

8. Disability

The 2006 ABS Population Census included, for the first time, a series of questions on an individual's core activity need for assistance. The responses to these questions were used to measure the number of persons with a profound or severe disability. People with a profound or severe disability are defined as those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long term health condition (lasting six months or more), or old age. Those requiring this help always were classified as having a profound disability; and those requiring it sometimes, as having a severe disability.

The published figures from the ABS included all persons regarded as having a profound or severe disability, regardless of their living arrangements. The analysis presented in the following pages has been restricted to those living 'in the community': that is, people with a disability but living in long-term residential accommodation in nursing homes, accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained), hostels for the disabled and psychiatric hospitals have been excluded. The figures as published by the ABS (including those in long-term institutions) are available in the data sheets on the PHIDU website.

The data do not include those with a moderate or mild disability.

For people at older ages, limitations in functioning are more likely to be associated with diseases and long-term conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, dementia, arthritis, and hearing and vision impairments (36).

Community-based services provide support for older people with additional needs who live at home or with their family. Such services, if effective, enable these people to remain in the community, an important alternative to institutional care (37).

There was a strong socioeconomic gradient evident in the data for both men and women (aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability who were living in the community), with differentials of 43% for men, and 40% for women between the lowest and highest SES areas (Figure 8.1).

There was also a marked gradient in rates when analysed by remoteness (Figure 8.2). Although the lowest rates for both men and women were in the Inner Regional areas, the differential in rates between the Very Remote and Major Cities areas were 19% for males and 22% for females.

People aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability, living in the community, South Australia, 2006

Figure 8.1: By socioeconomic status of area and sex

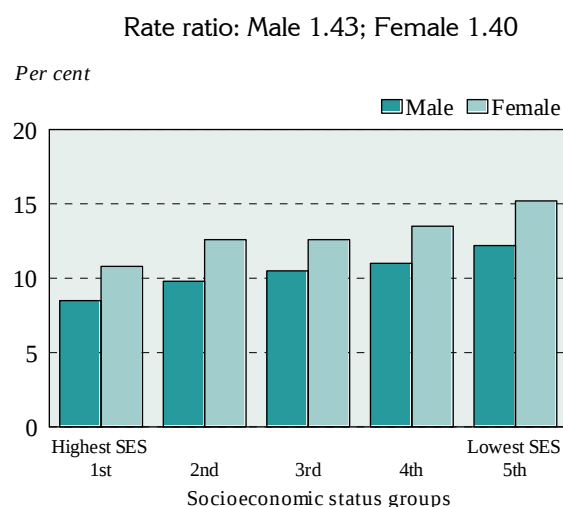
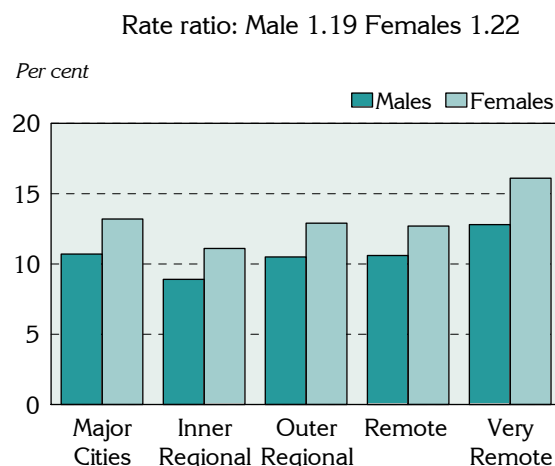


Figure 8.2: By remoteness and sex



People aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability and living in the community, 2006

There was greater variation at the health region level in the proportion of the female population in Metropolitan Adelaide aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability (who were living in the community) than was evident for males. Within the regions, the variation at the sub-region/district level was greater for males.

In country South Australia, the greatest variation between male and female rates was in Northern & Far Western Health Region, which was also the region with the highest proportion of the population aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability (who were living in the community).

Table 8.1: People aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability and living in the community, by Health Region, South Australia, 2006

Health Region	Males		Females	
	Number ¹	Per cent ²	Number ¹	Per cent ²
Central Northern Adelaide	5,489	11.0	9,080	13.7
Northern sub-region	2,015	10.8	3,085	13.3
Western sub-region	1,994	12.3	3,269	15.2
Central East sub-region	1,480	9.7	2,726	12.6
Southern Adelaide	2,122	10.0	3,408	11.9
Urban Beaches District	1,047	10.2	1,856	12.3
Hills District	373	8.1	519	12.2
Outer Southern District	702	11.0	1,033	13.2
Metropolitan Adelaide (excl. Gawler)	7,611	10.7	12,488	13.2
Hills Mallee Southern	838	8.9	1,217	11.5
South East	368	9.5	609	12.6
Wakefield	756	9.6	1,057	11.7
Mid North	302	11.6	398	13.2
Riverland	230	9.9	320	11.5
Eyre	245	10.7	304	12.0
Northern & Far Western	322	11.9	434	15.2
Country South Australia (incl. Gawler)	3,061	9.8	4,339	12.2
South Australia	10,672	10.4	16,827	12.9

¹ Rate is the number of people aged 65 and over with a profound or severe disability and living in the community per 100,000 population

² SR = Standardised Ratio, percentage of variation in the region from the ratio of 100 in South Australia

Metropolitan Adelaide: Men

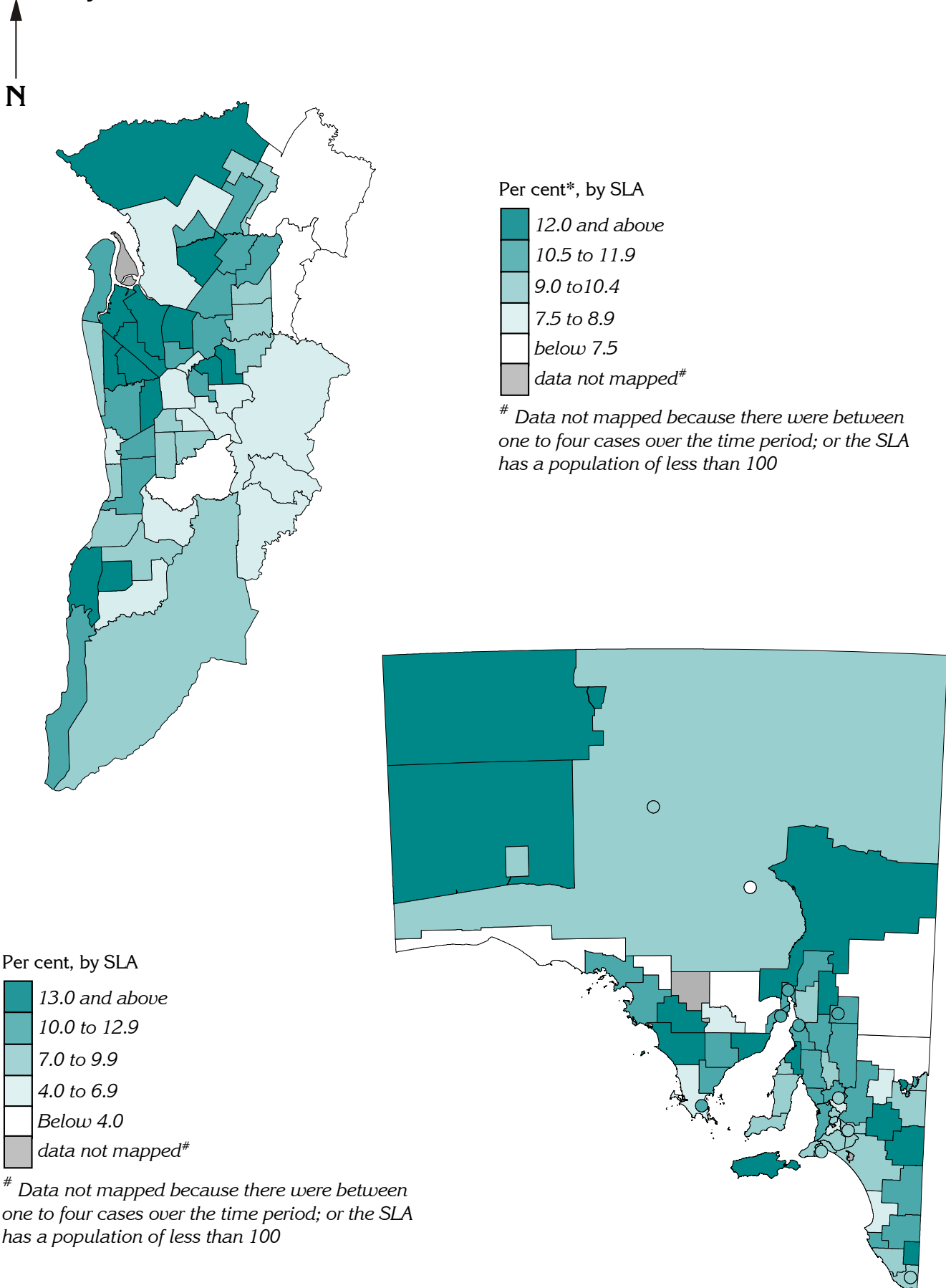
The SLAs with the highest proportions of the male population aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability (who were living in the community) included many of those of greatest socioeconomic disadvantage (Map 8.1). Of particular note were the SLAs of Port Adelaide Enfield - Park, - Port and - Inner (16.0%, 14.5% and 13.3%, respectively); West Torrens - East (14.1%); Charles Sturt - Inner West and - North-East (13.4% and 13.2%, respectively); and Norwood Payneham St Peters - East (13.1%). The lowest proportions were in Playford - Hills (2.3%), Mitcham - Hills and Tea Tree Gully - Hills (both 6.8%).

Country SA: Men

Areas in country South Australia (Map 8.2) with the highest proportions of the population aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability (who were living in the community) were widely spread, and included the remote SLAs of Anangu Pitjantjatjara and Maralinga Tjarutja, with proportions of 29.5% (18 men) and 100% (all five men³), respectively. Other areas with relatively high proportions were Franklin Harbour, Le Hunte and Elliston on the Eyre Peninsula, with 20.0%, 18.3% and 17.6%, respectively; Ororoo/Carrieton and Unincorporated Flinders Ranges (19.6% and 17.6%, respectively); Southern Mallee and Karoonda East Murray (16.4% and 15.3%, respectively); and Kangaroo Island (14.2%).

³ This latter figure may well be accurate; however, numbers reported from the Census are randomly adjusted by ABS to protect confidentiality, and the number of men in the SLA – either the total number or the number categorised as having a disability, may have been altered by a factor of one.

Map 8.1 and Map 8.2: Men aged 65 years and over with a profound or severe disability and living in the community, Metropolitan Adelaide and country SA, 2006



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