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Equity, Poverty and Access to GP services in Australia

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Table 1: Equitable GP access? Mean GP visits per capita per fortnight, Australia, 2001

Equity group	Mean GP visits
Remoteness	
Major city	0.24
Inner regional	0.22
Other regional	0.18
Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage	
First quintile (lowest)	0.31
Second and third quintiles	0.24
Fourth and fifth quintiles	0.20
Tercile of family income	
First tercile (lowest)	0.36
Second tercile	0.21
Third tercile	0.16
Health	
Excellent-very good	0.15
Good	0.24
Fair-Poor	0.45
Age	
15-19	0.12
20-44	0.17
45-64	0.25
65 and over	0.44
Sex	
Male	0.20
Female	0.26



Table 2. Distributional equity: Mean GP visits per capita per fortnight, Australia, 2001

Equity group	Health status			Age			
	Excellent-very good	Good	Fair-Poor	15-19	20-44	45-64	65 & over
Remoteness							
Major city	0.16	0.25	0.48	0.14	0.18	0.28	0.46
Inner regional	0.14	0.22	0.45	0.08	0.17	0.22	0.43
Other regional	0.13	0.17	0.35	0.07	0.14	0.19	0.36

Table 2b. Distributional equity: Mean GP visits per capita per fortnight, Australia, 2001

Equity group	Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage			Tercile of family income		
	1st quintile	2nd & 3rd quintiles	4th & 5th quintiles	1st tercile	2nd tercile	3rd tercile
Remoteness						
Major city	0.33	0.25	0.21	0.38	0.22	0.17
Inner regional	0.29	0.22	0.19	0.33	0.19	0.15
Other regional	0.24	0.18	0.13	0.30	0.15	0.11



Table 5: Annual GP services if access universally the same as in major Australian cities, 2001

Simulation variables	Base	Simulation	Difference		Base	Simulation	Difference	
	No.	No.	No.	%	Mean	Mean	No.	%
Remoteness								
Major city	80,052,908	80,052,908	0	-	7.9	7.9	0	-
Inner regional	21,619,286	25,687,039	4,067,753	16	7.1	8.4	1.3	16
Other regional	10,201,620	14,726,648	4,525,028	31	5.9	8.5	2.6	31
Total	111,873,814	120,466,596	8,592,782	7	7.5	8.1	0.6	7
Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage								
First quintile (lowest)	25,489,100	28,045,279	2,556,179	9	9.8	10.8	1.0	9
Second and third quintiles	43,638,218	47,434,693	3,796,475	8	7.6	8.2	0.7	8
Fourth and fifth quintiles	42,746,496	44,986,624	2,240,128	5	6.5	6.8	0.3	5
Total	111,873,814	120,466,596	8,592,782	7	7.5	8.1	0.6	7
Tercile of family income								
First tercile (lowest)	41,727,322	44,808,839	3,081,517	7	11.0	11.8	0.8	7
Second tercile	46,884,006	50,861,513	3,977,507	8	6.8	7.4	0.6	8
Third tercile	23,262,486	24,796,243	1,533,757	6	5.4	5.8	0.4	6
Total	111,873,814	120,466,596	8,592,782	7	7.5	8.1	0.6	7
Health status								
Excellent-very good	38,835,888	41,493,998	2,658,110	6	5.0	5.4	0.3	6
Good	34,658,494	37,993,369	3,334,875	9	7.7	8.4	0.7	9
Fair-Poor	38,379,432	40,979,229	2,599,797	6	14.2	15.2	1.0	6
Total	111,873,814	120,466,596	8,592,782	7	7.5	8.1	0.6	7
Age								
15-19	6,729,944	7,853,730	1,123,786	14	5.1	6.0	0.9	14
20-44	41,969,512	44,309,949	2,340,437	5	6.0	6.3	0.3	5
45-64	36,049,624	39,861,185	3,811,561	10	8.2	9.0	0.9	10
65 and over	27,124,734	28,441,732	1,316,998	5	12.0	12.6	0.6	5
Total	111,873,814	120,466,595	8,592,781	7	7.5	8.1	0.6	7



Table 9: Cross section modelling for 2001 SLAs (N=816)

	GP Services per capita (Mean 5.1)	Bulk billing rate (Mean 76.23%)
Variable	Coefficient	Coefficient
<i>Crude mortality rate</i>	0.038 ***	0.04
Percent of population female	0.082	-2.049 ***
Percent of population with post school qualifications	0.013	0.364 **
Percent of population Indigenous Australians	-0.06 ***	-0.008
Percent of workforce unemployed	0.368 **	1.498
Percent of GPs vocationally registered	-0.009 *	-0.178 ***
Percent of GPs who are female	-0.017 ***	-0.177 **
Percent of GPs aged 60 or over	-0.002	0.273 ***
Number of concession cards per 100 population	-0.042 **	-0.114
Mean personal income (\$1996)	-0.007 **	-0.12 ***
Inner Regional Areas	-1.703 ***	-27.647 ***
Outer Regional Areas	-1.624 ***	-28.19 ***
Rural Areas	-1.4 ***	-23.306 ***
Constant	4.242	270.114 ***



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