SAMSS: Prevalence of Self Reported Arthritis in the SA Health Regions

FINDINGS IN BRIEF

- Respondents in the Wakefield, Mid North, and Eyre Health Regions had a statistically significantly higher prevalence of arthritis.
- Respondents in the Metropolitan Adelaide had a statistically significantly lower prevalence of arthritis.

INTRODUCTION

This brief report summarises the prevalence of self reported arthritis among adults aged 16 years and over in the South Australian Country and Metropolitan Health Regions.

METHODS

Data for this report, collected between July 2002 and July 2005 (n=16,505 ages 16 years and over), were taken from the South Australian Monitoring and Surveillance System (SAMSS). This system provides representative, timely and relevant population data on the South Australian community.

SAMSS collects ongoing data at the population level, and each month approximately 600 people are interviewed. The interviews are conducted by telephone utilising the CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. All households in South Australia with a telephone number listed in the Electronic White Pages are eligible for selection in the sample. Within each household, the person who last had their birthday is selected for interview. There are no replacements for non-contactable persons. To determine arthritis prevalence, respondents were asked if they had ever been told by a doctor that they have arthritis. Prior to analysis, SAMSS data is weighted by the probability of selection within a household, and, to the sex, age and geographical area profile of the South Australian population.

RESULTS

Prevalence of Arthritis in the SA Health Regions

Overall the prevalence of arthritis in South Australia is 21.1% (95% CI 20.5-21.7). Table 1 shows the prevalence of arthritis for each of the South Australian health regions for those aged 16 years and over. This information is presented in Map 1 (over page).

The prevalence of arthritis was statistically significantly higher in the Wakefield, Mid North, and Eyre regions compared to the other regions and statistically significantly lower in the South East Health region.

Comparison of prevalence in Metropolitan and Country South Australia

Table 2 shows the prevalence of arthritis in metropolitan area compared to country South Australia. There is a statistically significantly lower prevalence of arthritis in metropolitan Adelaide compared to the country area.

SUMMARY

A comparison of prevalence of arthritis across the nine health regions in South Australia showed that there were some statistically significant differences between health regions. There was also a statistically significant difference in the prevalence of arthritis between metropolitan and country South Australia.

REFERENCES

Map 1: Prevalence of arthritis in the South Australian Health Regions, ages 16 years and over

INFORMATION
For further information please visit the Population Research and Outcome Studies Unit web site at http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/PROS.html or contact Tiffany Gill on 08 8226 60739 or email tiffany.gill@health.sa.gov.au