Findings in Brief

- Respondents in the Hills Mallee Health Region had a higher proportion of respondents reporting that their neighbourhood was safe and that they could trust their neighbours.
- Respondents from this region were more likely to use a chiropractor or a district nurse.

Introduction

This brief report summarises key epidemiological information on social capital and health service use in respondents 16 years and over in the Hills Mallee health region (n=999), the rest of South Australia (n=12128), and the whole of South Australia (n=13127) for the period July 2002 to December 2004.

Methods

The data in this report were obtained from the South Australian Monitoring and Surveillance System (SAMSS) dataset. This system aims to provide representative, timely and relevant population data on the South Australian community. The questions in SAMSS are related to the priority health areas and main indicators pertinent to Department of Health policies.

SAMSS collects data at the population level, and each month approximately 600 people are interviewed. The interviews are conducted using 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. For further information on SAMSS methodology consult the SAMSS methodology brief report or SAMSS methodology technical paper series.

Results

Social Capital

Table 1 presents the social capital issues of neighbourhood safety and neighbourhood trust in the Hills Mallee health region, the rest of South Australia, and the whole of South Australia.

Table 1: Neighbourhood safety and trust in the Hills Mallee health region, the rest of South Australia, and the whole of South Australia, 16 years and over

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Hills Mallee (%)</th>
<th>Rest of South Australia (%)</th>
<th>Whole of South Australia (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood Safety</td>
<td>95.2 ↑</td>
<td>89.0</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood Trust</td>
<td>89.9 ↑</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>78.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Statistically significantly different from rest of SA using \( \chi^2 \) test (p<0.05)

Key Findings:

- The proportion of respondents who felt that their neighbourhood was safe was statistically significantly higher in the Hills Mallee health region (95.2%; 95% CI 92.5-96.9) than the rest of South Australia (89.0%; 95% CI 88.0-89.8).
- The proportion of respondents who felt that people trusted each other in their neighbourhood was statistically significantly higher in the Hills Mallee health region (89.9%; 95% CI 86.7-92.6) than the rest of South Australia (77.7%; 95% CI 76.6-78.9).

Use of General Practitioner

Figure 2 shows the proportion of respondents using the services of a general practitioner in the last four weeks. There were no significant differences.
Use of other health services

Figure 2 shows the prevalence of health service utilisation in the Hills Mallee health region, the rest of South Australia, and the whole of South Australia.

Key Findings:
- Respondents in the Hills Mallee health region were statistically significantly more likely to use a district or community nurse (2.5%; 95% CI 1.7–3.7) than respondents in the rest of South Australia (1.3%; 95% CI 1.1–1.5).
- Respondents in the Hills Mallee health region were statistically significantly more likely to use a chiropractor (9.2%; 95% CI 7.5–11.2) than respondents in the rest of South Australia (6.5%; 95% CI 6.1–6.9).

SUMMARY

These findings indicate that respondents in this region had a higher proportion of neighbourhood trust and safety. Respondents in this region were statistically significantly more likely to use a district or community nurse, or chiropractor.

REFERENCES


INFORMATION

For further results from the survey, please visit the Population Research and Outcome Studies Unit web site at: [Link](http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/PROS.html)