</sup> ABS, 'One-in-five Australians report a disability', Media release, 6/5/04.

## DEATH

### Rate of death

The rate of death in a population may be influenced by a number of factors including socioeconomic status, remoteness, and Aboriginality.<sup>5</sup> The chart below compares the death and infant mortality rates for each of the Australian States and Territories. The death rate in NSW in 2010 was 5.6 per 1000 people (compared to an Australian average of 5.7). This is down from a rate of 7.3 per 1000 people in 1998. The infant mortality rate in NSW in 2010 was the same as the Australian average of 4.1 per 1000 live births. The ACT had the lowest death rate in Australia and Victoria the lowest infant mortality rate.

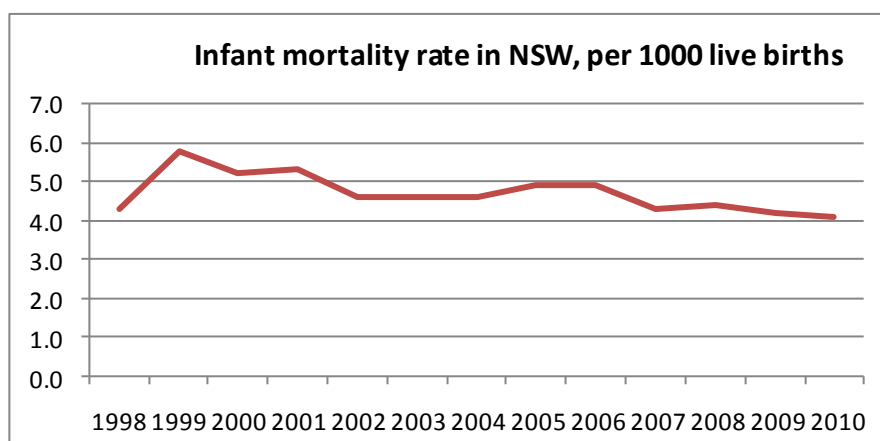


<sup>5</sup> Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer 2008 – Summary Report*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008, p 18.



## Infant mortality

Infant mortality measures the deaths of babies within their first year and is considered an important measure of the health and wellbeing of a community.<sup>6</sup> The infant mortality rate fluctuated between 1998 and 2010 in NSW from a low of 4.1 deaths per 1000 live births in 2010 to a high of 5.8 in 1999.



Infant mortality is much higher amongst the Indigenous population. The following table compares infant mortality rates for the Aboriginal and general population in NSW. Whilst the infant mortality rate for the Aboriginal population has decreased since 1998-00 (from 11.8 per 1000 live births to 5.2), in 2008-10 it was still higher than the non-Aboriginal population (4.1 deaths per 1000 live births).

**Infant mortality rate, NSW, per 1000 live births**

	1998-00	2000-02	2002-04	2004-06	2006-08	2008-10
<b>Aboriginal</b>	11.8	9.5	8.5	7.5	7.7	5.2
<b>Non-Aboriginal</b>	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.3	4.1
<b>All residents</b>	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.2

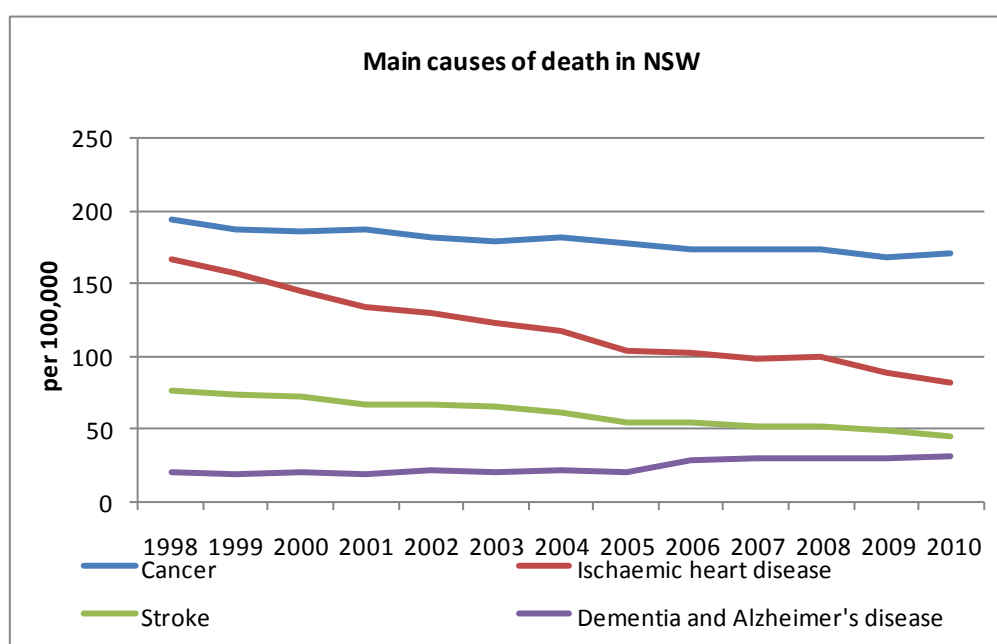
### Sources:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012.
- Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. Health Statistics New South Wales. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au). Accessed 12/9/12.

<sup>6</sup> Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008.

## MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

The leading causes of death in Australia in 2010 were cancer, ischaemic heart disease, stroke, and dementia and Alzheimer's disease. As illustrated by the graph below, the number of deaths due to ischaemic heart disease and stroke in NSW is decreasing. However, the rate of deaths due to dementia and Alzheimer's disease increased between 1998 and 2007 from 19 to 30 deaths per 100,000 people. The cancer rate also slightly increased between 2009 and 2010 from 168 deaths per 100,000 people to 171. The rate at which deaths in NSW are due to these diseases is similar to the national averages.



Whilst there are some similarities, the main causes of death for Indigenous Australians differ from those for the population in general, the top four being:

1. Ischaemic heart disease;
2. Chronic lower respiratory diseases;
3. Cerebrovascular diseases; and
4. Diabetes.

The death rate for cirrhosis and other diseases of the liver amongst Indigenous Australians in NSW in 2006 to 2010 was 3.7 times the rate for non-Indigenous Australians. The death rate attributable to diabetes for Indigenous persons in NSW was 3.5 times the rate of non-Indigenous people.

**Indigenous deaths in NSW, 2006-2010 – Leading causes of death**

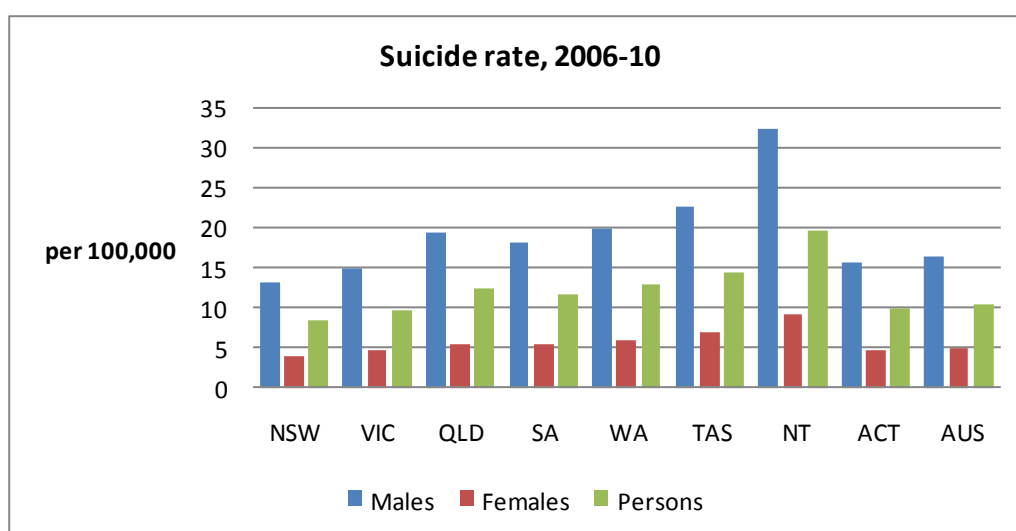
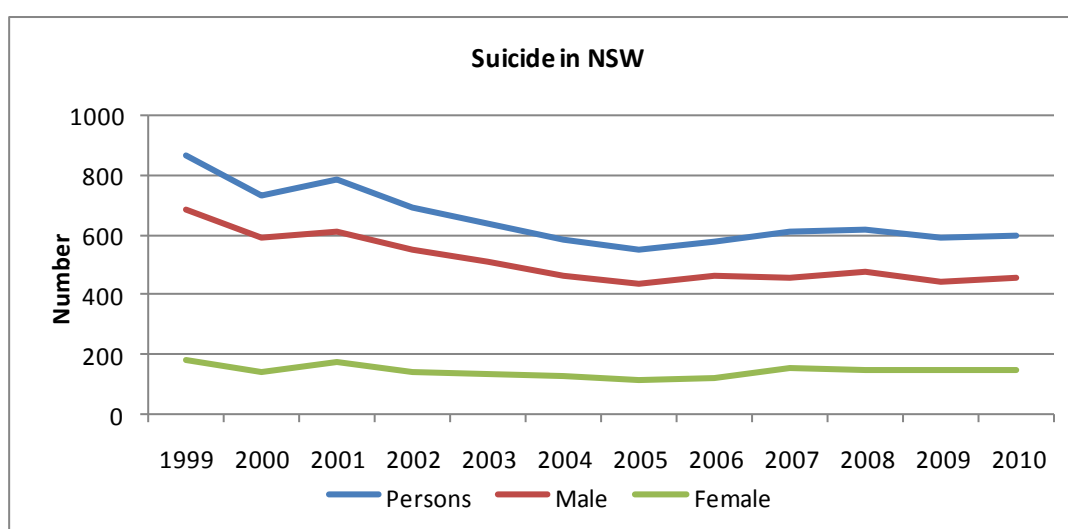
		<b>Number of Indigenous persons</b>	<b>Indigenous rate</b>	<b>Non- Indigenous rate</b>
1	Ischaemic heart diseases	458	168.4	97.3
2	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	179	60.5	32.8
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	170	77.0	52.3
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	167	68.4	24.6
5	Diabetes	136	48.2	13.9
6	Cirrhosis and other diseases of liver	106	23.3	6.3
7	Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	81	32.8	15.6
8	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	70	4.7	3.1
9	Intentional self-harm [suicide]	69	10.3	8.2
10	Diseases of the urinary system	65	25.1	13.9

**Sources:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012.
- ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2010*, June 2012.

## SUICIDE

600 persons in NSW died as a result of suicide in 2010, of whom three-quarters were male. The suicide rate in NSW between 2006 and 2010 was 8.4 per 100,000 persons (up from 5.9 in 2004-08 and 7.9 in 2005-09). This was the lowest rate of the States and Territories. The male suicide rate was 13.2 per 100,000 compared to 4.0 for females. Tasmania had the highest suicide rate of the States at 14.4 per 100,000 persons (22.7 per 100,000 males and 6.9 per 100,000 females).



### Source:

- ABS, *Causes of death, Australia, 2010*, 3303.0, March 2012

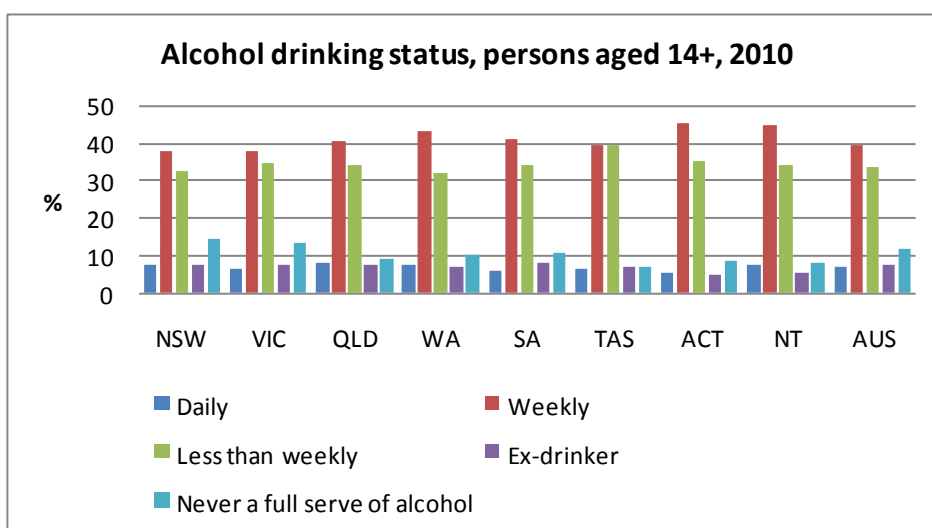
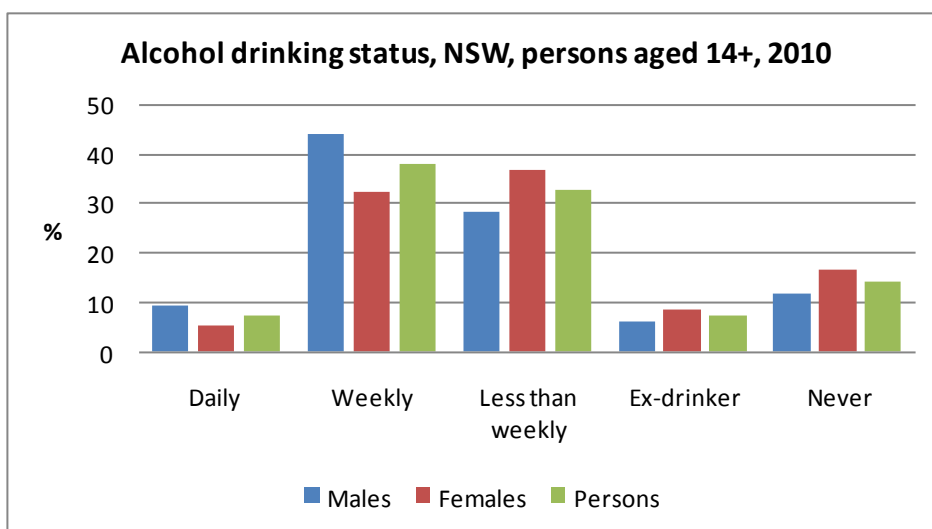
## DRINKING

The following table shows the frequency with which persons in NSW aged 14 years and over drank alcohol in 2010. 38% of persons drank on a weekly basis, and an additional 32.8% drank less than weekly. 14.4% of people never drank. The proportion of people drinking on a daily basis in NSW has declined from 8.9% in 2001 to 7.4% in 2010. The proportion of people drinking on a daily or weekly basis was higher amongst males than females.

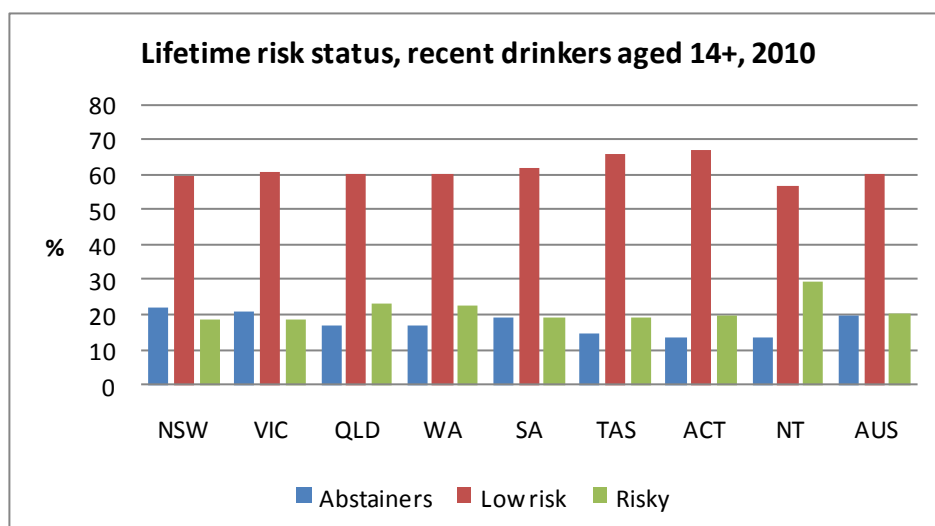
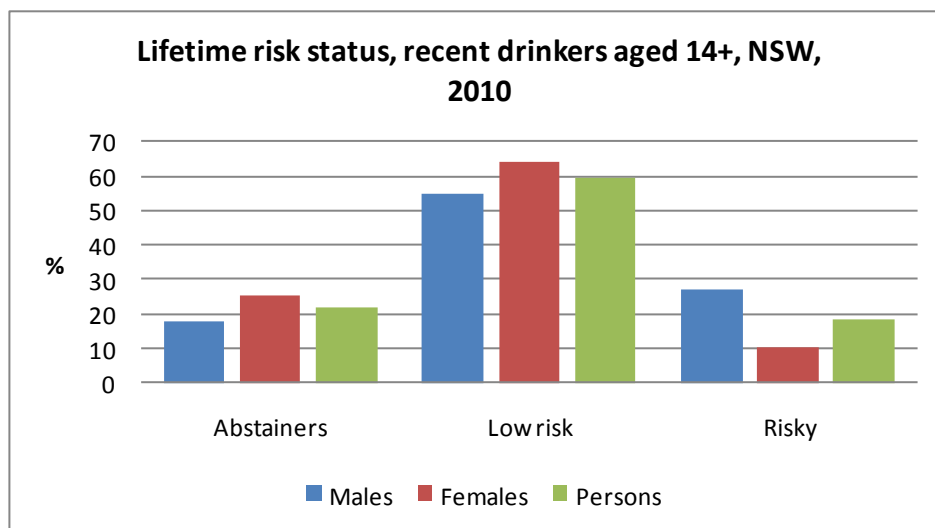
**Alcohol drinking status, persons aged 14 years or older, NSW, 2010**

NSW	Daily	Weekly	Less than weekly	Ex-drinker*	Never
Males	9.4	44	28.5	6.1	11.9
Females	5.4	32.2	37	8.7	16.7
Persons	7.4	38	32.8	7.4	14.4

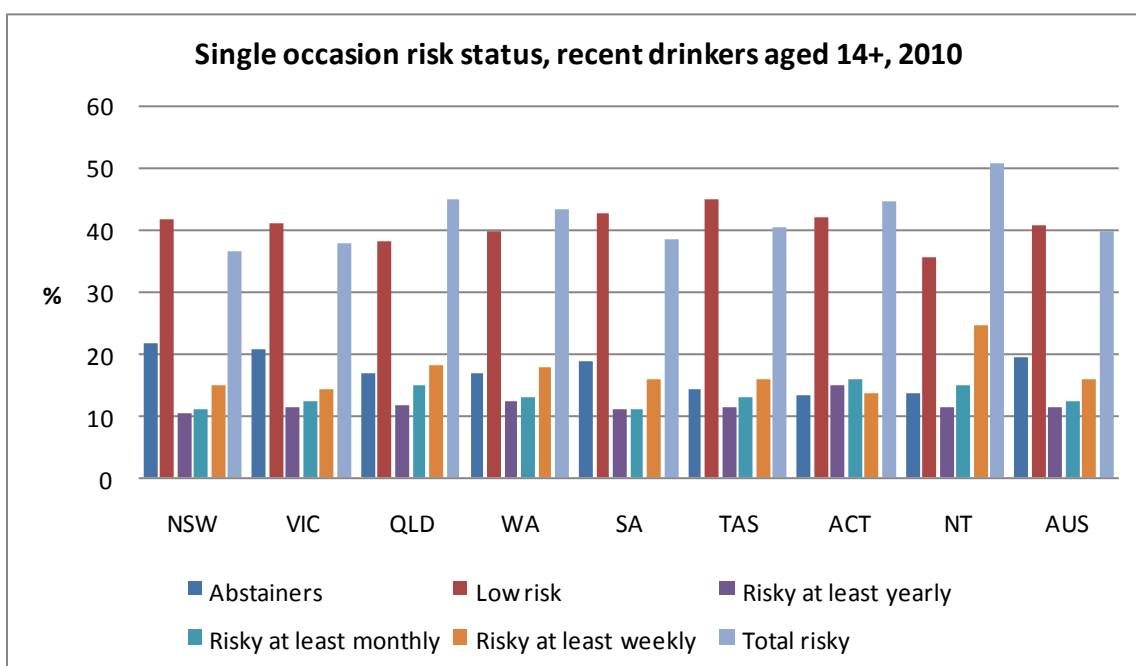
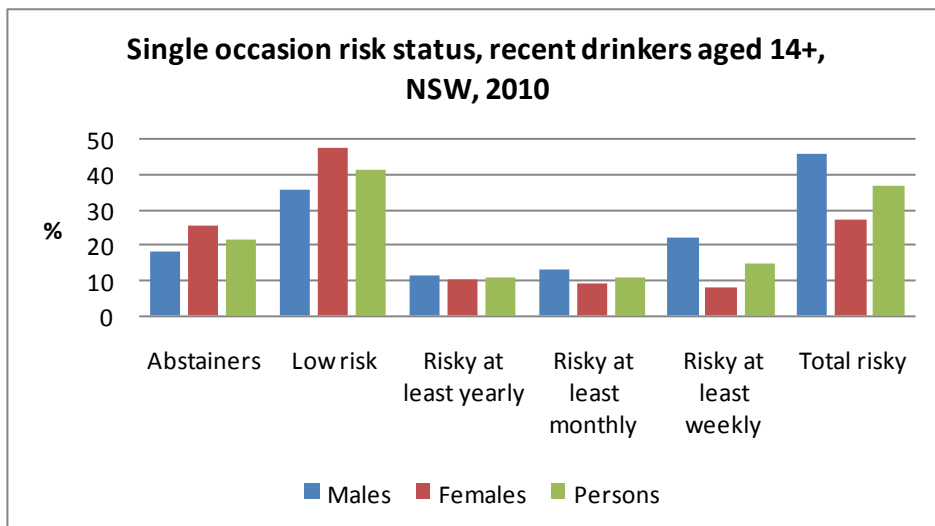
\*An ex-drinker is classified as someone who has had a full serve of alcohol but not in the past 12 months.



In NSW, in 2010, 21.8% of people abstained from alcohol (did not consume alcohol in the past 12 months), 59.6% drank at a low risk level (no more than two standard drinks per day on average), whilst 18.6% of recent drinkers drank at risky level (more than two standard drinks per day on average). The levels of risky drinking were higher amongst males than females.



The following charts compare single occasion risk status in 2010. In NSW, 36.6% of persons aged 14 years or older drank at a risky level at least yearly (risky drinking defined as more than four standard drinks on a single occasion). This was the lowest level of single occasion risky drinking of the States and Territories. 15% of persons in NSW drank at a risky level at least weekly (22.1% of males and 8% of females). Risky drinking on a single occasion was most common in the Northern Territory (50.8% of persons).



**Source:**

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey Report*, AIHW, Canberra, 2011, p 61ff.

## SMOKING

Daily smoking is becoming less a feature of Australian life. In 1985, 32.7% of males and 26.1% of females aged 14 years and older in Australia smoked on a daily basis. By 2010, the figures had dropped by almost half to 16.4% and 13.9% respectively.<sup>7</sup> In NSW, in 2011, 12.5% of males and 9.9% of females in NSW smoked on a daily basis.

**Smoking status by sex, persons aged 16+, NSW, 2011, %**

	Males	Females
Smoke daily	12.5	9.9
Smoke occasionally	4.5	2.8
Don't smoke now but used to	27.8	21.0
Tried but never smoked regularly	12.2	10.7
Never smoked	42.9	55.6

Back in 2010, in NSW:

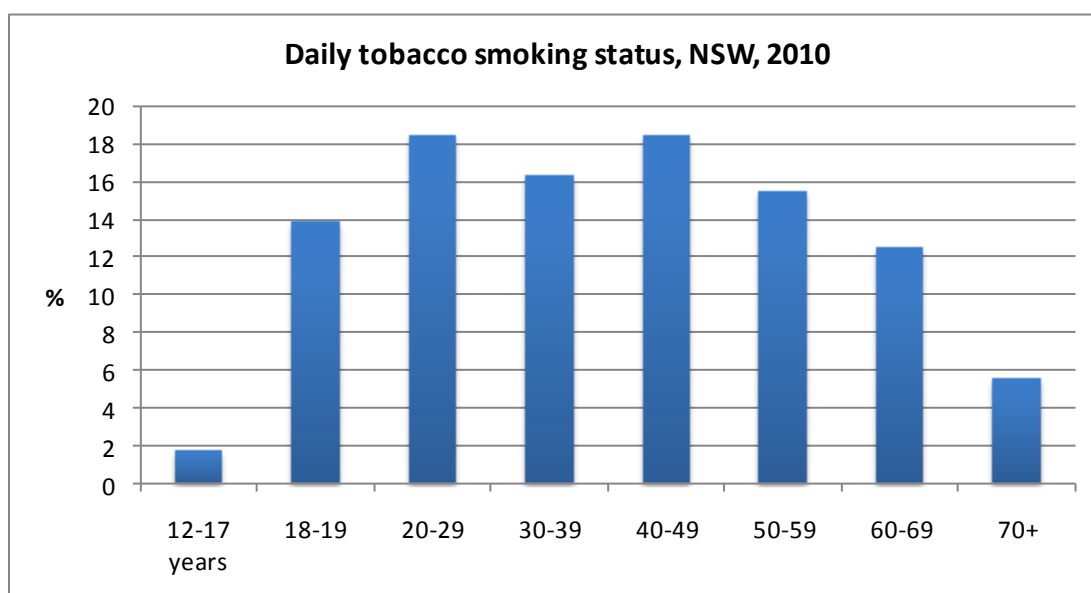
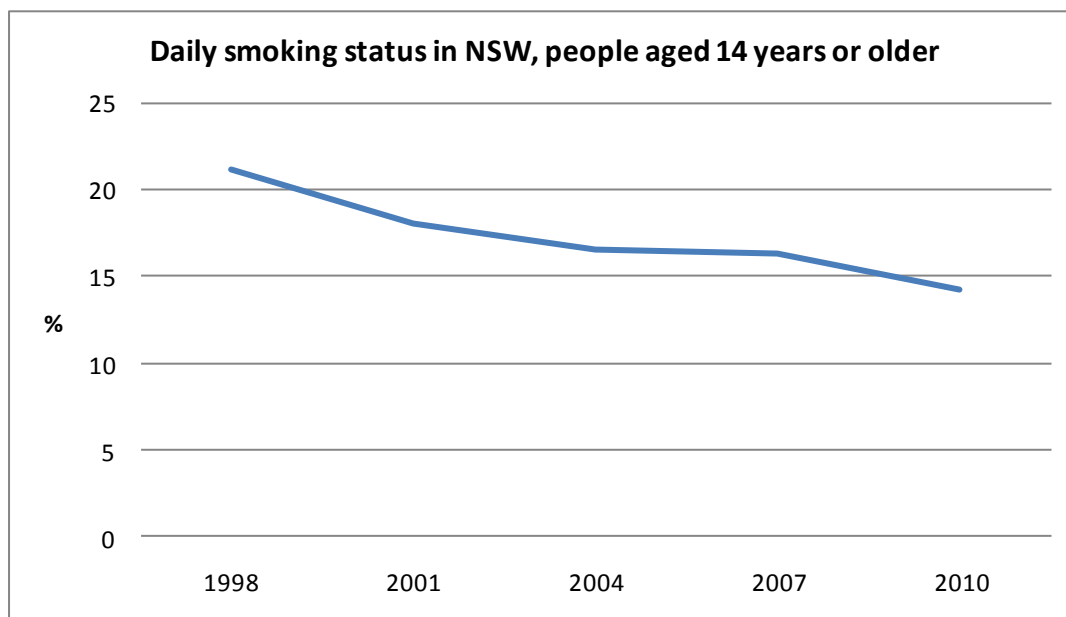
- 14.2% of persons aged 14 years and over smoked on a daily basis (down from 21.2% in 1998).
- 15.6% of males aged 14 years and over smoked on a daily basis. However, 25.1% no longer smoked and 56.3% have never smoked.
- 12.9% of females aged 14 years and over smoked on a daily basis, 21.7% were ex-smokers and 63.3% had never smoked.

NSW has the lowest incidence of daily smokers in Australia, apart from the ACT. The Northern Territory and Queensland have the highest rates at 22.3% and 16.7% respectively.

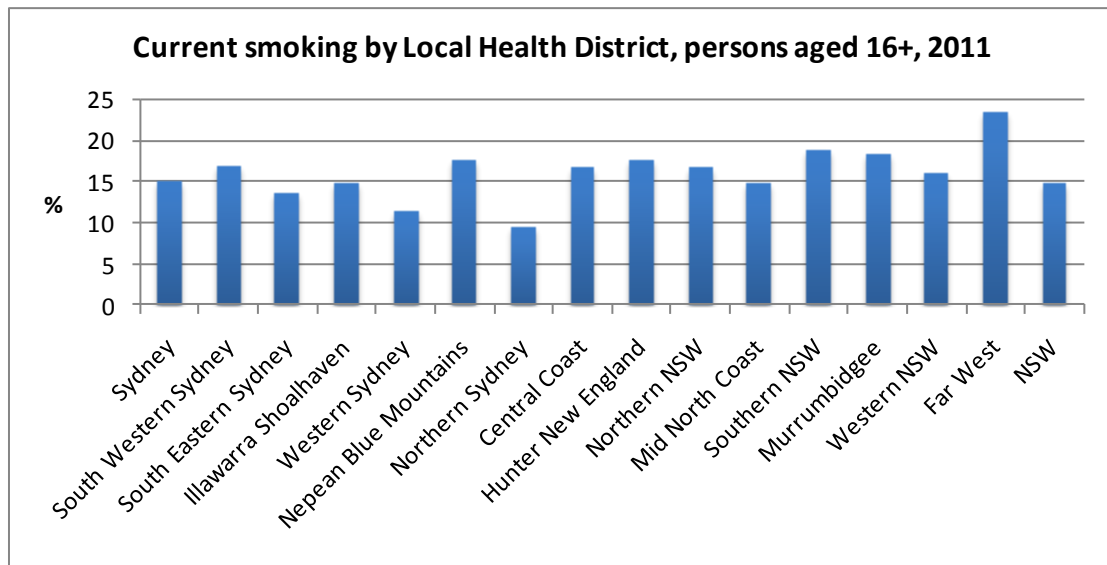
The highest rates of smoking in NSW are amongst those in their forties (18.5% of all persons in this age group) and twenties (18.4%).

<sup>7</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's Health 2012*, AIHW, Canberra, 2012.

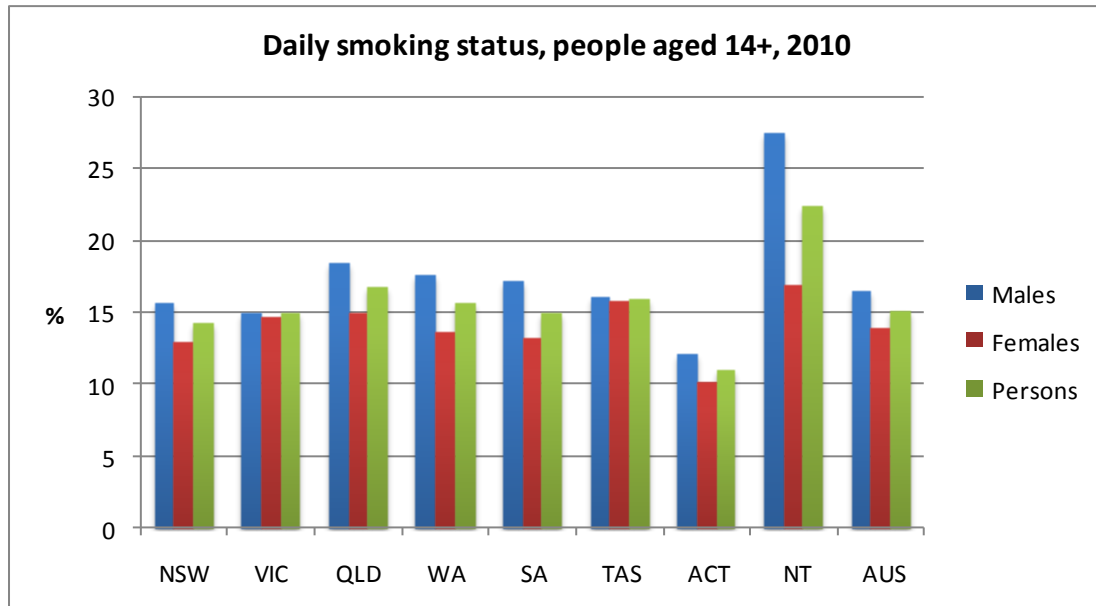




The chart below compares the proportion of people aged 16 years and over in each Local Health District who were current smokers in 2011. The Far West had the greatest percentage at 23.4% followed by 18.8% of those in Southern NSW (compared to a NSW average of 14.8%). The lowest rates were in Western Sydney and Northern Sydney at 11.3% and 9.4% respectively.



The chart below compares the proportion of people in each of the States and Territories who smoked on a daily basis in 2010. The rates in NSW were below the Australian average, but the lowest proportion of daily smokers was in the ACT.



### Smoking and pregnancy

Smoking in the second half of pregnancy poses the greatest risk to the health of both mother and baby. 10.2% of mothers smoked in the second half of pregnancy in NSW in 2009. The highest rates were in the Far West and Western NSW Local Health Districts at 31.3% and 23.3% respectively. In the Far West, Western NSW and Southern NSW Local Health Districts, the proportion of mothers who smoked more than 10 cigarettes per day was over 10%.

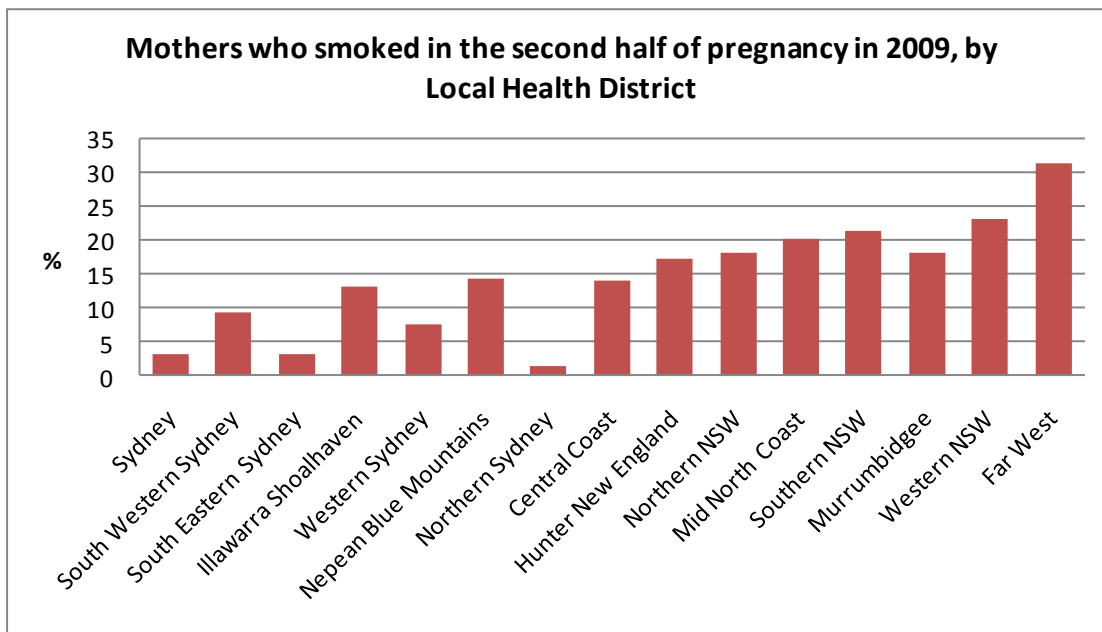
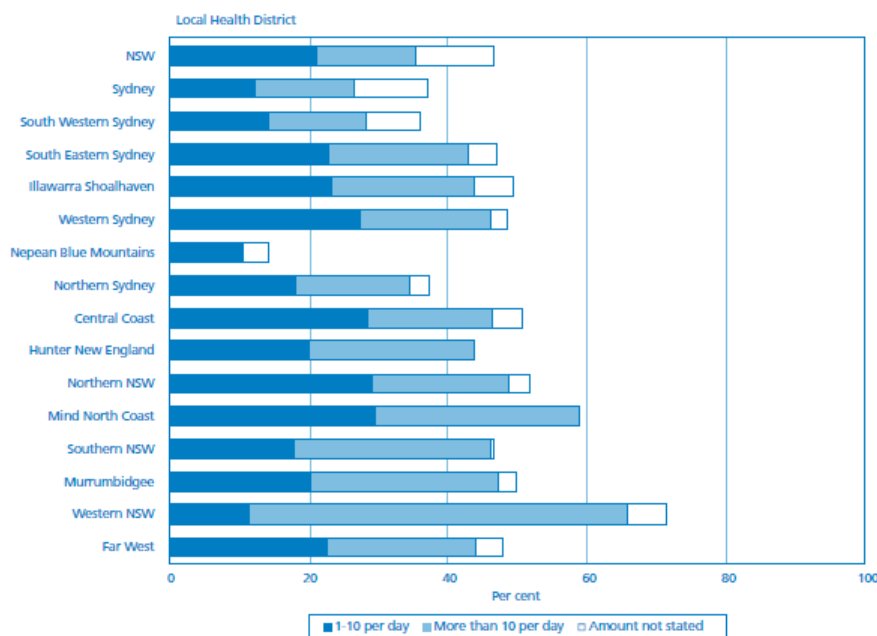


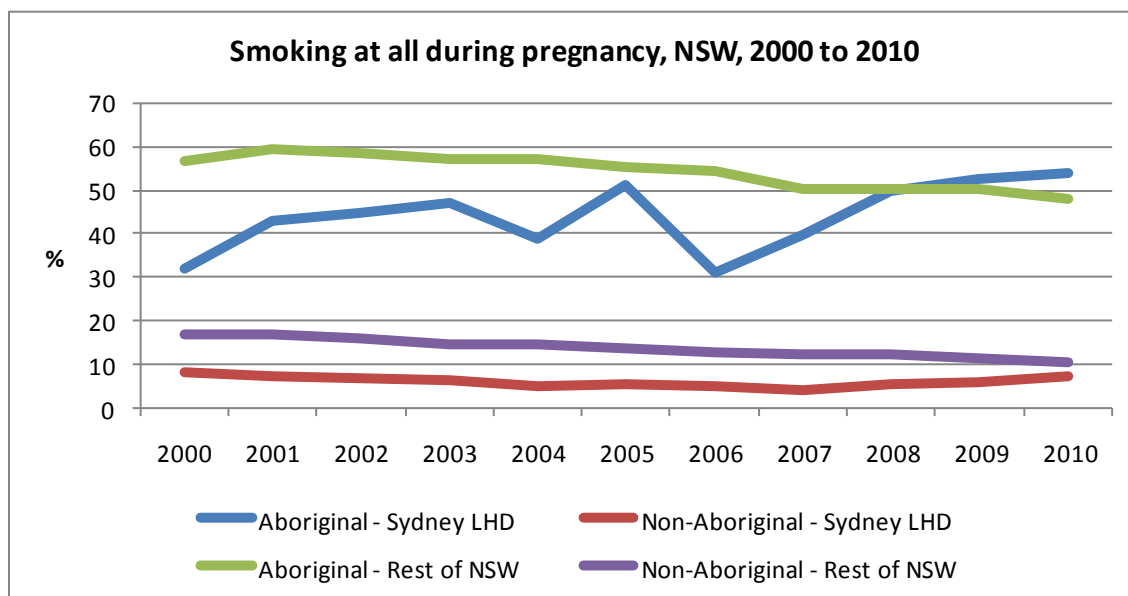
Figure 3. Smoking in the second half of pregnancy among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers by amount smoked and Local Health District of residence, NSW 2009#



Source: NSW Perinatal Data Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Ministry of Health.  
 # Due to under-reporting of Aboriginal mothers on the PDC, it is likely that the true numbers are about one and a half times higher than shown. The level of reporting varies between Local Health Districts (Table 69).

Source of above chart: Centre for Epidemiology and Research, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2009*, NSW Ministry of Health, Sydney, 2011, p 78.

The following chart tracks the proportion of people in NSW who smoked during pregnancy between 2000 and 2010. It shows that the level of smoking during pregnancy in the Sydney Local Health District has been increasing in recent years.



### Sources:

- Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. Health Statistics New South Wales. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au). Accessed 13/9/12.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey Report*, AIHW, Canberra, 2011, p 30ff.
- Centre for Epidemiology and Research, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2009*, NSW Ministry of Health, Sydney, 2011, p 27.

## OBESITY

The risk of developing coronary heart disease, increased blood pressure and blood cholesterol level, type 2 diabetes, CKD, some cancers, musculoskeletal conditions and mental health problems/disorders increases in those who are overweight or obese.<sup>8</sup> The Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure of whether someone is overweight or obese. It is calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by his or her height in metres squared. A healthy BMI is between 18.5 and 25.<sup>9</sup> Someone who is overweight has a BMI between 25 and 30 and an obese person has a BMI of 30 or more. The table below looks at the proportion of men and women in NSW between 2002 and 2009 who were physically active and also the percentage who are overweight or obese.

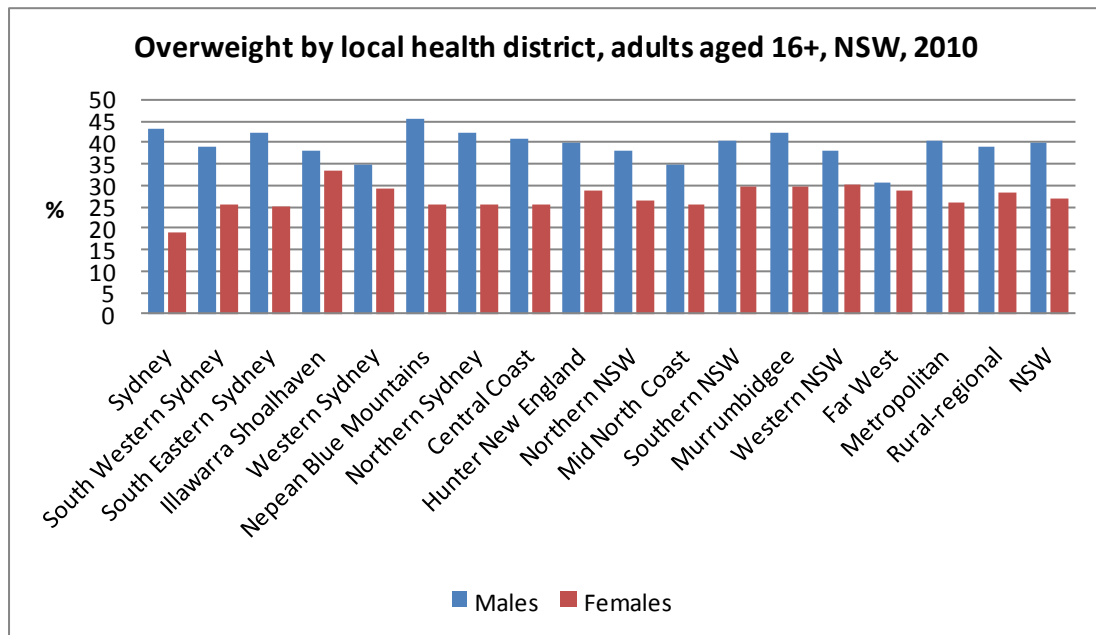
Physical activity and weight, NSW, %

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Adequate physical activity</b>	Males	51.0	49.4	57.0	56.6	60.4	62.1	61.3	60.7
	Females	43.4	40.3	47.9	47.3	49.6	47.6	48.9	49.8
<b>Overweight and obesity (16+)</b>	Males	53.4	55.7	56.2	57.5	57.4	58.8	60.0	59.5
	Females	38.2	41.0	40.5	42.3	43.3	44.7	45.7	45.4

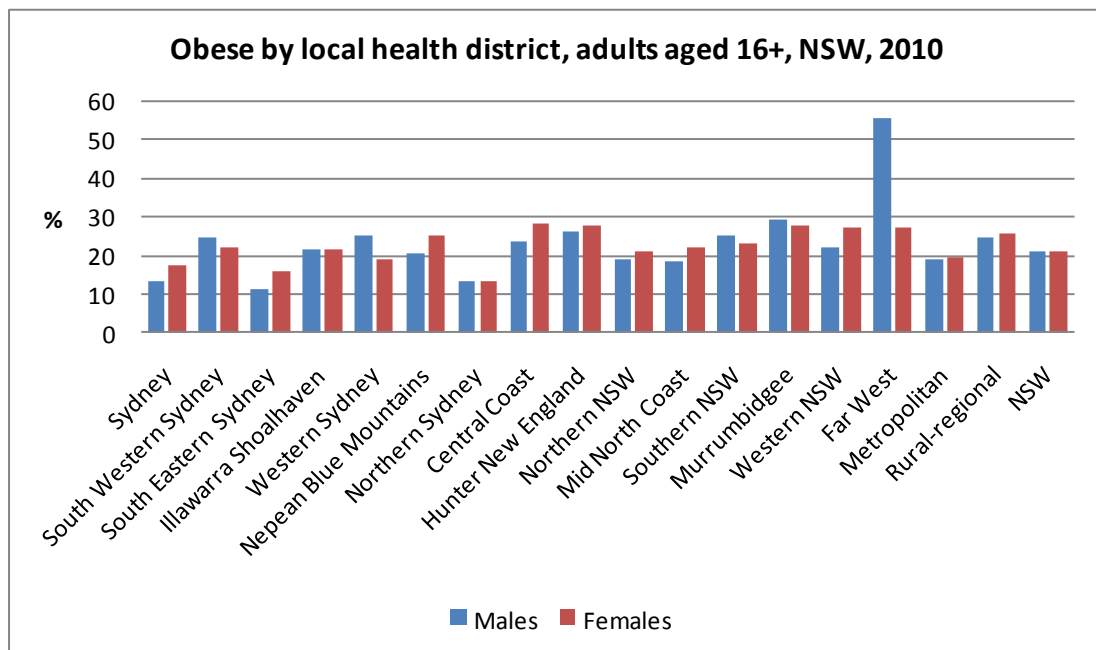
In 2010, one third of adults aged 16 years and over were overweight. More males than females are overweight. The greatest proportion of overweight males was in the Nepean Blue Mountains local health district at 45.3%. The smallest proportion of overweight males was in the Far West at 30.4%. The Illawarra Shoalhaven local health district had the largest proportion of overweight women at 33.3% whilst the Sydney local health district had the smallest at 19.1%.

<sup>8</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Risk factor trends: Age patterns in key health risk factors over time*, AIHW, Canberra, September 2012, p 3.

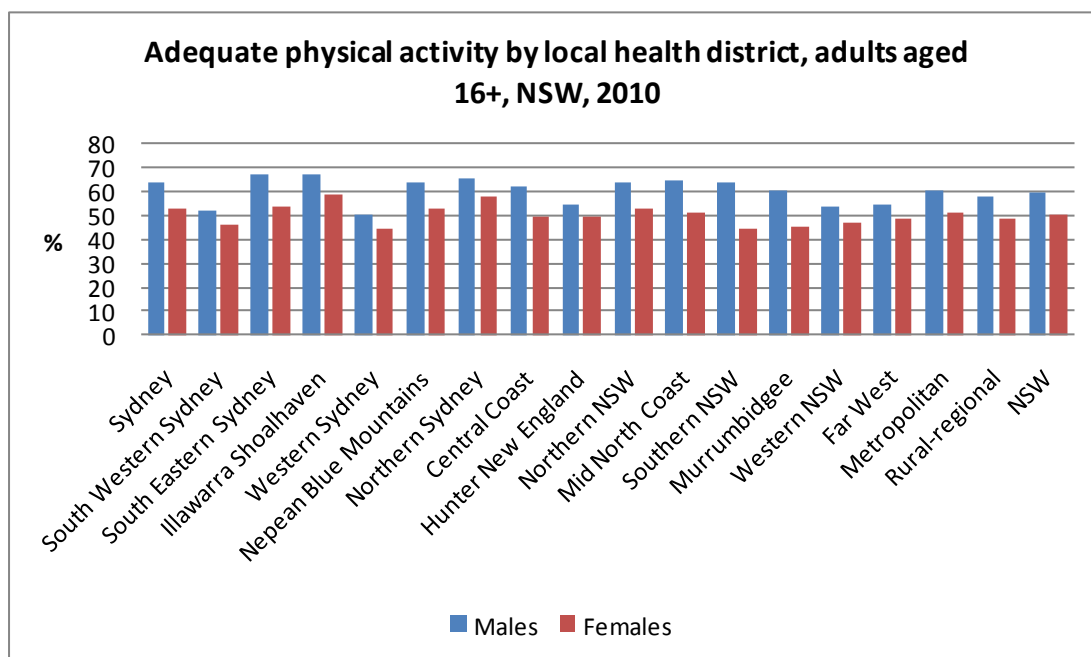
<sup>9</sup> NSW Health, 'Adult BMI Calculator', [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)



20.8% of males and 21.1% of females aged 16 years or older in NSW in 2010 were obese. The highest proportion of obesity amongst men was in the Far West local health district and for women it was the Central Coast local health district. The smallest rates of obesity were in South Eastern Sydney for men and Northern Sydney for women.



In 2010, 60% of men and 50.7% of women undertook adequate physical activity (defined as a total of 150 minutes per week on five separate occasions). Levels of physical activity were highest amongst men in South Eastern Sydney and women in the Illawarra Shoalhaven local health districts. Men and women in Western Sydney had the lowest levels of adequate physical activity.

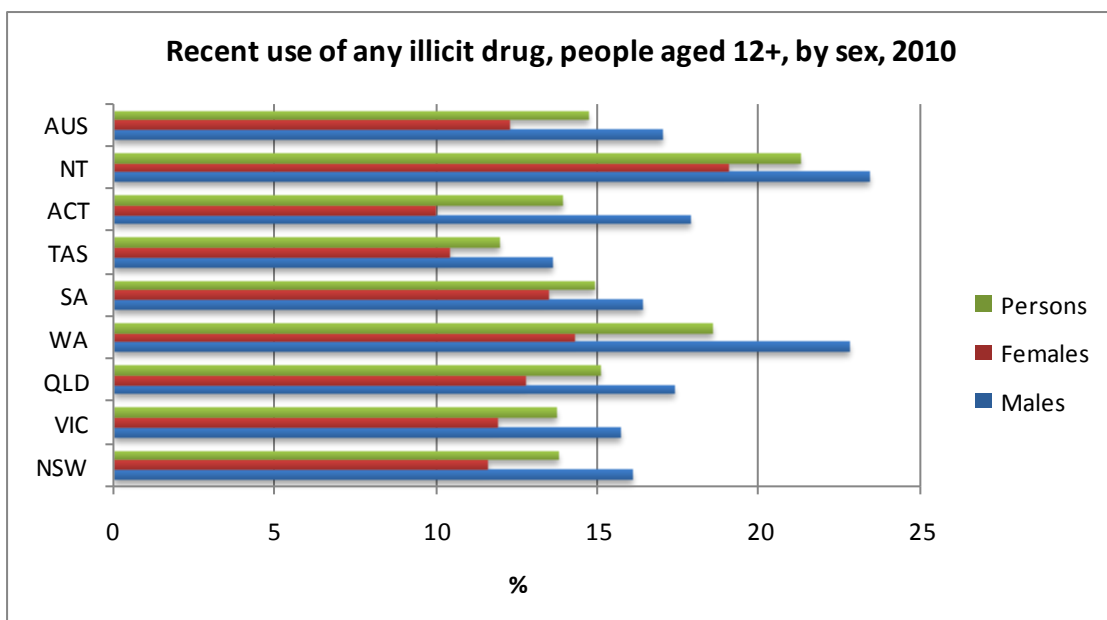
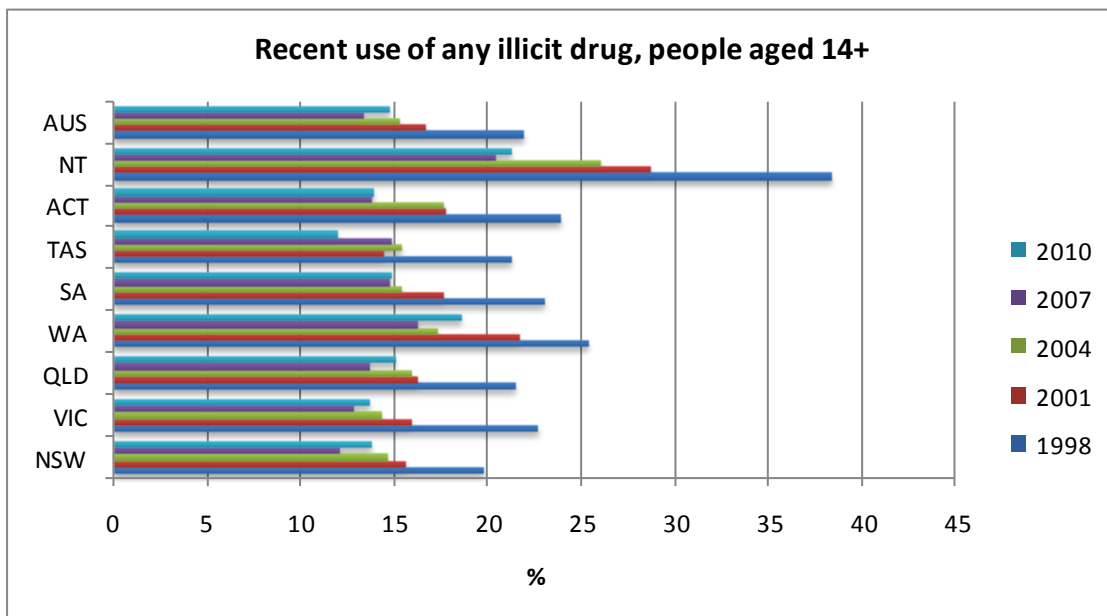


**Sources:**

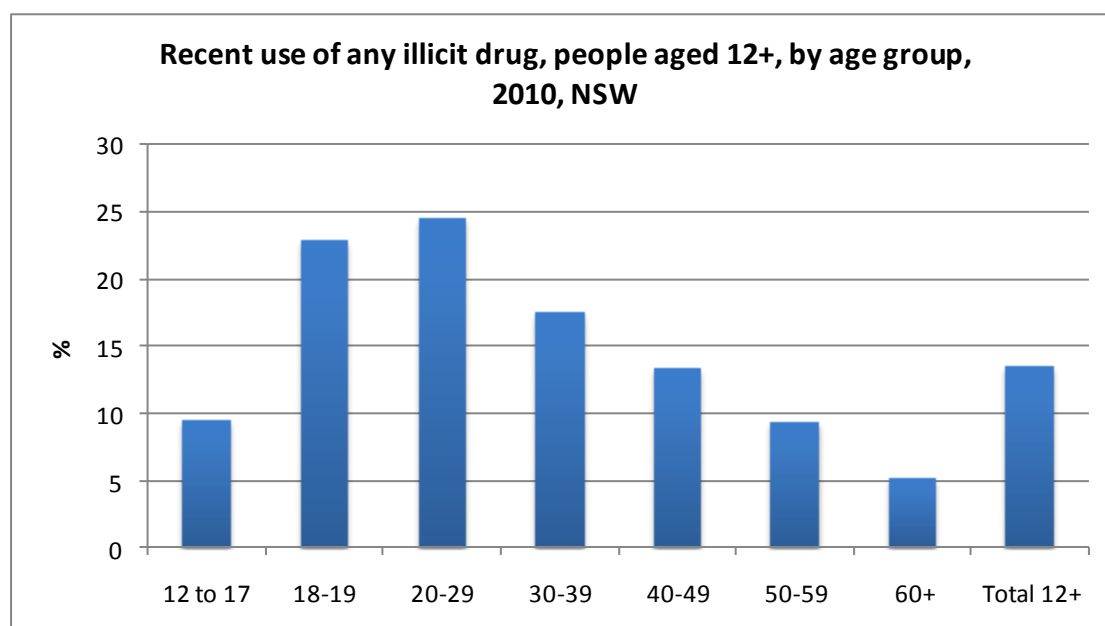
- Centre for Epidemiology and Research, *The health of the people of NSW - Report of the Chief Health Officer, Summary Report, 2010*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2010.
- Centre for Epidemiology and Research, *2010 Report on Adult Health from the NSW Population Health Survey*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2011.

## DRUG USE

13.8% of persons aged 14 years and over in NSW in 2010 had recently used an illicit drug (down from 19.8% in 1998). This is lower than the Australian average of 14.7%. The highest incidence of illicit drug use in Australia in 2010 was in the Northern Territory and Western Australia at 21.3% and 18.6% respectively. Tasmania had the lowest use at 12% of its population. Illicit drug use was much higher amongst males in NSW at 16.1% compared to 11.6% of females and was concentrated amongst those aged 18 to 29 years (almost half of all recent users).





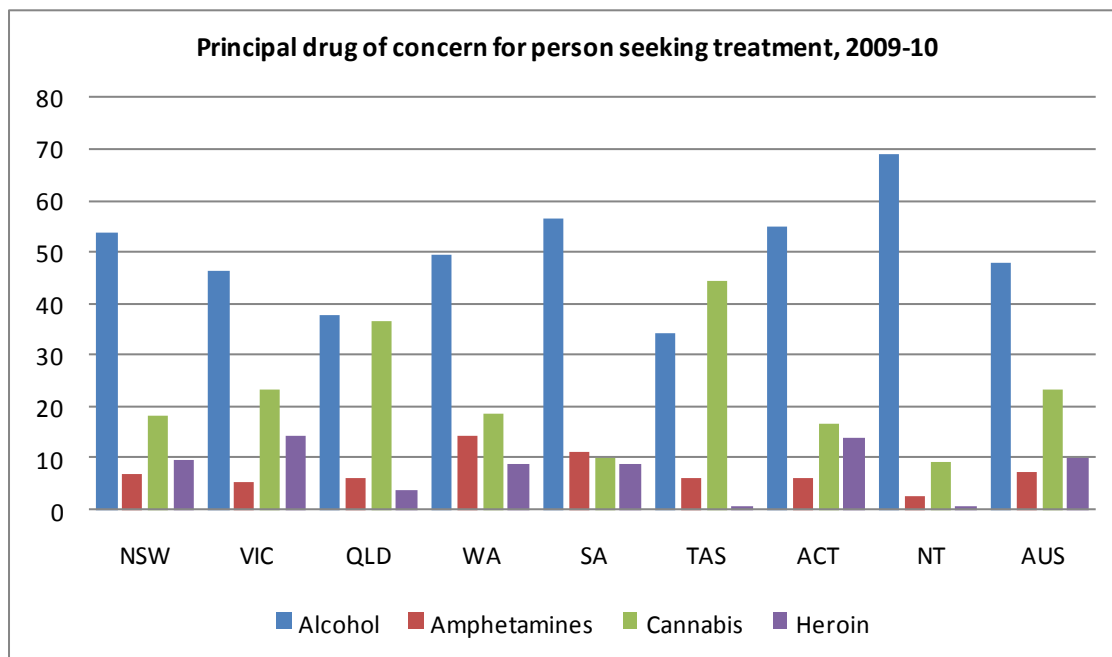


There were 258 government funded drug treatment agencies and outlets in New South Wales in 2009-10 (out of 671 in Australia). They provided 35,202 treatment episodes. However, the most treatment episodes occurred in Victoria, where 138 drug treatment agencies and outlets provided 52,133 treatment episodes. The median age of a person receiving treatment for his or her own drug use was 32 years in Australia.

The following table notes the principal drug of concern for those receiving treatment in NSW (ie the main substance that led the person to seek treatment). The proportion of people seeking treatment for alcohol increased to 53.9% in 2009-10. The percentage of people seeking treatment for heroin and amphetamines continued to fall.

**Principal drug of concern for people seeking treatment, NSW, by financial year, %**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Alcohol	42.7	42.1	41.2	41.5	43	45	49.3	51	53.9
Amphetamines	10.7	10.9	10.9	11.3	11.2	13.3	10.8	8.5	6.8
Cannabis	14.3	15.4	16.1	17.4	20.2	19	17.1	18.4	18.4
Heroin	18.7	21.4	21.4	20.1	15.6	13	12	10.8	9.6

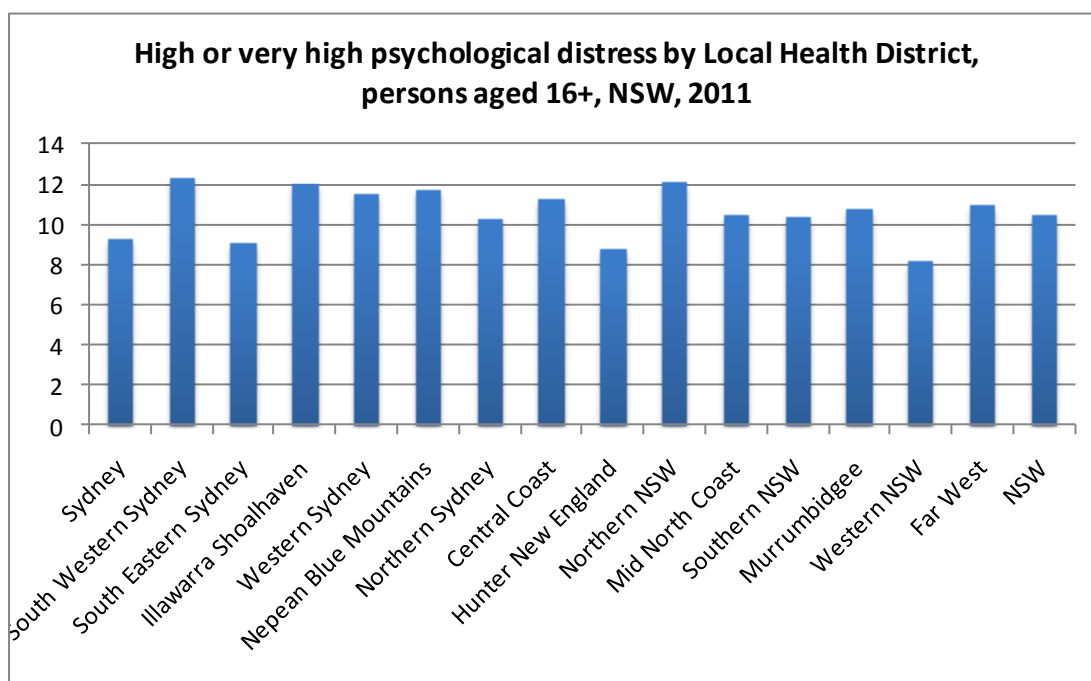


### Sources:

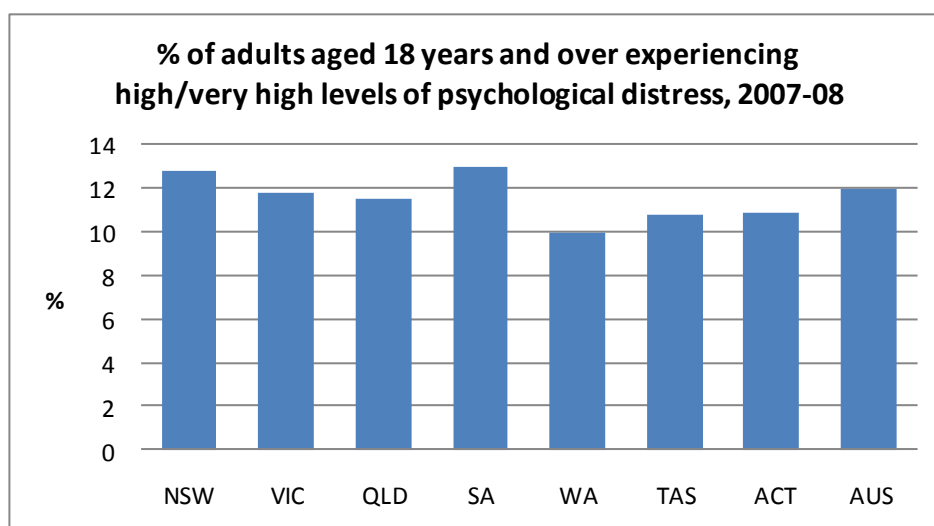
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services – National minimum data set findings: State/Territory supplementary tables*, AIHW, Canberra, November 2011.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey Report*, AIHW, Canberra, 2011, p 94ff.

## MENTAL HEALTH

The following chart compares high or very high psychological distress by Local Health District in NSW in 2011. Rates were highest in the South Western Sydney LHD at 12.3% compared to a low of 8.1% in Western NSW. The NSW average was 10.4%. Rates of psychological distress were higher amongst females than males for every age group with the exception of those aged 75 and older.



The following graph compares the proportion of adults in Australia who experience high/very levels of psychological distress in 2007-08. No results were published for the Northern Territory and so it does not appear below.

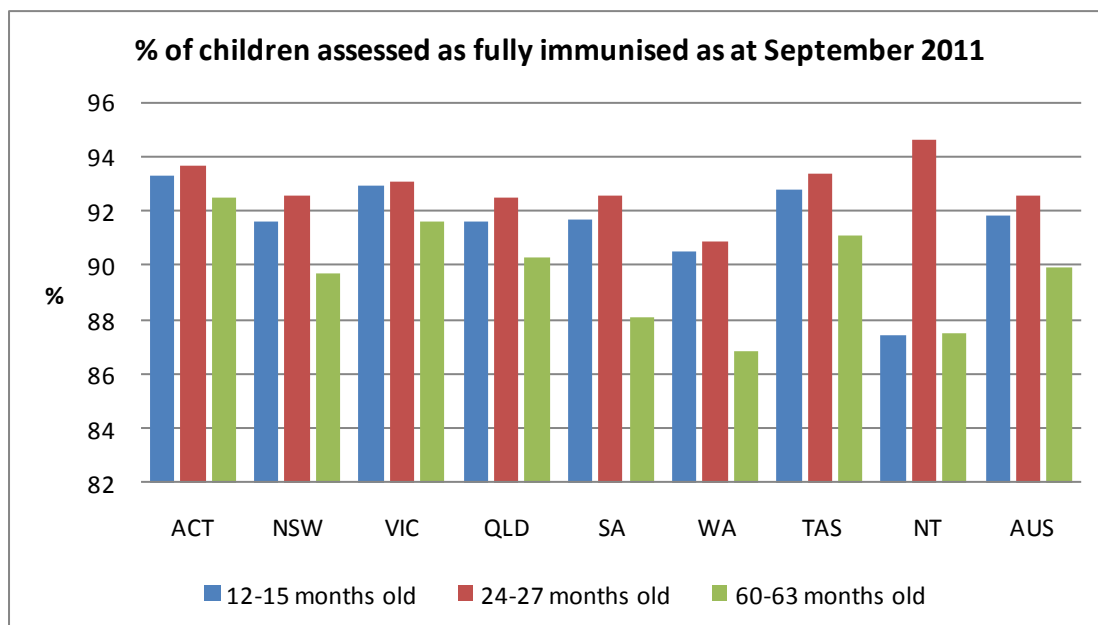


**Source:**

- Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. Health Statistics New South Wales. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au). Accessed 13/9/12.
- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012

## IMMUNISATION

The following chart compares the proportion of children who are fully immunised in each State and Territory. The level of immunisation in NSW in 2011 was slightly below the national average.



### Source:

- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register statistics - Medicare Australia, <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/patients/acir/statistics.jsp>

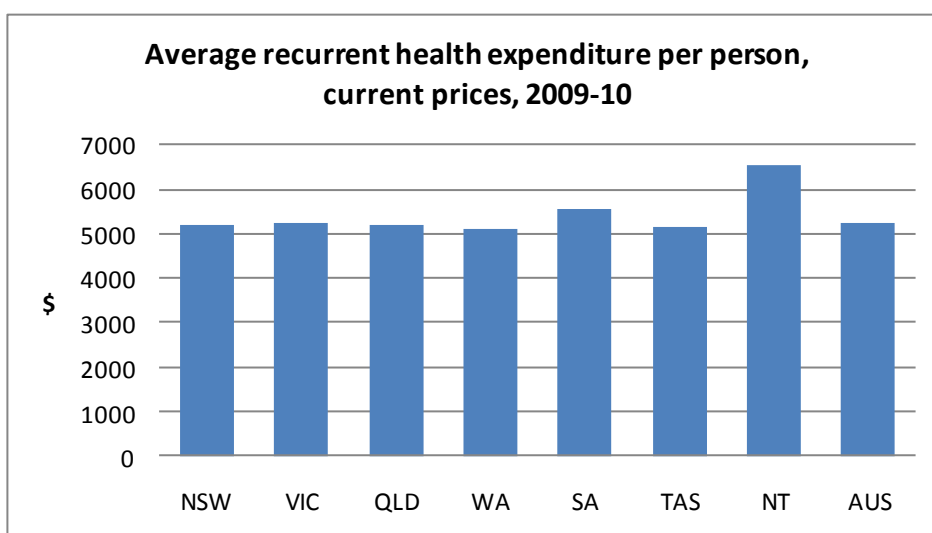
## HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA

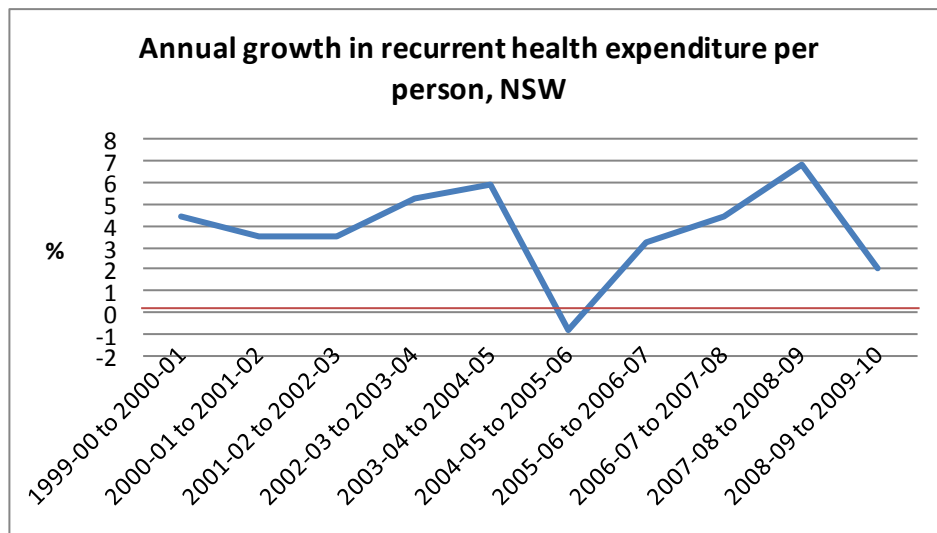
Average recurrent health expenditure per person in NSW was \$5200 in 2009-10, up from \$5098 the previous year. This was the third lowest expenditure per person of the States and Territories, with an Australian average of \$5251 per person. Of the States, South Australia spent the most per person at \$5553. Between 1999-00 and 2009-10, average annual growth in health expenditure per person was 3.8% in NSW. Whilst health expenditure per capita increased by an average of 4.5% a year between 1999-00 and 2004-05, growth tapered off from 2004-05 to an average annual increase of 3.1%.

**Average recurrent health expenditure, per person, constant prices, all sources of funds, \$**

Year	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	AUS
1999-00	3583	3588	3528	3496	3649	3634	4308	3599
2000-01	3740	3875	3804	3735	3769	3835	4514	3806
2001-02	3872	4055	3797	3846	3887	4348	4594	3933
2002-03	4008	4268	3911	4151	4170	3986	4899	4104
2003-04	4220	4246	3962	4349	4365	3972	5251	4220
2004-05	4468	4394	4107	4539	4633	4097	5427	4415
2005-06	4431	4456	4277	4516	4677	4244	5690	4458
2006-07	4574	4590	4535	4727	4775	4439	5874	4628
2007-08	4775	4783	4804	5024	5146	4901	6424	4871
2008-09	5098	5042	5069	5209	5433	5132	6854	5147
2009-10	5200	5225	5204	5128	5553	5147	6549	5251

NB: The ACT is not calculated separately as it includes substantial expenditures for NSW residents. However, it is included in the Australian average.

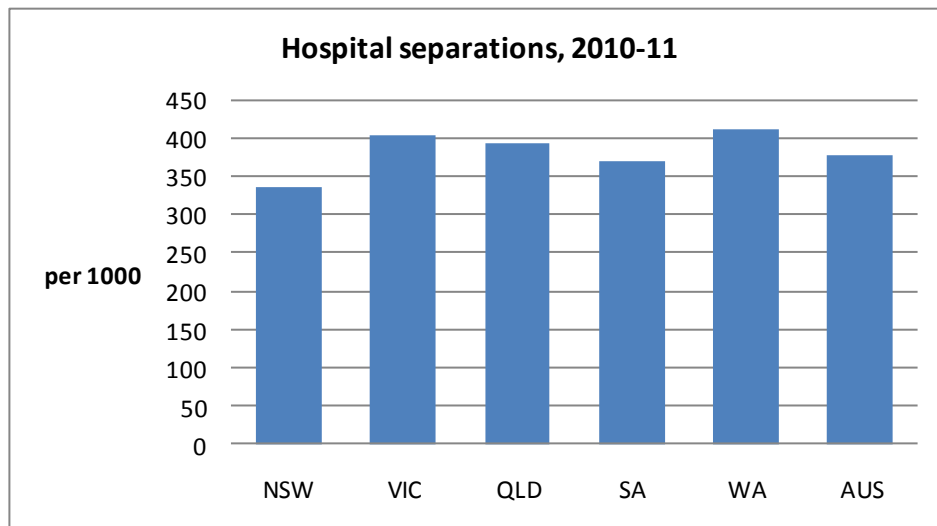


**Source:**

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Health Expenditure 2009-10*, AIHW, Canberra, 2011, p 20.

## HOSPITAL SEPARATIONS

A hospital separation is when a patient leaves the hospital after completing an episode of care. They may have been discharged to home, to another hospital, or to a nursing home, or they may have died. There were 336 hospital separations for every 1000 people in NSW in 2010-11, the lowest of the States and Territories with published results. The Australian average was 377 per 1000 people.

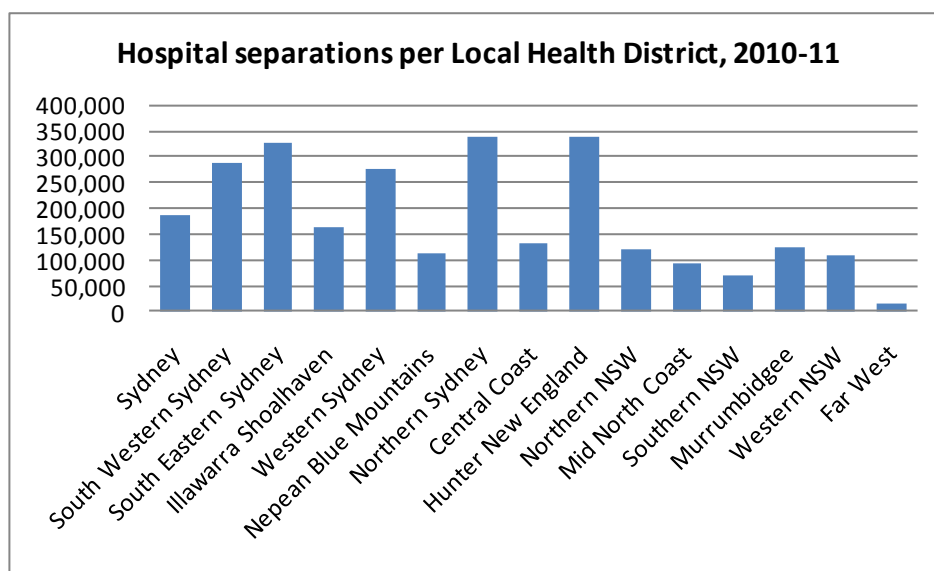


Northern Sydney had the greatest number of hospital separations of the Local Health Districts in NSW in 2010-11, closely followed by Hunter New England, as shown in the table below. However, when comparing the rate of hospital separations, the highest rate was in the Far West Local Health District at 40,252 separations for every 100,000 people followed by the Murrumbidgee at 39,198 separations for every 100,000 people.



**Hospital separations per local health district, 2010-11**

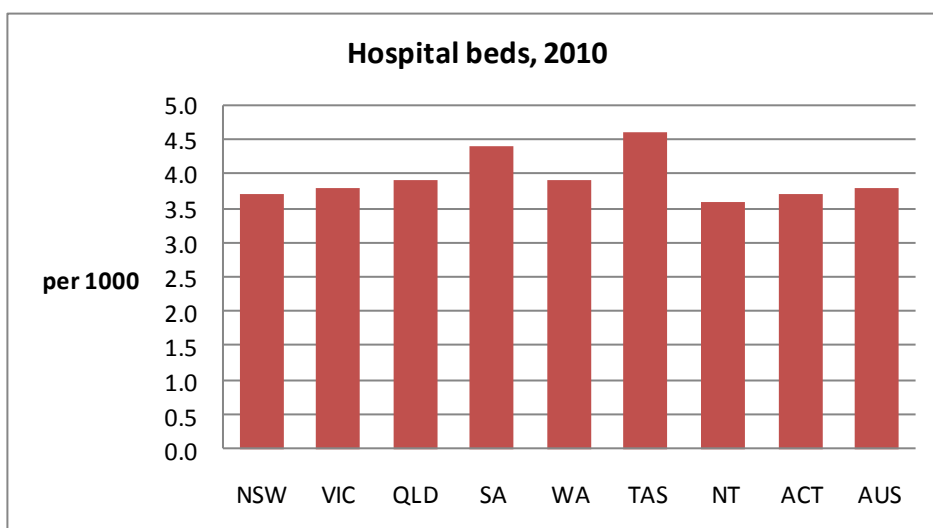
Local Health District	Number	Rate per 100,000 population
Sydney	186,748	32436.0
South Western Sydney	289,185	34104.6
South Eastern Sydney	325,762	36814.6
Illawarra Shoalhaven	162,392	37051.4
Western Sydney	274,966	34987.8
Nepean Blue Mountains	113,971	33690.8
Northern Sydney	339,661	37280.3
Central Coast	132,265	36376.3
Hunter New England	339,649	34605.4
Northern NSW	119,065	34350.0
Mid North Coast	93,355	36742.2
Southern NSW	67,688	30320.6
Murrumbidgee	125,527	39198.7
Western NSW	110,310	38220.1
Far West	14,212	40252.1
NSW	2,703,902	35425.3

**Source:**

- Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. Health Statistics New South Wales. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: [www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au).
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012.

## BEDS

There were 3.7 hospital beds per 1000 people in NSW in 2010, down from a peak of 4.1 in 2005. This is slightly under the Australian average of 3.8 beds for every 1000 people. Tasmania continues to have the greatest number of beds for every 1000 people at 4.6, followed by South Australia at 4.4 beds per 1000 population.



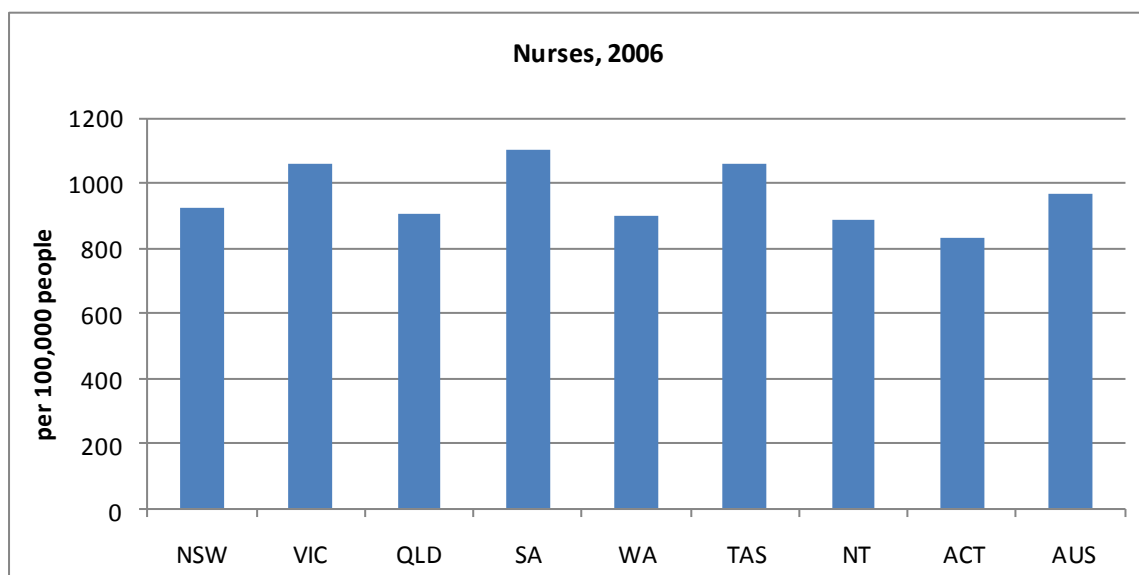
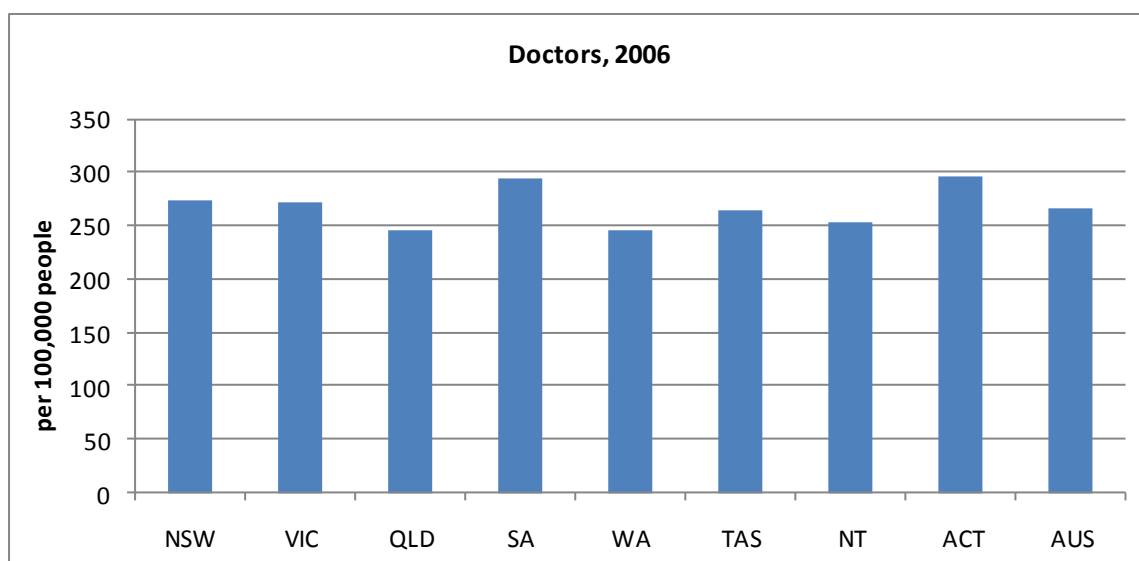
### Source:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012.

## STAFF

The number of doctors and nurses in NSW is growing. There were 273 doctors and 927 nurses for every 100,000 people in NSW in 2006 (compared to 251 doctors and 822 nurses in 2001). New South Wales has the third highest number of doctors per 100,000 people of the States and Territories, with only South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory having a greater number proportionally.

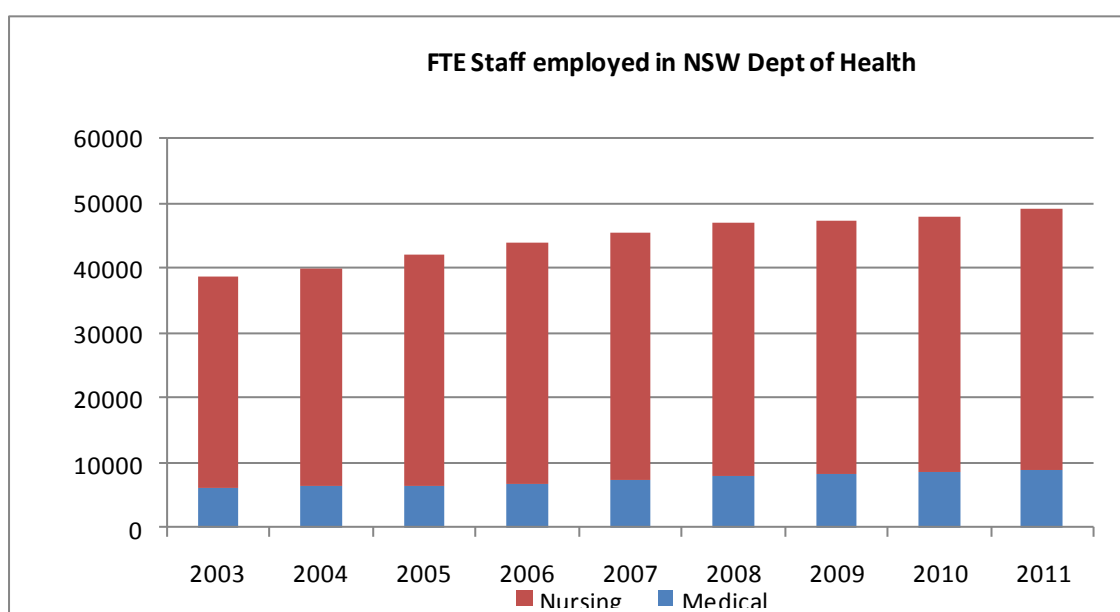
However, the number of nurses per 100,000 people in NSW (927) is below the Australian average of 968 nurses per 100,000 people, and is less than the rate of nurses in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.



**FTE staff employed in NSW Department of Health, Health Support Services, Ambulance Service of NSW and health services**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Medical	6112	6357	6462	6826	7318	7866	8140	8524	8938
Nursing	32550	33488	35523	36920	38101	39043	39142	39352	40303

The following graph shows how the number of staff employed by the NSW Department of Health has increased since 2003.

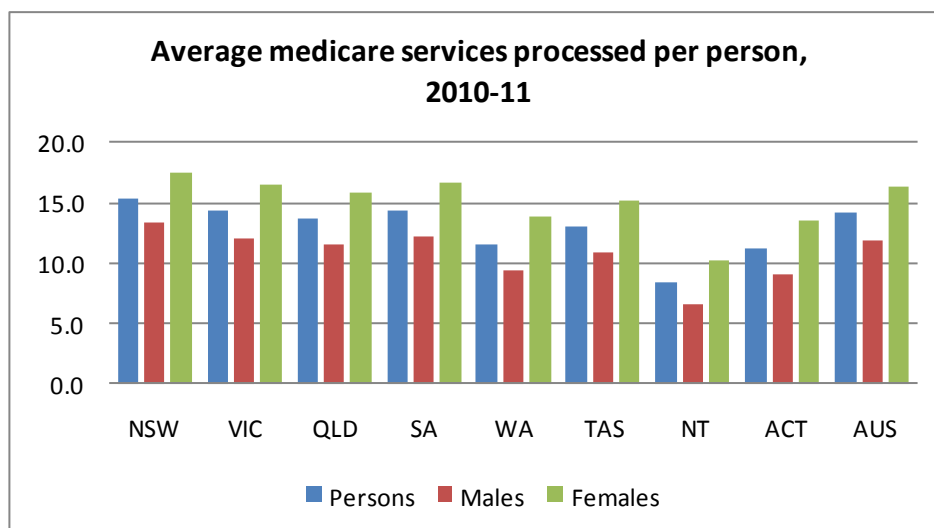


**Sources:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012
- NSW Health, *Annual Report 2010/11*

## MEDICARE

15.4 Medicare services were processed per person in NSW in 2010-11, up from 14.7 in 2009. Females in NSW processed 17.5 Medicare claims whilst 13.3 claims were processed on average for males. NSW has the highest number of Medicare services processed of the States and Territories, whether restricted to males, females, or considering all persons.

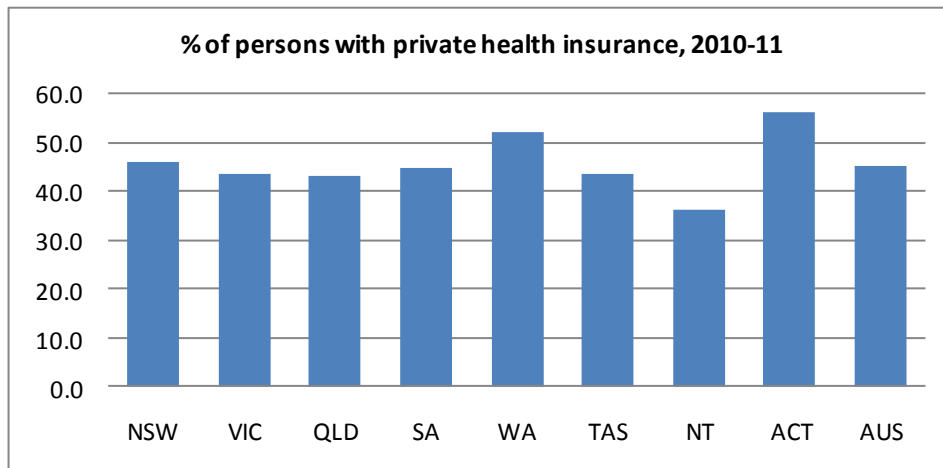


### Source:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012.

## PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

The proportion of people in NSW with private health insurance in 2010-11 was 45.9%. This is the third highest coverage of the States and Territories, behind the ACT and Western Australia at 56.1% and 52.1% respectively.

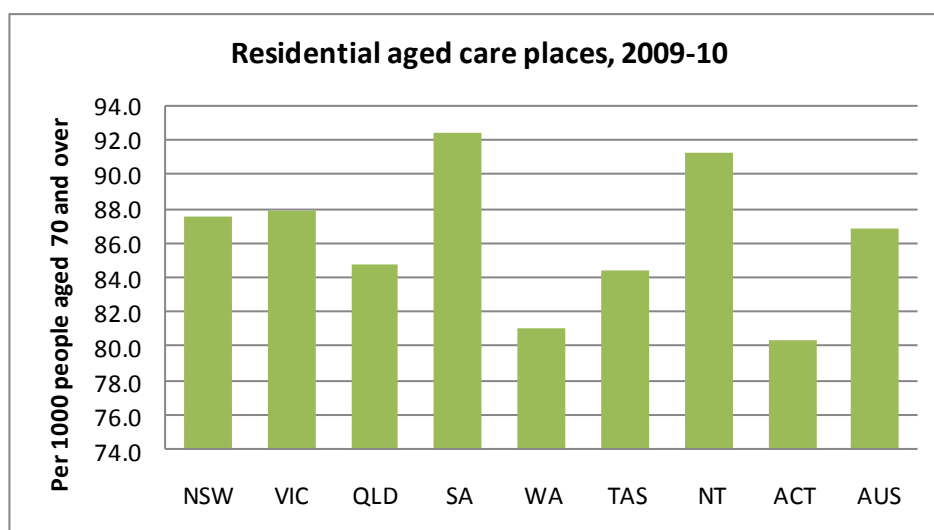


**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012

## AGED CARE PLACES

The number of residential aged care places in NSW in 2009-10 was 87.5 places for every 1000 people aged 70 years or older. The Australian average was 86.8 places. South Australia has the greatest number of residential aged care places of the States, with 92.4 beds for every 1000 persons aged 70 years or older.



**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, September 2012