

General medical practitioner services: male patients

Consultations with general medical practitioners: Unreferred attendances under Medicare for services provided by general and vocationally registered practitioners (not specialist medical practitioners), delivered at a surgery or clinic, a patient's home, or an institution: data from 2002/03

Overview

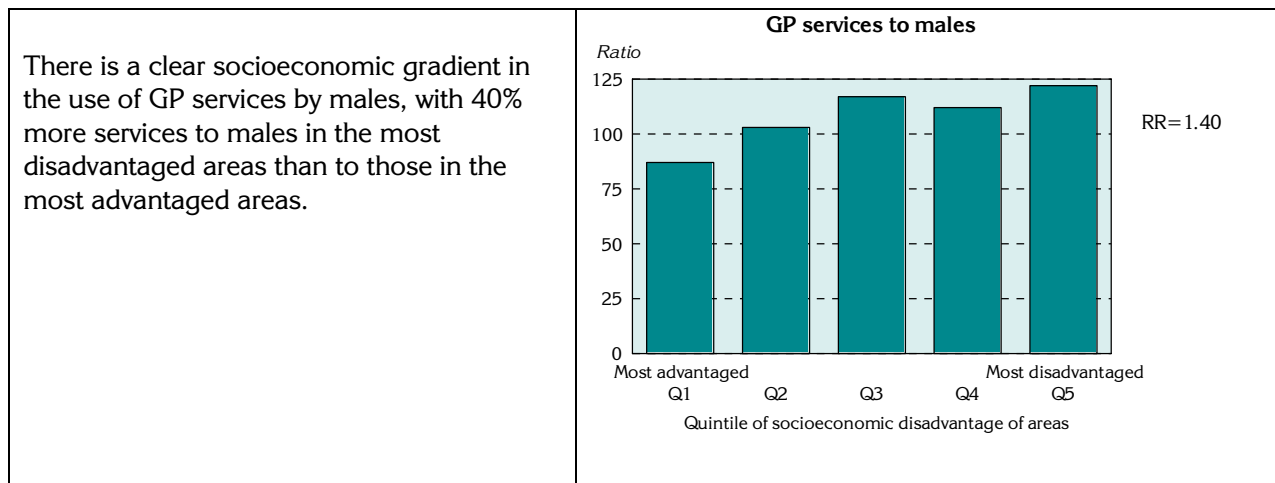
General practitioners offer a wide range of primary health care services and are the 'front line' of the Australian health care system. In metropolitan regions, low socioeconomic (SES) groups consult general practitioners more frequently than high SES groups⁸⁶. The primary reason is their poorer health and hence greater medical need (however, distributional, operational and financial factors associated with the provision of general practice services are also important).

There were 1,622,154 GP services to males in the Central Northern region, 9 per cent more than expected from the State rates, given the age profile of males in the region (a standardised ratio (SR) of 109**) (Table 82). At the SLA level there is a marked separation between areas with high, and those with low, use of GP services by males (Map 80), closely following the pattern of socioeconomic disadvantage shown in Map 23, page 113.

A number of SLAs in the region had a higher than expected number of services for males, including Salisbury - Inner North (an SR of 140**, 62,044 services), Playford - East Central (138**, 47,087), Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (137**, 70,664) and Playford - Elizabeth (133**, 68,178). There were also elevated ratios in Charles Sturt - North-East (an SR of 129**, 65,680), Adelaide (127**, 34,777), Salisbury - Central (126**, 65,507), Playford - West Central (125**, 30,299), Port Adelaide Enfield - East (121**, 59,112), Playford - West (120**, 19,600), Salisbury - South-East (118**, 77,505), Charles Sturt - Inner East (118**, 52,142) and West Torrens - East (115**, 54,668).

The SLAs with the largest number of GP services used by males in Central Northern were Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast (69,273 services, an SR of 105**), Tea Tree Gully - South (66,424, 101), Charles Sturt - Coastal (63,869, 98**), West Torrens - West (60,925, 102**), Campbelltown - East (59,564, 110**), Charles Sturt - Inner West (57,592, 113**), Tea Tree Gully - Central (49,104, 97**), Salisbury - North-East (45,370, 104**), Tea Tree Gully - North (45,300, 98**), Campbelltown - West (42,646, 108**) and Port Adelaide Enfield - Inner (42,548, 104**).

The lowest ratios of GP services for males were recorded for Burnside - South-West (an SR of 77**, 31,834 services), followed by Tea Tree Gully - Hills (80**, 20,417), Walkerville (84**, 12,105), Unley - East (85**, 31,023), Adelaide Hills - Ranges (85**, 17,430) and Burnside - North-East (85**, 36,511).



Note: In the chart, Q1 to Q5 are groupings of areas (quintiles), where Q1 represents the most socioeconomically advantaged 20% of the population and Q5 represents the most socioeconomically disadvantaged 20%.

Map 80: GP services to males, CNAHS, 2002/03

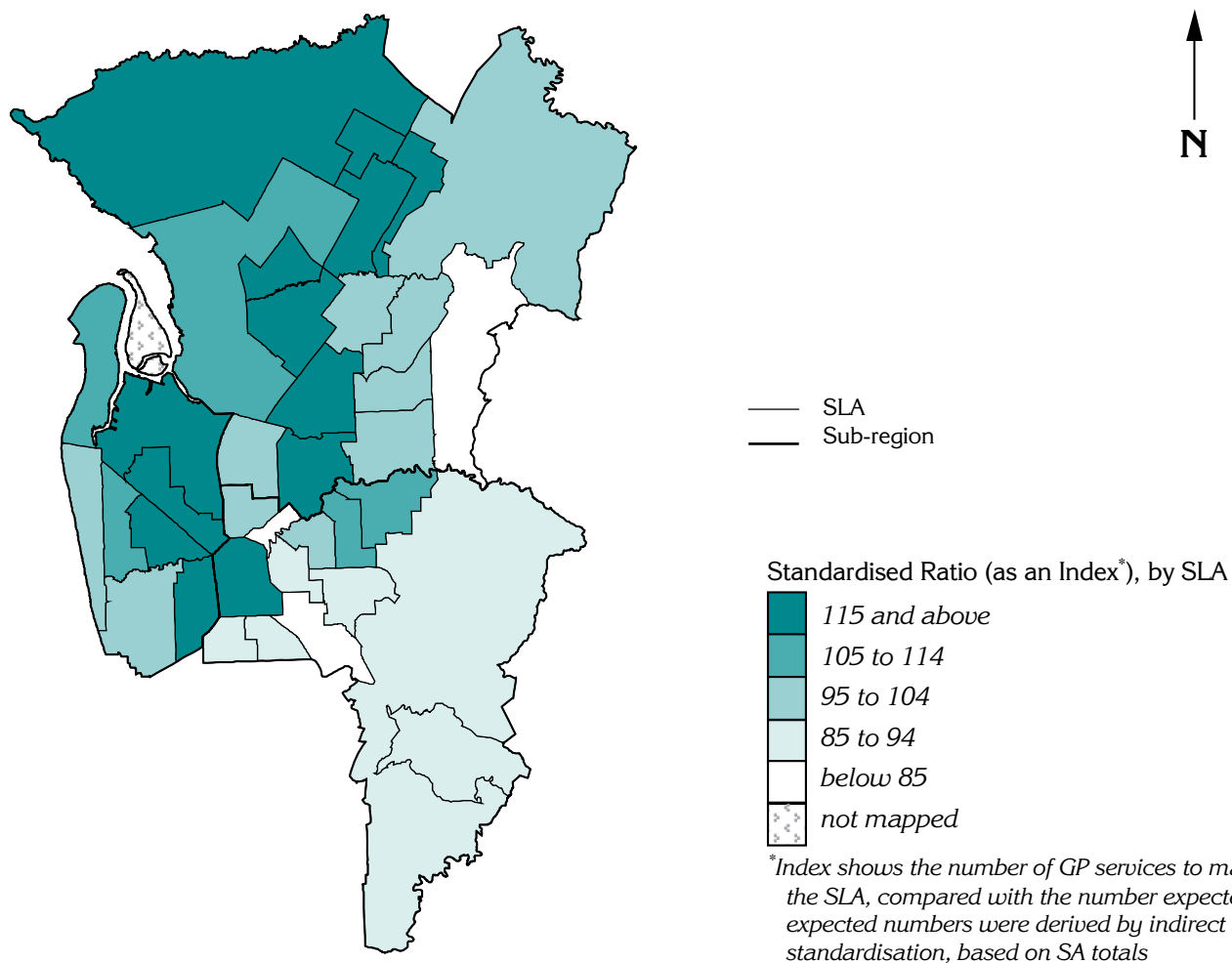


Table 82: GP services to males, CNAHS, 2002/03

Area	Number	Standardised ratio
CNAHS		
Quintile 1: most advantaged areas	233,278	87**
Quintile 2	288,812	103**
Quintile 3	372,465	117**
Quintile 4	311,321	112**
Quintile 5: most disadvantaged areas	416,206	122**
Rate ratio	..	1.40**
Northern	715,247	110**
Western	494,813	121**
Central East	412,022	96**
CNAHS	1,622,082	109**
Southern	618,008	97**
Metropolitan regions	2,240,090	106**
State total	2,993,485	100

* indicates statistical significance: see page 19

General medical practitioner services: female patients

Consultations with general medical practitioners: Unreferred attendances under Medicare: data from 2002/03

Overview

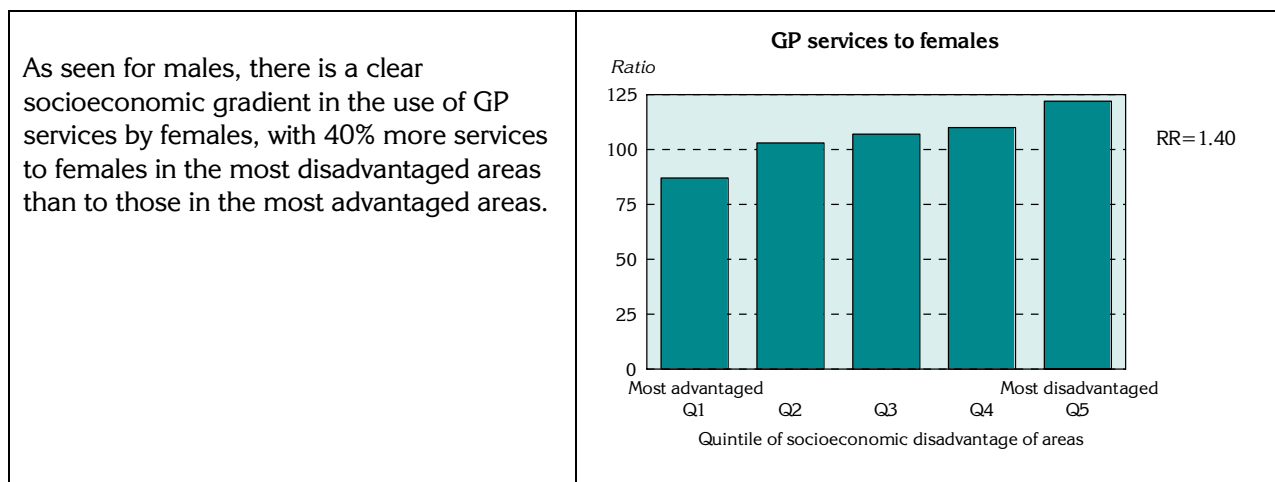
General practitioners offer a wide range of primary health care services and are the ‘front line’ of the Australian health care system. In metropolitan regions, low socioeconomic (SES) groups consult general practitioners more frequently than high-SES groups⁸⁶. The primary reason is their poorer health and hence greater medical need (however, distributional, operational and financial factors associated with the provision of general practice services are also important).

There were six per cent more GP services provided to females in the Central Northern region than expected (106**, 2,330,668) (Table 83), with a marked separation between areas with high, and those with low, use of GP services by females (Map 81), closely following the pattern of socioeconomic disadvantage shown in Map 23, page 113.

The most highly elevated standardised ratio (SR) was recorded for women in Salisbury - Inner North, with 44% more services than expected from the State rates (an SR of 144**, 86,277 services). There were also elevated SRs in Adelaide (139**, 50,182), Playford - East Central (132**, 62,413), Playford - West Central (129**, 41,474), Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (127**, 95,531), Playford - Elizabeth (125**, 93,288), Salisbury - Central (120**, 89,300), Salisbury - South-East (119**, 109,813), Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast (119**, 97,717), Playford - West (118**, 24,277), Charles Sturt - North-East (116**, 87,027) and Salisbury Balance (113**, 14,702).

Large numbers of GP services to women were recorded in the SLAs of Tea Tree Gully - South (96,347 services, an SR of 101), Charles Sturt - Coastal (91,512, 96**), West Torrens - West (90,248, 99*), Port Adelaide Enfield - East (108**, 88,420), Campbelltown - East (107**, 84,323), Charles Sturt - Inner West (81,038, 109**), West Torrens - East (74,153, 106**) and Tea Tree Gully - Central (72,504, 101**).

The SLA with the lowest SR in the metropolitan regions was Walkerville (an SR of 83**, 18,779 services). There were also fewer services than expected in Burnside - South-West (85**, 56,514), Unley - East (86**, 53,324), Unley - West (87**, 45,052), Norwood Payneham and St Peters - West (87**, 47,128), Burnside - North-East (88**, 59,546), Adelaide Hills - Ranges (89**, 23,539), Tea Tree Gully - Hills (89**, 29,950) and Adelaide Hills - Central (91**, 31,805).



Note: In the chart, Q1 to Q5 are groupings of areas (quintiles), where Q1 represents the most socioeconomically advantaged 20% of the population and Q5 represents the most socioeconomically disadvantaged 20%.

Map 81: GP services to females, CNAHS, 2002/03

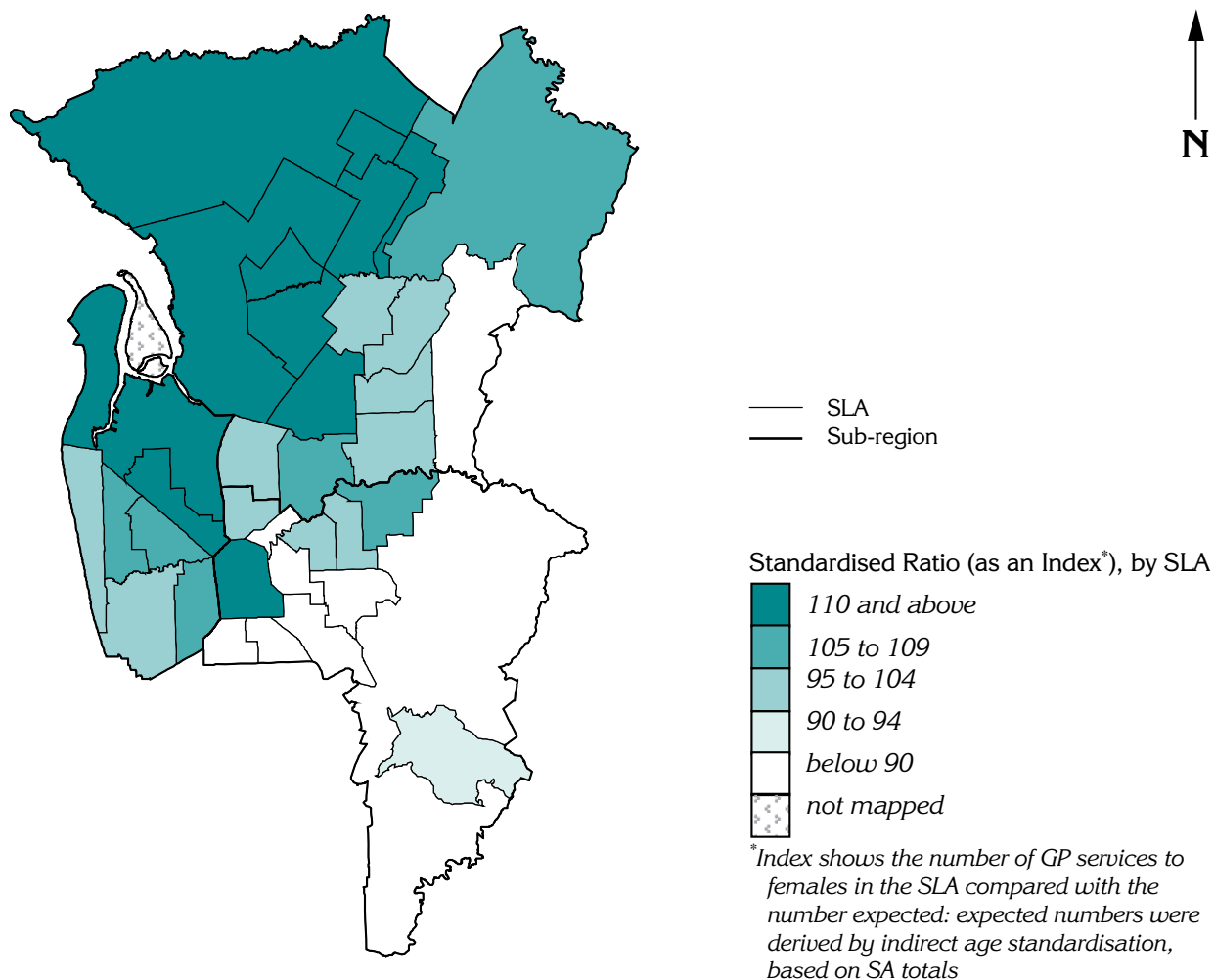


Table 83: GP services to females, CNAHS, 2002/03

Area	Number	Standardised ratio
CNAHS		
Quintile 1: most advantaged areas	373,130	87**
Quintile 2	418,832	103**
Quintile 3	536,568	107**
Quintile 4	435,052	110**
Quintile 5: most disadvantaged areas	567,003	122**
Rate ratio	..	1.40**
Northern	1,005,256	113**
Western	686,964	109**
Central East	638,365	95**
CNAHS	2,330,668	107**
Southern	928,426	99**
Metropolitan regions	3,259,011	104**
State total	4,283,072	100

* indicates statistical significance: see page 19