

A profile of the demographic characteristics of the sample interviewed in Brookdale

This brief report provides a comparison of the Brookdale sample with the 2001 Census information. All comparisons with Census data are taken from the ABS website^{1,2}.

Brookdale is situated within the city of Armadale and has approximately 23,662 residents¹. The city of Armadale has a total population of 49,893. Like WA as a whole, Armadale has marginally more females (50.5%) than males (49.5%).

Table 2 indicates that there were more people sampled from the older age groups in Brookdale compared with Armadale.

Table 1 The percentage age distribution of Brookdale sample compared with the census for Armadale and the State

Age group	Sample	Armadale	State
0-14	20.1	24.1	15.4
15-24	16.8	14.9	15.1
25-44	24.5	27.7	23.2
45-64	26.5	23.9	28.5
65+	12.1	9.4	17.8

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Almost three quarters of the people sampled were Australian born (72.7%), which is higher than the census estimate for Armadale (65%).

MARITAL STATUS

Just under half of the adults surveyed were married (45%), 13.8% were either separated or divorced and 7.2% were widowed. One quarter had never been married. Table 3 shows the proportion of adults in each category.

Table 2 Marital status of the Brookdale sample

Marital status	Number	Per cent
Married	373	45.0
Living with a partner/de facto	72	8.7
Widowed	60	7.2
Divorced	75	9.1
Separated	39	4.7
Never married	209	25.2
Total	828	100

¹ Estimated from the CD data available from the 2001 ABS census.

In comparison to the Armadale census estimate, there were fewer people from Brookdale that were either married (45.0% compared to 51.7%) or never married (25.2% compared to 30.9%) but there were more widowed people in the sample from Brookdale (7.2% compared to 4.8%).

INCOME AND SPENDING POWER

Half of the people surveyed in Brookdale reported that their annual household income was \$40,000 or less. Another third stated that their income was between \$40,000 and \$80,000 and 6.5% had a household income of \$80,000 or more (Table 4).

Table 3 The annual household income of the Brookdale sample

Household income	Number	Per cent
Less than \$20,000	226	21.4
\$20,000 to \$40,000	314	29.7
\$40,000 to \$60,000	209	19.8
\$60,000 to \$80,000	104	9.8
\$80,000 to \$100,000	41	3.9
Over \$100,000	27	2.6
Refused	135	12.8
Total	1056	100

Thirteen per cent of Brookdale people refused to answer the income question. The refusal rate was lower in Brookdale than for the State (12.8% compared with 16%).

The 2001 census data indicated that 54% of Armadale residents had an annual income of less than \$40,000 and 22% earned between \$40,000 and \$80,000. These figures are comparable to those found in the sample.

Table 5 shows the responses to a questions asking for estimates of how people use their money. It is a measure of perceived spending power and financial security.

Table 4 Spending power of the Brookdale sample

Spending power	Number	Per cent
I am/we are spending more money than we get	68	6.4
I/we have just enough money to get us through to the next pay	295	27.9
There is some money left over each week but I/we just spend it	115	10.9
I/we can save a bit every now and then	444	42.0
I/we can save a lot	105	9.9
Did not answer the question	29	2.7
Total	1056	100

Over one quarter of the people in Brookdale reported that they had only just enough money to get them through to their next pay period (28%). The largest proportion of people said that they could save a little occasionally (42%).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Nearly two thirds of people in Brookdale, aged 16 to 65 years, were employed at the time of their interview. Four per cent described themselves as unemployed and 80% of these unemployed people indicated that they were currently looking for work.

Table 6 shows the main occupation of the adults in the survey.

Table 5 Current employment status of the Brookdale adults surveyed

Current employment Status	Number	Per cent
Employed for wages	435	61.8
Unemployed	27	3.8
Engaged in home duties	106	15.1
Retired/unable to work	77	10.9
A student	50	7.1
Other	9	1.3
Total	704	100

A higher proportion of people in Brookdale reported being employed (62%) compared with Armadale (58%) and a lower proportion reported being unemployed (4% compared with 6%).

EDUCATION

The survey data indicated that 59.3% of adults had completed either Year 10 or Year 12. A relatively large proportion of people reported that they had completed a TAFE or Trade certificate or Diploma (22.3%) and 9.1% of people had tertiary qualifications (Table 7).

Table 6 Education level of the Brookdale adults surveyed

Level of education attained	Number	Per cent
Some Primary School	44	6.2
Completed Year 10	261	37.1
Completed Year 12	156	22.2
TAFE or Trade Certificate/ Diploma	157	22.3
Tertiary	64	9.1
Other	21	3.0
Total	703	100

While the figure was comparable for people in Armadale who reported a TAFE or Trade Certificate (22.3% compared with 24%), more survey respondents had a Tertiary degree compared with Armadale residents (9.1% compared with 6.4%).

The survey did not collect information on occupation or industry of employment, however the Armadale census data provide estimates on employment. The largest proportion of Armadale residents work as intermediate clerical, sales or service workers (17.8%) and tradespersons (16.5%). Professional (11.2%) and associate professionals (10.7%) were the next most common occupations, followed by labourers (10%).

The Manufacturing industry had the highest per cent of people employed (19%), followed by Retail (17.2%), Health and Community services (10.3%), Property and Business (9.2%) and Construction (9.1%).

SUMMARY OF BROOKDALE SAMPLE COMPARISON WITH CENSUS DATA

The sample of people who consented to be interviewed in Brookdale is very similar in most respects to the population of the city of Armadale of which it is part. There are no major differences between the demographic profile of the city of Armadale as determined from the census and the sample drawn from that population.

What this means is that the sample from the survey, on which estimates of Brookdale's health and wellbeing are made, reflects closely the actual population profile of the area in major demographic areas.

References

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics. A Snapshot of Armadale. [Online] [access 2003 August]. Available from URL <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@census>
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics. A Snapshot of Western Australia Online] [access 2003 August]. Available from URL <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@census.nsf>