

Royal District Nursing Service clients, 2003/2004

The Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) provides a range of health care services, including general and specialised nursing, to clients with the dual objectives of improving their health status whilst also enabling them to enjoy the benefits of remaining at home, thus retaining independence and an active role in their health care. There were 14,285 clients in Metropolitan Adelaide in 2003/2004, a rate of 1,276 clients per 100,000 population. The rates in both Central Northern and Southern were similar (Table 7.9).

Table 7.9: Royal District Nursing Service clients, 2003/2004

<i>Age-standardised rate per 100,000</i>		
Section of State	No.	Rate
Central Northern (excl. Gawler)	8,867	1,186
Southern	4,334	1,277
Metropolitan Adelaide (incl. Gawler)	14,285	1,276

Data were not mapped for the SLA of Adelaide, because clients who contact Healthcare Access (the RDNS call centre) can choose to remain anonymous, resulting in their suburb being recorded as Adelaide. Further, all homeless clients seen by RDNS are allocated to the SLA of Adelaide.

Metropolitan regions

There were 14,102 clients in the metropolitan regions (excluding Gawler) in 2003/2004 (an SCR of 100). The most highly elevated SCRs were in the northern, western and southern SLAs, with relatively low ratios to the east and south-east of the city (Map 7.9).

High rates of Royal District Nursing Service clients are strongly correlated at the SLA level with indicators of disadvantage. These results, together with a strong inverse correlation with the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, indicate an association at the SLA level between socioeconomic disadvantage and being a client of the Royal District Nursing Service (Table 8.1).

Central Northern Adelaide

There were 901 RDNS clients attributed to the SLA of Adelaide (a SCR of 510**). These clients include those who wish to remain anonymous and all homeless RDNS clients, and so do not reflect the number of RDNS clients who are residents in this SLA. Excluding the large number of clients recorded for Adelaide, there were seven per cent fewer clients in the Central Northern region than expected, based on the rates in the metropolitan regions (93**, 8,867).

The SLA with the most highly elevated SCR (other than Adelaide) was Salisbury - Inner North (133**, 226), with elevated ratios also in Playford - West Central (128**, 127), Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast (127**, 472), - Port (127**, 450) and - Inner (118**, 368), Playford - Elizabeth (114**, 374), Charles Sturt - Inner West (113**, 417) and - Inner East (106, 350), West Torrens - East (an SCR of 105, 356)

and Charles Sturt - North-East (an SCR of 105, 382).

Large numbers of RDNS clients, but lower ratios, were found in Charles Sturt - Coastal (443 clients, 92), West Torrens - West (438, 87**), Port Adelaide Enfield - East (358 clients, 94), Burnside - South-West (339 clients, 95), Tea Tree Gully - South (306, 76**) and Salisbury - South-East (302, 87*).

Low SCRs were recorded for Adelaide Hills - Central (an SCR of 4**, six clients) and - Ranges (36**, 33), Tea Tree Gully - Hills (55**, 65), Walkerville (71**, 87), Tea Tree Gully - North (72**, 136), Unley - East (73**, 229), Campbelltown - West (73**, 239), Burnside - North-East (76**, 265), Tea Tree Gully - South (76**, 306) and - Central (77**, 188), Playford - Hills (79, 18), Campbelltown - East (79**, 265) and Salisbury - Central (81**, 227).

Southern Adelaide

There were 4,334 RDNS clients in Southern (an SCR of 100). Within the region, there were elevated ratios in Holdfast Bay - North (126**, 514 clients), Marion - North (121**, 563), Mitcham - West (113*, 421), Onkaparinga - South Coast (an SCR of 110, 275) and - North Coast (an SCR of 108, 265), and Marion - Central (an SCR of 105, 565).

Onkaparinga - Hills (65**, 87 clients), Mitcham - Hills (66**, 205), Marion - South (71**, 109), Onkaparinga - Reservoir (74**, 162) and Holdfast Bay - South (80**, 229) all had below average rates.

*** indicates statistical significance: see page 24**