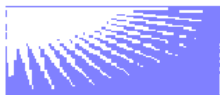


# Demographic Profile

## Part II:

# Socio-economic Characteristics of the Population

A summary of the 1996 Census data



South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service

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Corporate Directions, an expression of intent, 1998-2000  
Population Health Profile, 1997  
Acute Flow Profile, 1997  
Demographic Profile Part I: Population Composition, a  
summary of the 1996 Census Data

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# Contents

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## Highlights

List of tables  
List of figures  
List of maps

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Marital Status .....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Age and sex distribution .....	5
3.2	Area differences.....	6
3.3	Ethnicity variation .....	7
3.4	Trends in marital status.....	8
<b>4</b>	<b>Education .....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1	Qualification level by sex .....	9
4.2	Qualification level by LGA .....	10
4.3	Qualification level by ethnicity .....	11
4.4	Trends in qualification level.....	11
<b>5</b>	<b>Employment.....</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1	Labour force participation.....	12
5.1.1	Participation rate by age and sex.....	12
5.1.2	Area variations .....	13
5.1.3	Ethnicity .....	14
5.1.4	Trends in labour force participation rate .....	14
5.2	Unemployment .....	15
5.2.1	Unemployment by age and sex .....	15
5.2.2	Unemployment by LGA .....	16
5.2.3	Unemployment by ethnicity.....	16
5.2.4	Trends in unemployment rate .....	17
5.3	Occupation .....	18
5.3.1	Occupation by sex .....	18
5.3.2	Occupation by LGA .....	19
5.3.3	Occupation by ethnicity.....	20
5.3.4	Changes in occupation over time .....	21

---

<b>5.4</b>	<b>Industry of employment</b> .....	<b>22</b>
5.4.1	Area comparison.....	22
5.4.2	Industry of employment by ethnicity.....	25
<b>6</b>	<b>Income</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Individual income</b> .....	<b>26</b>
6.1.1	Weekly individual income by sex and age.....	26
6.1.2	Weekly individual income by LGA.....	27
6.1.3	Annual individual income by ethnicity.....	28
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Family income</b> .....	<b>29</b>
6.2.1	Weekly family income by family type.....	29
6.2.2	Weekly family income by LGA .....	30
<b>7</b>	<b>Family and household</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Family type</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Household type</b> .....	<b>32</b>
7.2.1	Household type by area.....	32
7.2.2	Lone person households.....	33
<b>8</b>	<b>Housing and transport</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Non-private and private dwellings</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Tenure type</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>8.3</b>	<b>Method of travel to work</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Motor vehicle ownership</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Religion</b> .....	<b>39</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Population sub-groups</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>10.1</b>	<b>Children and youths</b> .....	<b>41</b>
10.1.1	Age and sex .....	41
10.1.2	Age and LGA of residence.....	42
10.1.3	Relationship in a household .....	43
<b>10.2</b>	<b>Older people</b> .....	<b>45</b>
10.2.1	Age and sex .....	45
10.2.2	Age and LGA of residence.....	46
10.2.3	Living arrangement.....	47
<b>10.3</b>	<b>Aboriginal people</b> .....	<b>48</b>
<b>10.4</b>	<b>Overseas born population</b> .....	<b>51</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas</b> .....	<b>56</b>

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## **Highlights**

### **The population**

v At the 1996 Census, 723,957 persons were enumerated in SESAHS. The Census enumerated population was about 21,184 less than the estimated resident population in 1996. The substantial difference is due to that the Census enumerated population included both Australian and overseas visitors, and excluded residents who were temporarily absent from the Area on the Census night. The estimated resident population, produced also by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, included usual residents of the Area only and was adjusted for census under-enumeration.

### **Marital status**

v Of all people counted in SESAHS at the 1996 Census who were aged 15 and over, 48% were in a registered marital relationship, 10% were separated/divorced, 7% widowed and 35% never married.

v Within SESAHS, the proportion being married was the highest in Sutherland LGA, which was then followed by LGAs in the St. George area: Hurstville, Rockdale and Kogarah. South Sydney LGA had the highest separation/divorce rate. South Sydney and Sydney LGAs had the greatest proportion of people who were never married among all SESAHS LGAs.

v Compared to non-Aboriginal people, fewer Aboriginal people were in a registered marital relationship or were widowed. Separation/divorce was more common among Aboriginal people.

v People from non-English speaking backgrounds were more likely to be in a registered marital relationship. People born in main English speaking countries other than Australia had the highest separation/divorce rate.

v Fewer people in SESAHS were in a registered marital relationship at the 1996 Census than at previous Censuses. Separation/divorce was more common in 1996 than 10 years ago.

### **Education**

v Approximately 37% of people aged 15 years and over in SESAHS have undertaken some sort of post-school education, compared to 32% for the whole of NSW. The proportion of people with a bachelor degree or higher was 16% in SESAHS, compared to 11% for the whole of NSW.

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v SESAHS males were more likely to have post school education (56%) than SESAHS females (46%).

v The proportion of people without post-school education varied greatly with LGA of residence in SESAHS, ranging from 39% in Woollahra to 61% in Botany.

v Aboriginal people, non-English speakers and people born in non-English speaking countries were less likely to undertake post-school education.

v The proportion of people who had tertiary qualification increased significantly over the past three Censuses in SESAHS.

### **Labour force participation**

v A total of 366,756 people were in the labour force in SESAHS at the 1996 Census which accounted for about 65% of people aged 15 years and over in SESAHS. The labour force participation rate was the highest among people aged between 20 and 54. Males in general had a higher rate than females except for the youngest group.

v The labour force participation rate was higher in SESAHS than the rate for NSW as a whole in all age groups.

v Participation rate varied with LGA of residence in SESAHS, being the highest in South Sydney and the lowest in Rockdale.

v The labour force participation rate was not significantly different between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people. People of non-English speaking backgrounds had a lower participation rate than those of English speaking backgrounds.

v More females participated in the labour force at the 1996 Census than at the previous Censuses. The participation rate dropped slightly among males. The increase was most significant among females aged 45 and 64 years. Rates in the oldest age group remained almost constant over time for both sexes.

### **Employment**

v Of all people in labour force, 6% were unemployed. The unemployment rate was the highest among teenagers and young adults. Males had a higher unemployment rate than females, especially among those aged under 25.

v SESAHS had a significantly lower than the State average unemployment rate.

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v The lowest unemployment rate was recorded in Sutherland and Woollahra, and the highest in South Sydney and Botany.

v Aboriginal people and people from non-English speaking backgrounds were more likely to be unemployed.

v No consistent change in unemployment rate over time was recorded in the past three Censuses.

### **Occupation**

v The largest proportion of people in SESAHS were employed as professionals.

v Compared to the NSW average, a greater proportion of people in SESAHS was employed as professionals, associate professionals or clerical workers. Fewer people in SESAHS worked as labourers, intermediate production/transport workers or trades persons.

v The type of occupation varied greatly among SESAHS LGAs. Woollahra had the highest proportion of people employed as professionals and Botany had the highest proportion of people who were labourers and related workers.

v The most common occupation for Aboriginal people was intermediate clerical, sales and service workers, then followed by professionals and trades persons.

v People born in non-English speaking countries were more likely to be labourers, trades persons or intermediate production and transport workers.

v Compared to the previous two Censuses, more people were employed as professionals, associate professionals and intermediate clerical/sales/service workers at the 1996 Census. The proportion of people employed as trades persons, elementary clerical/sales/service workers and labourers declined over the past three Censuses.

### **Industry of employment**

v Property and business service industries employed more people in SESAHS than any other industries. Retail trade was the second largest industry of employment, followed by manufacturing. Health and community services employed about 9% of total employed persons in SESAHS.

v More males than females were employed in the manufacturing industry while females were more likely than males to be employed in the health and community services.

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v The proportion of people employed in health and community services was similar between SESAHS and the whole of NSW.

v Health and community services was the largest employer for Aboriginal people, accounting for more than 10% of the total employment. Government administration was the third largest industry of employment for Aboriginal people, after property and business services.

v Manufacturing, property and business services, and retail trade industry were the top industries of employment for people born in Australia, other main English speaking countries and non-English speaking countries, respectively.

### **Income**

v The median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over was \$382 in SESAHS, being \$84 more than the NSW average.

v The income level was much higher for males (median income \$486) than for females (\$291).

v The highest median income in males was among those aged between 35 and 54 years. Among females, those aged 25-34 years had the highest median income. People aged 65 and over had an income of approximately \$200 a week.

v The median individual income ranged from \$293 per week in Botany to \$561 per week in Woollahra.

v Aboriginal people and people from a non-English speaking background had a lower median weekly individual income than non-Aboriginal people and people of English backgrounds.

v About 21% of families in SESAHS had an income less than \$500 per week and 20% had a weekly income \$1,500 or more.

v Families in SESAHS earned at least \$100 more than the State average per week.

v The median family income ranged from \$717 per week in Botany to \$1,451 per week in Woollahra.

### **Family and household**

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v A family is defined by the ABS as: two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. A total of 177,829 families were counted in SESAHS at the 1996 Census, which represented approximately 11% of all families in NSW.

v A household is defined as a group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling, who regard themselves as a household, and who make common provision for food or other essentials for living; or a person living in a dwelling who makes provision for his/her own food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person. A total of 274,436 households were counted in SESAHS at the 1996 Census. About 62% of households contained only 1 family, 26% were lone person households. The rest was multiple family households, group households, visitor only households and other.

v Of all families in SESAHS, 45% or 79,553 were families with dependent children or dependent students. Single parent with dependent children or dependent students accounted for about 18% of all families with dependents.

v SESAHS had a lower than the NSW average proportion of families with dependent children or dependent students.

v Family type varied with LGA of residence in SESAHS. Couple with dependents was the most common family type in Sutherland (42%) while over half of the families in South Sydney and Sydney were couple without children. Single parent with dependents was a more common family type in Sydney, compared to other SESAHS LGAs.

v About 83% of 0-4 years old children were from couple families and 11% from single parent families. For those aged 5-14 years, 79% were from couple families and 16% from single parent families.

v Among older people aged 65-74 years, 59% were living with a partner and 22% were living alone. The proportion of people living alone increased to 34% among persons aged 75 and over.

### **Housing and transport**

v Approximately 5% or 38,179 people in SESAHS stayed in non-private dwellings on the night of the 1996 Census, which include hotels, motels, hospitals and boarding houses etc.

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v About 62% of households in SESAHS were privately owned or being purchased. Privately rented properties constituted 30% of all households and State Housing Authority rented properties were about 4%.

v 24% of people in SESAHS traveled to work by public transport, 61% by car only, as a driver or a passenger, 6% walked only, 4% worked from home and the rest by bicycle, motor bike and other form of transport.

### **Socio-economic Indexes of Areas**

■ SESAHS scored the second highest in all NSW Health Areas for the four summary indexes of socio-economic status: Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, Urban Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage, Index of Economic Resources and Index of Education and Occupation.

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## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Registered marital status by age and sex, SESAHS.....	5
Table 2:	Registered marital status (% of people aged 15 and over) by LGA of residence.....	6
Table 3:	Registered marital status (% of people aged 15 and over) by ethnicity, SESAHS.....	7
Table 4:	Trends in marital status (% of people aged 15 and over), SESAHS .....	8
Table 5:	Highest educational qualification level by sex, SESAHS .....	9
Table 6:	Highest educational qualification level by LGA, SESAHS.....	10
Table 7:	Highest educational qualification level by ethnicity, SESAHS .....	11
Table 8:	Labour force participation by age for SESAHS LGAs, SESAHS as a whole and NSW.....	13
Table 9:	Labour force participation rate (%) by ethnicity, SESAHS.....	14
Table 10:	Unemployment rate (% of people in labour force) by age and sex, SESAHS and NSW.....	15
Table 11:	Unemployment rate (% of people in labour force) by LGA and age, SESAHS .....	16
Table 12:	Unemployment rate (% of people in labour force) by ethnicity, SESAHS .....	16
Table 13:	Occupation by sex, SESAHS and NSW.....	18
Table 14:	Occupation by LGA, SESAHS.....	19
Table 15:	Occupation by ethnicity, SESAHS .....	20
Table 16:	Industry of employment (% of all employed persons) by ethnicity, SESAHS .....	25
Table 17:	Weekly individual income, persons aged 15 years and over only, SESAHS and NSW.....	26
Table 18:	Median weekly individual income level by LGA, persons aged 15 years and over only, SESAHS.....	28
Table 19:	Annual individual median income level by ethnicity, persons aged 15 years and over only, SESAHS.....	28
Table 20:	Weekly family income by family type, SESAHS.....	29
Table 21:	Weekly family income by LGA and family type, SESAHS.....	30
Table 22:	Family type by area .....	31
Table 23:	Household type for SESAHS and NSW .....	32
Table 24:	Household type by LGA, SESAHS .....	33
Table 25:	People living alone by age, SESAHS .....	33
Table 26:	Percentage of people living alone by age for SESAHS LGAs, SESAHS and NSW.....	34
Table 27:	Dwelling type for SESAHS LGAs, SESAHS and NSW.....	35
Table 28:	Tenure type for SESAHS LGAs, SESAHS and NSW, occupied private dwellings only.....	36
Table 29:	Method of travel to work, SESAHS and NSW, employed people only .....	37
Table 30:	Religion, SESAHS and NSW.....	39
Table 31:	Religion by LGA, SESAHS .....	40
Table 32:	Religion by ethnicity, SESAHS.....	40
Table 33:	Age in single year by sex, SESAHS and NSW .....	41
Table 34:	Age by sex, SESAHS LGAs .....	42
Table 35:	Relationship in a household by age, SESAHS .....	43
Table 36:	Age distribution of people aged 65 and over by sex, SESAHS and NSW .....	45
Table 37:	Older people by age and LGA, SESAHS.....	46
Table 38:	Family type for people aged 65 and over, SESAHS .....	47
Table 39:	Age and sex distribution of Aboriginal people, SESAHS and NSW .....	48
Table 40:	Census enumerated population by age and birth place .....	51
Table 41:	Age distribution for top 20 common birth places .....	52
Table 42:	Census enumerated population by age and language spoken at home .....	54
Table 43:	Most common languages spoken at home by age (%), SESAHS .....	55
Table 44:	SEIFA ranking for SESAHS postal areas, 1996 Census.....	58

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## List of Figures

Figure 1:	Highest educational qualification level, 1986 Census to 1996 Census, SESAHS ...	11
Figure 2:	Labour force participation by age and sex, SESAHS.....	12
Figure 3:	Labour force participation rate, 1986 to 1996 Censuses, SESAHS .....	14
Figure 4:	Unemployment rate, 1986 to 1996 Censuses, SESAHS.....	17
Figure 5:	Occupation, 1986 Census to 1996 Census, SESAHS .....	21
Figure 6:	Top ten industries of employment, SESAHS and NSW .....	22
Figure 7:	Top ten industries of employment by LGA, SESAHS.....	24
Figure 8:	Median weekly individual income by age and sex, persons aged 15 years and over only, SESAHS .....	27
Figure 9:	Income distribution for selected family type, SESAHS and NSW .....	30
Figure 10:	Percentage of people stayed in non-private dwellings on 1996 Census night by sex, SESAHS LGAs, SESAHS and NSW .....	35
Figure 11:	Method of travel to work by LGA, SESAHS, employed persons only .....	37
Figure 12:	Percentage of household without motor vehicle, SESAHS LGAs, SESAHS and NSW.....	38
Figure 13:	SEIFA ranking for SESAHS LGAs, 1996 Census.....	57

## List of Maps

Map 1:	Area distribution of people aged under 25 years, SESAHS .....	42
Map 2:	Area distribution of people aged 65 years and over, SESAHS.....	46
Map 3:	Area distribution of Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander people, SESAHS.....	49
Map 4:	Area distribution of people born in NESC, SESAHS .....	53
Map 5:	Area distribution of people born in MESC, SESAHS.....	53