

# Volume 1: Our District

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# Section 1: Our Community

A snapshot

# Our Community

The District can expect bigger challenges over the coming decade and beyond as our **population grows and ages**. In 2011, there were approximately 840,000 residents in SESLHD. From 2011 to 2021 SESLHD's population will grow by 5.8%. The fastest growing age group will be the 70-74 years age group (36% growth). Older people often have multiple chronic conditions and require more complex care.

Equity is an undisputed principle of our health system – **equity of access and equity of health outcomes**. However access to health care and good health are not equal among our District's population. **Large gaps remain.**

Although SESLHD overall has a relatively advantaged population, there are **pockets of distinct disadvantage** within our borders. Botany Bay, Inner Sydney and Rockdale experience higher levels of disadvantage than the NSW and SESLHD averages. For residents of these areas, disadvantage translates to poorer overall health, more disease and earlier death.

Our District

# Catchment population is growing and ageing

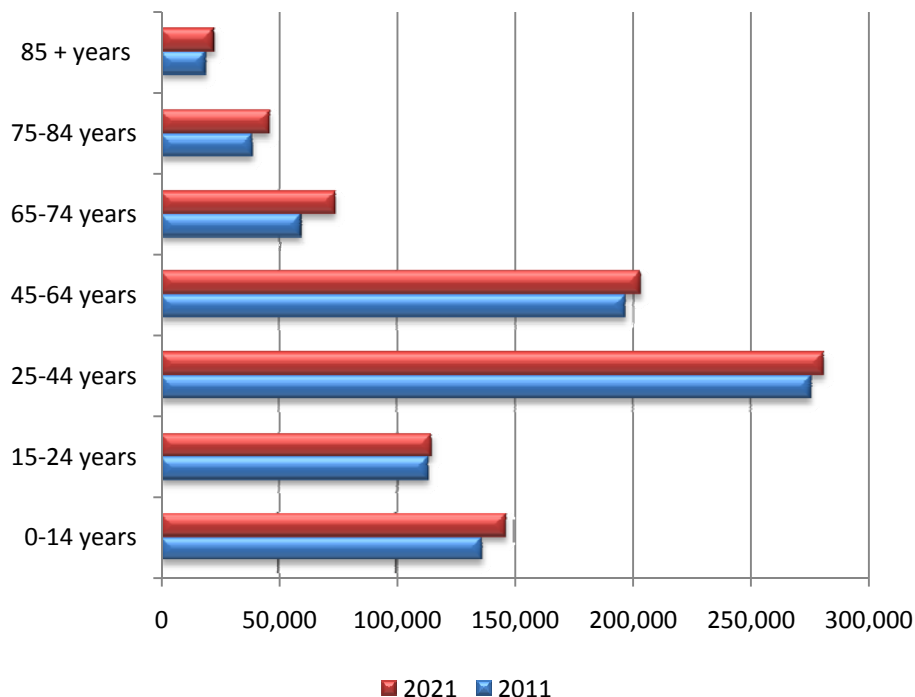
In 2011, approximately 840,000 people lived within the SESLHD boundaries. About 45% live in Northern Sector catchment (378,680) and 55% in the Southern Sector (459,736).

Between 2011 and 2021, the SESLHD population is projected to increase by 5.8% (48,873 people). This represents a lower growth rate than the NSW average (+11%).

The Northern Sector will account for 53% (about 25,700), and Southern Sector 47% (23,200), of the expected increase in SESLHD population.

The fastest growing age groups will be the 70-74 years age group (+36%), followed by 75-79 years olds (+30%), and people aged 85 years and over (+18%).

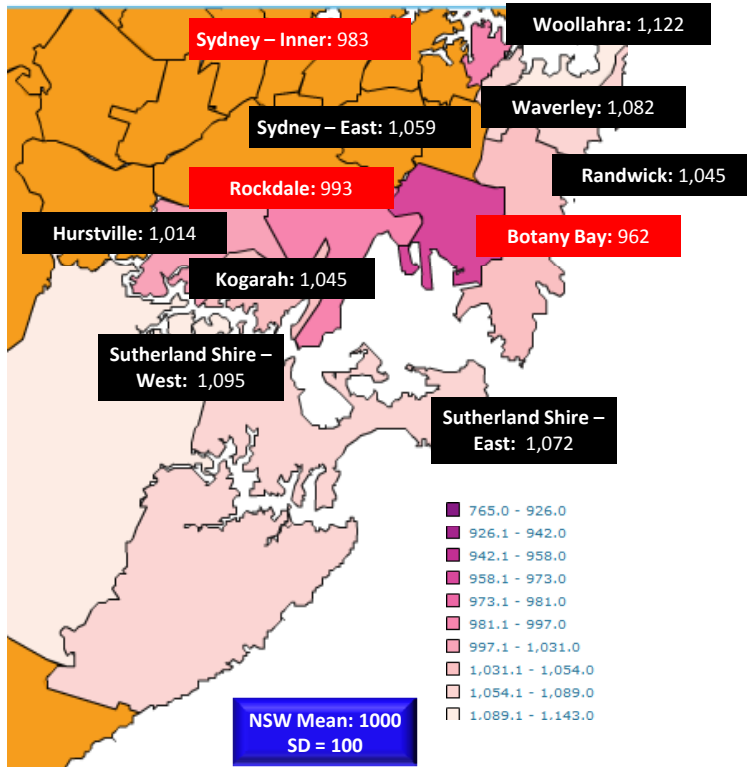
Current and Projected Residents, by age group, 2011 and 2021



Data source: NSW Ministry of Health 's population projections

Our community

# Pockets of socio-economic disadvantage



Map: SEIFA index of relative socio-economic disadvantage score for Statistical Local Areas, 2006

The Statistical Local Areas of **Botany Bay**, **Sydney-Inner** and **Rockdale** are more socio-economically disadvantaged than the NSW average, based on the composite **Socio Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA)**.

Overall, residents of SESLHD are relatively advantaged compared with the rest of NSW.

However, this overall relative advantage can mask several pockets of need within the SESLHD population. Even at the larger Local Government and Statistical Local Area levels, large variations are apparent.

People who are relatively socioeconomically disadvantaged tend to have poorer health – they have more diseases over their lifetimes and die earlier.

They visit doctors, Emergency Departments and hospital outpatients more, but use preventative services less (e.g. immunisation, screening, dental checks).

Data source: ABS Census 2006, map adapted from *A Social Atlas of Australia* (2010) online.