

Dental health in Victoria:

hospital admission data



The statistics presented in this document are based on analysis of Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) from the Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset.

'ACSCs are those for which hospitalisation is thought to be avoidable if preventive care and early disease management are applied, usually in the ambulatory care setting.'¹

Differing hospital admission rates for ACSCs across the regions may be due in part to:²

- Access to primary health care (which itself can be influenced by socioeconomic factors)
- Disease prevalence
- Propensity to seek primary health care
- Thresholds, criteria and capacity for hospitalisation

It is unclear whether the high rate of dental admissions in rural areas is reflective of poorer oral health or an artefact of public dental services in rural hospitals.²

- In rural regions dental conditions are one of the top five causes of hospital admission that could be avoided with better preventive care (along with diabetes complications, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma).¹
- Rural regions have more than twice the rate of hospital admissions for dental conditions than metropolitan regions.^{1,2}
- The difference in hospital admissions for dental conditions between rural and metropolitan regions lies primarily with children aged 0–9 years (see Figure 1).²

Figure 1: Age-Specific ACSC Dental Admission Rates by Rural and Metropolitan Regions, 1997–98 data²

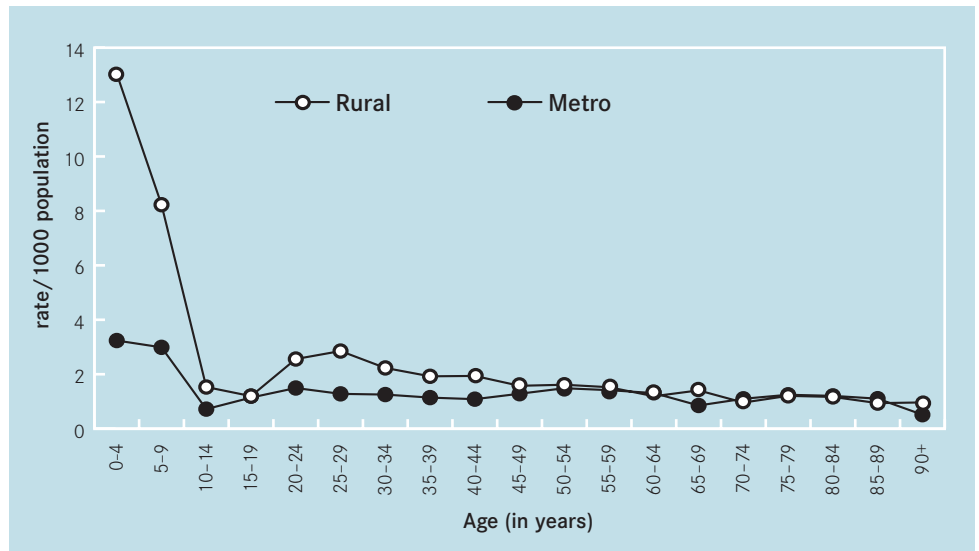
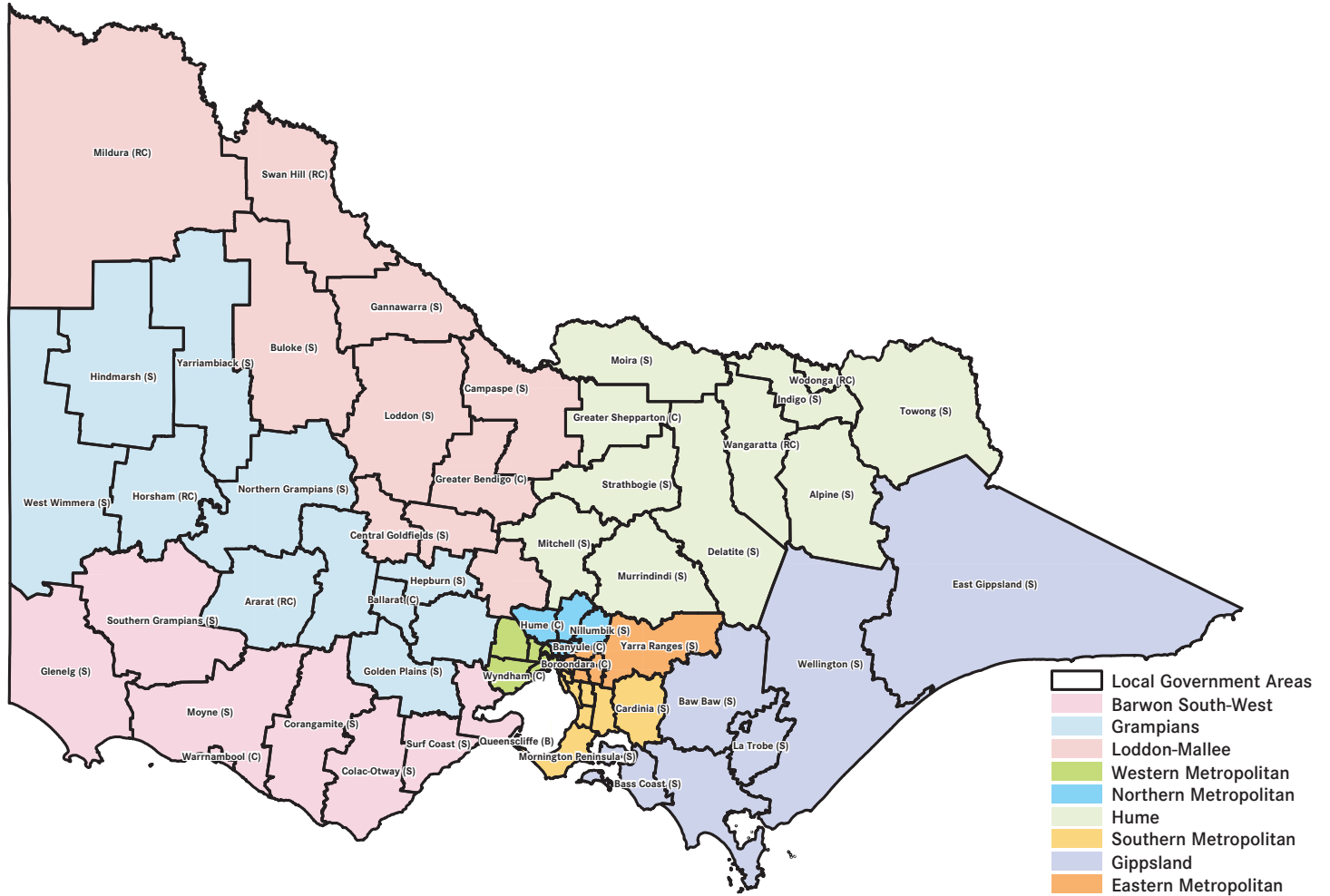


Figure 2: Victorian Local Government Areas and Department of Human Services Regions



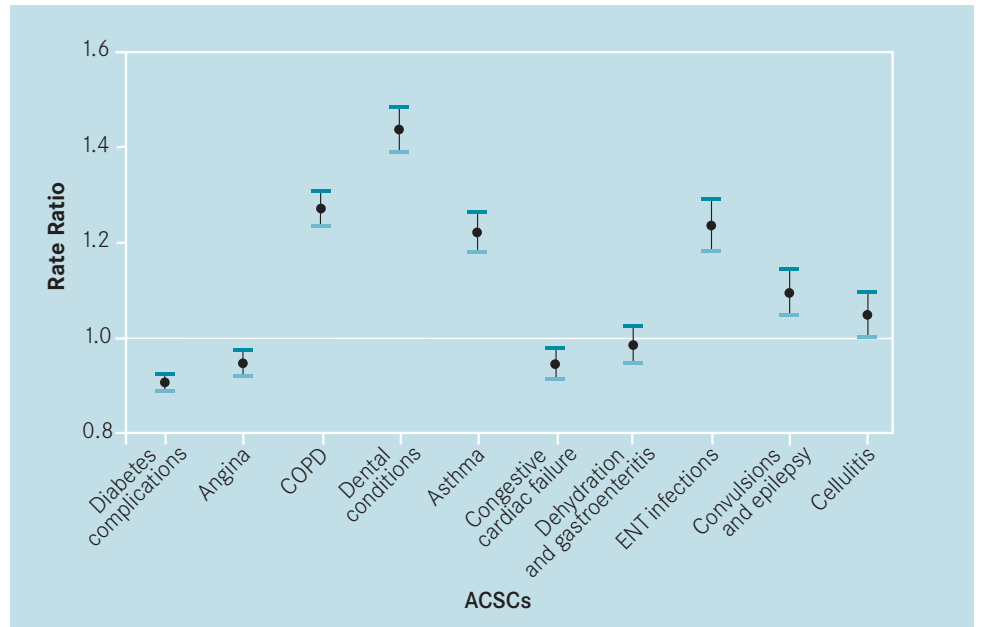
Dental admissions rate per 1000 persons¹

Barwon South West	3.16
Grampians	4.60
Loddon-Mallee	4.06
Hume	2.08
Gippsland	3.39
Western metropolitan	1.16
Eastern metropolitan	2.02
Northern metropolitan	1.28
Southern metropolitan	1.74
Metropolitan average	1.36 ³
Rural average	3.79 ³
State average	2.20 ³

Barwon South West Region

- The Barwon South West Region has over 40 per cent more hospital admissions for dental conditions than the state average.¹

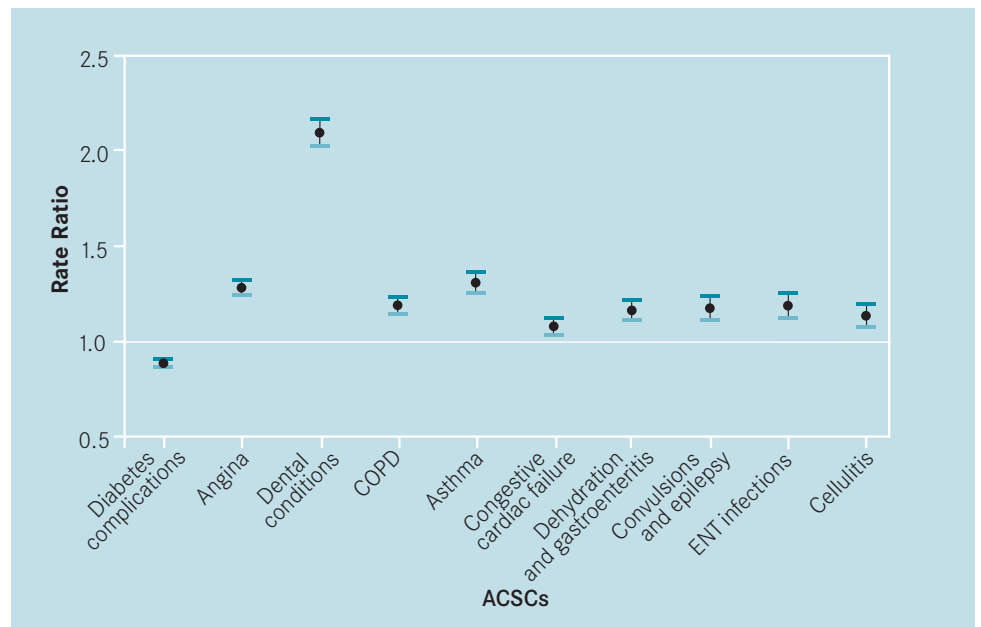
Figure 3: Top 10 ACSCs Admission Rate Ratios for Barwon South West Region (Victoria = 1), 2000–01¹



Grampians Region

- The Grampians Region has more than twice as many hospital admissions for dental conditions than the state average.¹
- Of all the regions in Victoria, the Grampians Region has the highest rate of hospital admissions for dental conditions.¹

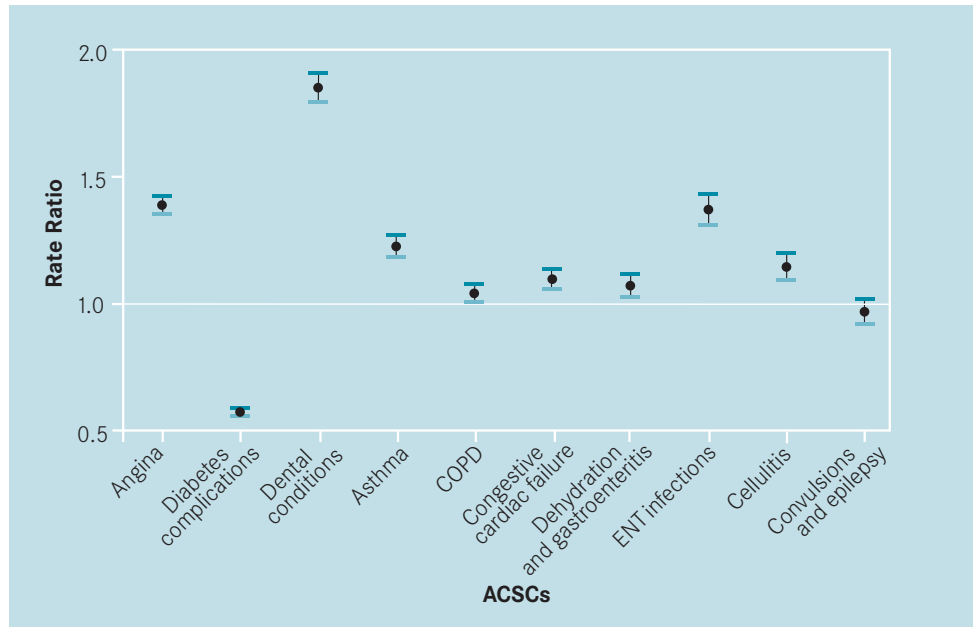
Figure 4: Top 10 ACSCs Admission Rate Ratios for Grampians Region (Victoria = 1), 2000–01¹



Loddon-Mallee Region

- The Loddon-Mallee Region has approximately 80 per cent more hospital admissions for dental conditions than the state average.¹

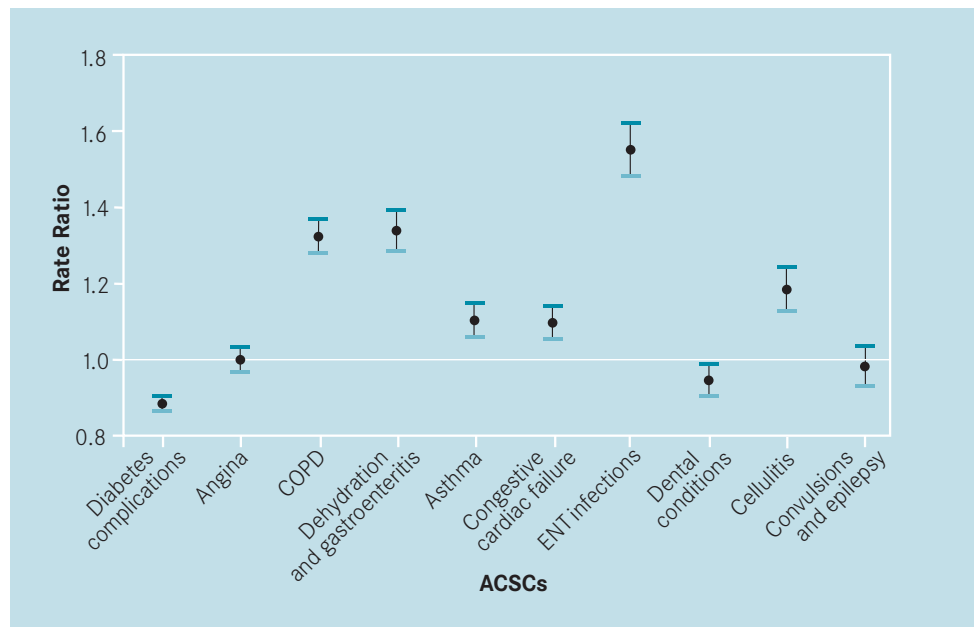
Figure 5: Top 10 ACSCs Admission Rate Ratios for Loddon-Mallee Region (Victoria = 1), 2000-01¹



Hume Region

- The Hume Region has less hospital admissions for dental conditions than the state average.¹

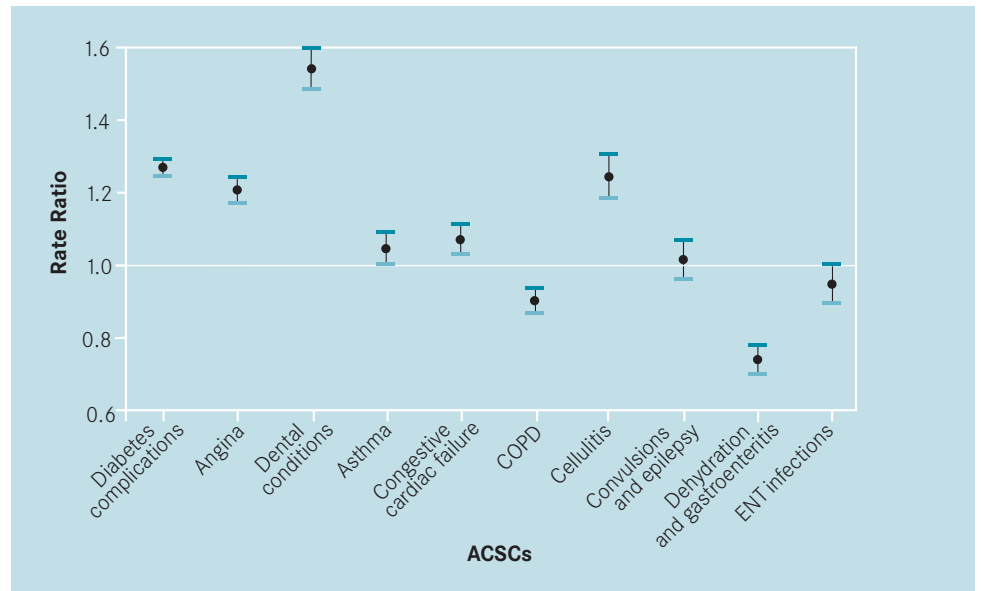
Figure 6: Top 10 ACSCs Admission Rate Ratios for Hume Region (Victoria = 1), 2000-01¹



Gippsland Region

- The Gippsland Region has over 50 per cent more hospital admissions for dental conditions than the state average.¹

Figure 7: Top 10 ACSCs Admission Rate Ratios for Gippsland Region (Victoria = 1), 2000–01¹



References

- Department of Human Services Victoria, *The Victorian Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions Study: Opportunities for Targeting Public Health and Health Services Interventions*. Dec 2002, Department of Human Services Victoria: Melbourne.
- Department of Human Services Victoria, *The Victorian Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions Study: Preliminary Analyses*. May 2001, Department of Human Services Victoria: Melbourne.
- Data provided by Health Surveillance and Evaluation Section, Department of Human Services Victoria June 2004, from the *Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset 2000–01*.