

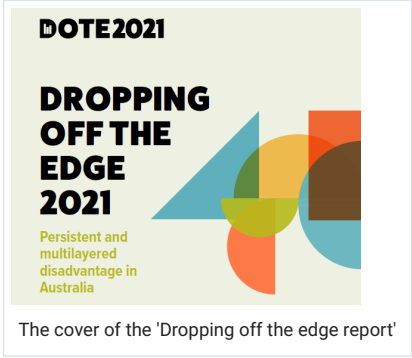
# Tools for examining health inequalities

There are a wide variety of tools available to public health professionals for understanding and examining health inequalities. These data sources vary in the way they measure health and social outcomes and the focus geographic areas. At the national level in Australia, high-quality health and social outcome data is available from sources such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Data from these sources can be broken down to smaller geographic areas (such as state or regional level), and by specific population groups. At the state level, most municipal local government authorities have population health and social data available freely on their websites, and state government department regularly collect and publish state-level data. These sources are all valuable when exploring differences in health and social outcomes, opportunities and access. Investing some time into becoming familiar with these sources and tools will assist when you are investigating the extent of public health issues and whether inequalities, disparities or inequities exist, and among whom.

## Dropping off the edge (DOTE)

There is consistent evidence that place has an independent effect on health (Turrell et al. 2007). In Australia, policies — including things like economic rationalisation, restructuring and closure of manufacturing industries, and public housing planning policies – have all contributed to concentrated pockets of people on low incomes living in the one area (Klein 2004; VicHealth 2007).

This concentration compounds the determinants of health such as educational attainment, or occupation, and is associated with health-damaging behaviours and health attitudes (Kavanagh et al. 2007). ‘Poor social and economic circumstances affect people’s prospects of fulfilment throughout life. Disadvantages tend to concentrate among the same people and their effects on health and life opportunities are cumulative’ (Vison 2015, p. 6).



The cover of the 'Dropping off the edge report'

The ‘Dropping off the edge’ (DOTE) r2021 report is the fifth in a series that identifies areas of disadvantage in every Australian state and territory and uncovers the web of factors that must be solved for these communities, and our nation, to thrive. You can read the report on the website <https://www.dote.org.au/>

## Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data

The Australian Bureau of Statistics offers a QuickStats program that enables us to look at some of the major demographics for any postcode. Doing this enables us to get a quick overview of the population in a local area which can guide us in developing programs and public health responses.

You can access the site [here](#).

In the ‘Data by geography’ section you can enter in the postcode or suburb name you wish to view. The database then creates a snapshot of key demographic data. An example is shown below for Bundoora.

Australia | Victoria | State suburbs

**Bundoora (Vic.)**

Code SSC20397 (SSC)

Search for a community profile

Quick stats search

Enter a location

GO

**People**

28,653

Male49.5%

Female50.5%

Median age34

**Families**

6,985

Average children per family

for families with children1.8

for all families0.8

**All private dwellings**

10,727

Average people per household2.8

Median weekly household income\$1,337

Median monthly mortgage repayments\$1,733

Median weekly rent\$346

Example of ABS data (Click to expand the image)

## QuickStats [4:08 mins]

This video shows how to use the QuickStats function on the ABS website.



## Victorian Population Health Survey

This survey was established in 1998 and is conducted every year. It collects data on the health, lifestyle and wellbeing of Victorian adults. The report and dashboards are released two years after the year that was surveyed.

The survey reports data by local government area, age group and as a timeseries.

You can access the Victorian Population Health data dashboard [here](#).

## Accessing and using Victorian Population Health Data [8:53 mins]

[\[Transcript\]](#)





## Discussion: Comparing health inequality and disadvantage

In this discussion you will compare health disadvantage and inequality across different geographical area.

### Your task

1. Go to the [DOTE website](#) and select two different locations (for example Tasmania and South Australia).
2. Click on the 'read more' button and review the information..
3. Download the 'fact sheet' for each of your selected locations.
4. What have you discovered about health inequalities and disadvantage?
5. Write approximately 100 words for your answer.
6. Post your response to the padlet below.

### Guidelines

- This activity is not graded but is an essential part of your learning. Your submission will be reviewed by your tutor, though you may not receive specific feedback.
- You should spend at least 30 minutes on this activity.
- Complete this activity by Thursday before 12:00 midday (AEST).

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## 2023 PHE5PUH T2 Week 3, Topic 1: Comparing health inequality and disadvantage

In this discussion you will compare health disadvantage and inequality across different geographical area.



Comparison of health inequality between Western Australia and Tasmania.

Anonymous 10d  
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Made with Padlet

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