

Geographic areas and socioeconomic disadvantage

August 2013

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This Factsheet summarises information related to the distribution of socioeconomic disadvantage among residents of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.

Socio Economic Index For Areas (SEIFA)

SEIFA has been developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The indexes are based on information from the five-yearly Census.

For the purposes of SEIFA, the ABS broadly defines relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage in terms of *people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society.*

SEIFA 2011 consists of four indexes:

- Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD)
- Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD)
- Index of Education and Occupation (IEO)
- Index of Economic Resources (IER)

Each index is a summary of a different subset of Census variables and focuses on a different aspect of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage.

Some common uses of SEIFA include:

- determining areas that require funding and services
- research into the relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and various health outcomes

The choice of index depends on the analysis to be undertaken. IRSD is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. Unlike the other indexes, this index includes only measures of relative disadvantage.

The IRSD is the index most commonly used in the context of looking at variation in health and health care need, and has been used in this Factsheet.

SEIFA - IRSD

The scores are a weighted combination of selected indicators of disadvantage (see Table 1) which have been standardised to a distribution with a mean of 1000 and standard deviation of 100. An area with all of its indicators equal to the national average will receive a score of 1000.

A **low** score – less than 1,000 - indicates relatively greater disadvantage in general, e.g.:

- many households with low income
- many people with no qualifications, or many people in low skill occupations.

A **high** score – more than 1,000 - indicates a relative lack of disadvantage in general, e.g.:

- few households with low incomes, few people with no qualifications, and few people in low skilled occupations.

SEIFA index scores are on an arbitrary numerical scale, so do not represent some quantity of advantage or disadvantage. For example, we cannot infer that an area with an index value of 500 is twice as disadvantaged as an area with an index value of 1,000.

Table 1: Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage – Census variables included

% of people:

- Who do not **speak English well**
- With stated household equivalised **income** between \$1 and \$20,799 per year
- In the labour force who are **unemployed**
- Who are employed and classified as: **low skill Community and Personal Service workers; Machinery Operators and Drivers; Labourers**
- Aged < 70yrs who have a **long-term health condition or disability and need assistance** with core activities
- Aged 15 years and over: who have **no educational attainment**; whose highest level of education is **<=Year 11**
- Aged 15 years and over who are **separated or divorced**

% of occupied private dwellings:

- Paying **rent** less than \$166 per week (excl \$0 per week)
- Requiring one or more extra **bedrooms**
- With no: **cars; internet connection**

*% of **one parent families** with dependent offspring only*

*% of families with children under 15 years of age who live with **jobless parents***

Source: 2033.0.55.001 - Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2011

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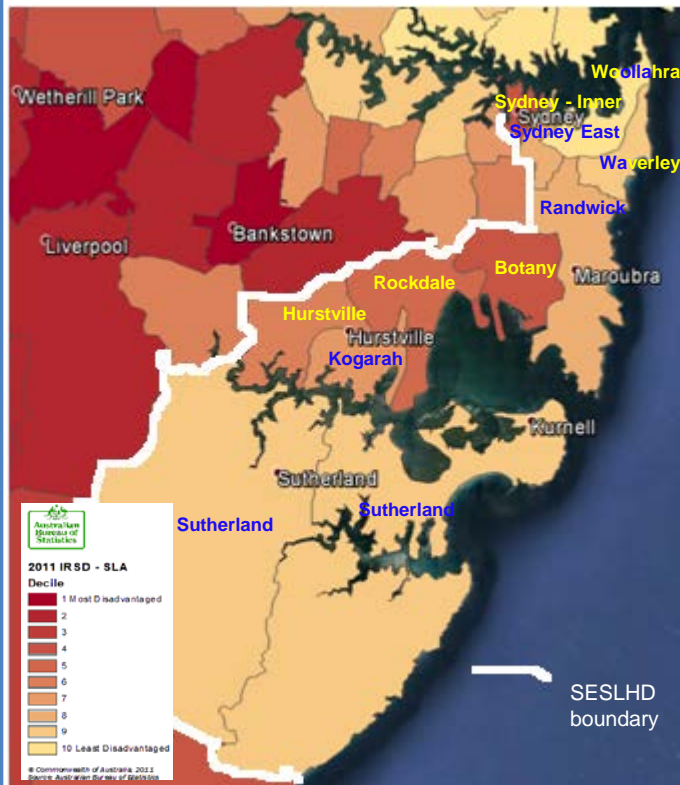
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Map 1: SEIFA 2011 – Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage, by Statistical Local Area within SESLHD



Disadvantage by Statistical Local Area

The SESLHD resident population, on average, is less disadvantaged than the NSW population.

However, in terms of individual SLAs, exceptions are, in order of level of socioeconomic disadvantage: **Sydney Inner, Botany Bay and Rockdale SLAs** (Map 1, Table 2).

Table 2: SEIFA 2011 – Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage, by Statistical Local Area within SESLHD

SLA	SEIFA score
Sydney Inner	973
Sydney East	1045
Woollahra	1107
Waverley	1080
Randwick	1043
Botany Bay	976
Rockdale	991
Kogarah	1036
Hurstville	1007
Sutherland East	1065
Sutherland West	1084

Source: ABS 2033.0.55.001 - Census of Population and Housing: SEIFA, Australia, 2011, accessed 8 August 2013 @ <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2033.0.55.0012011?OpenDocument> via Google Earth

District boundaries

The South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) geographic boundary coincides with Statistical Local Area (SLA) boundaries at the time of establishment of NSW LHDs:

- Sydney East and Sydney Inner SLAs (part of Sydney Local Government Area)
- Woollahra SLA
- Waverley SLA
- Randwick SLA
- Botany SLA
- Rockdale SLA
- Kogarah SLA
- Hurstville SLA
- Sutherland Shire East and West SLAs

The SLA boundaries are shown in Maps 1, 2, 3b and 4b. According to S19 of the Health Services Act, geographic boundaries of Local Health Districts are unaffected by changes to boundaries of Local Government Areas which occurred after the establishment of Local Health Districts.

Suburb boundaries do not coincide with SLA boundaries. For example, a few suburbs span both the SESLHD and South Western Sydney LHD, e.g. Riverwood and Narwee.

The SESLHD boundary can be explored in detail via:

<http://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?msid=208124585354744870432.0004c17822f4938b3819e&msa=0>

Map 2: Statistical Local Area boundaries within the SESLHD



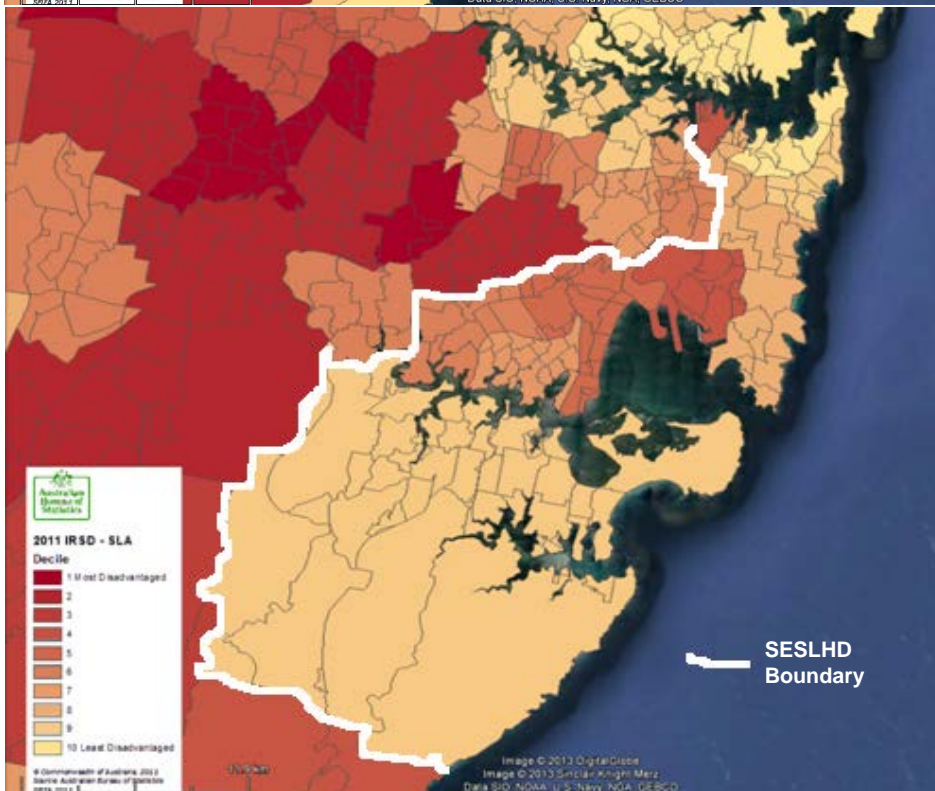
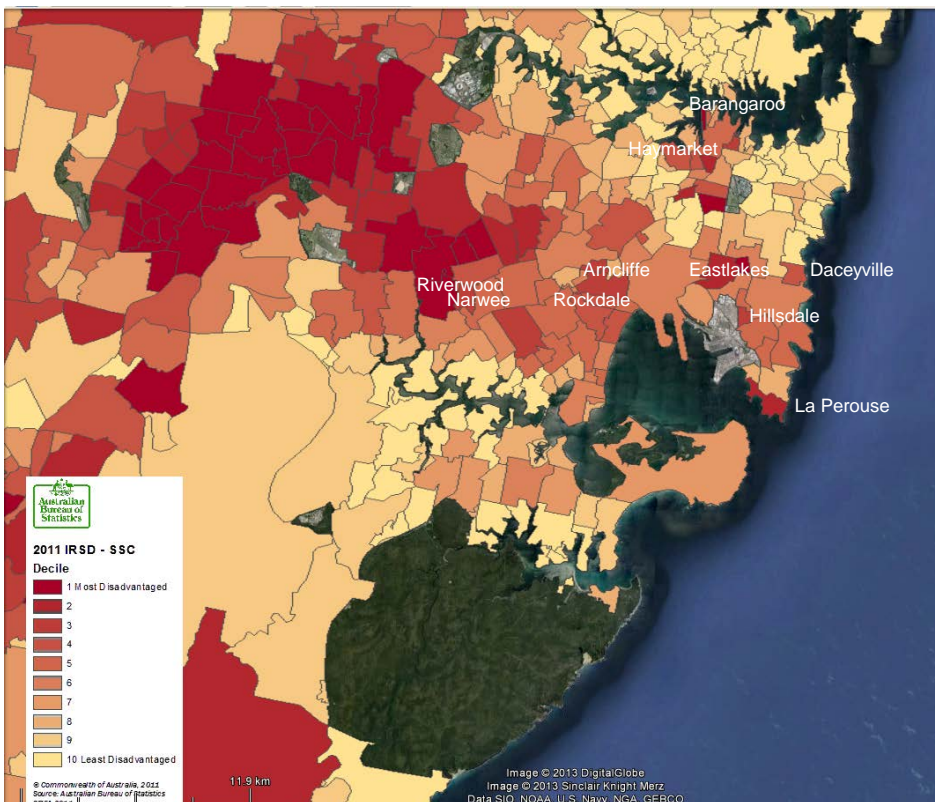
Source:

http://betaworks.abs.gov.au/betaworks/betaworks.nsf/projects/ASGS_BoundariesOnline/frame.htm

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Map 3 a & b: SEIFA 2011 – Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage within SESLHD:
 Top: SEIFA by State Suburb. Bottom: SEIFA by SLA (showing SLA & Suburb boundaries)



Disadvantage by Suburb

SESLHD residents are, on average, less disadvantaged than the average NSW and Australian residents.

Similarly, residents in all but three of the SLAs within the SESLHD geographic area, are, on average, less disadvantaged than the average NSW and Australian residents.

However, when socioeconomic disadvantage is considered at the suburb level – i.e. smaller geographic area than SLA – even greater variation in socioeconomic disadvantage is evident within SESLHD, as shown in Map 3.

Of the 200 State Suburbs wholly or partially within the SESLHD geographic area, 17 Suburbs are, on average, more socioeconomically disadvantaged than the average (ie. SEIFA < 1000). Of the 10 most socioeconomically disadvantaged Suburbs, four are in SLAs which are, on average, less socioeconomically disadvantaged than the NSW average (see Table 3).

Table 3: SEIFA 2011 - Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage for 10 most disadvantaged SESLHD Suburbs

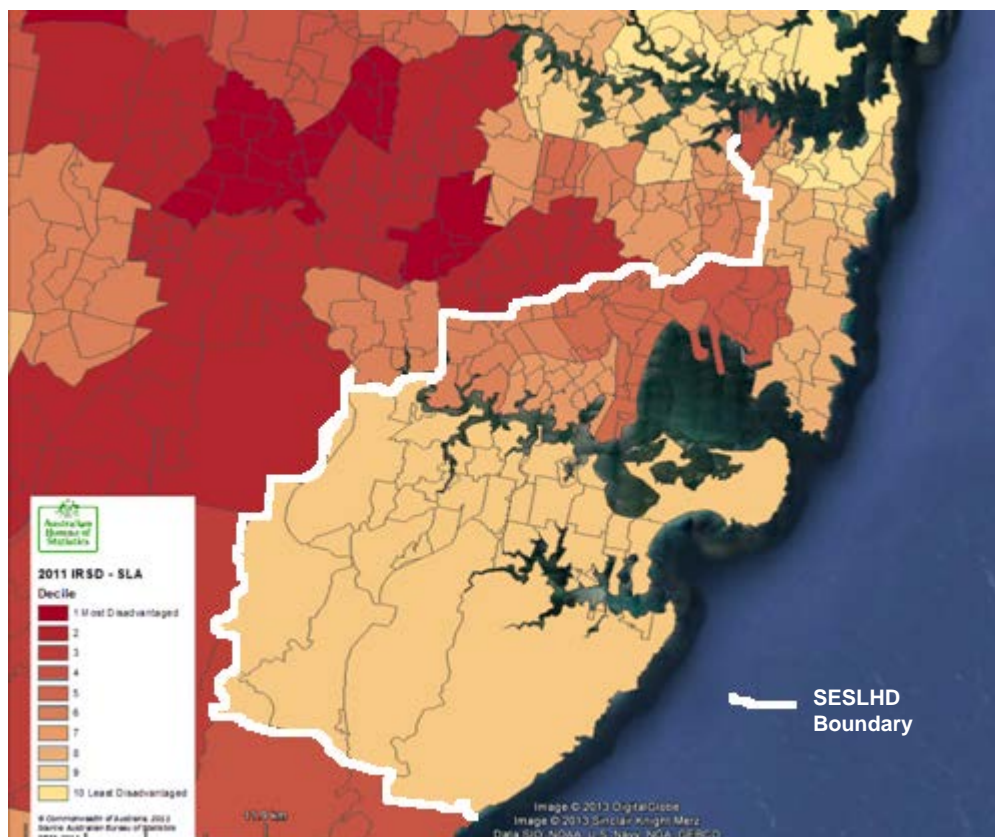
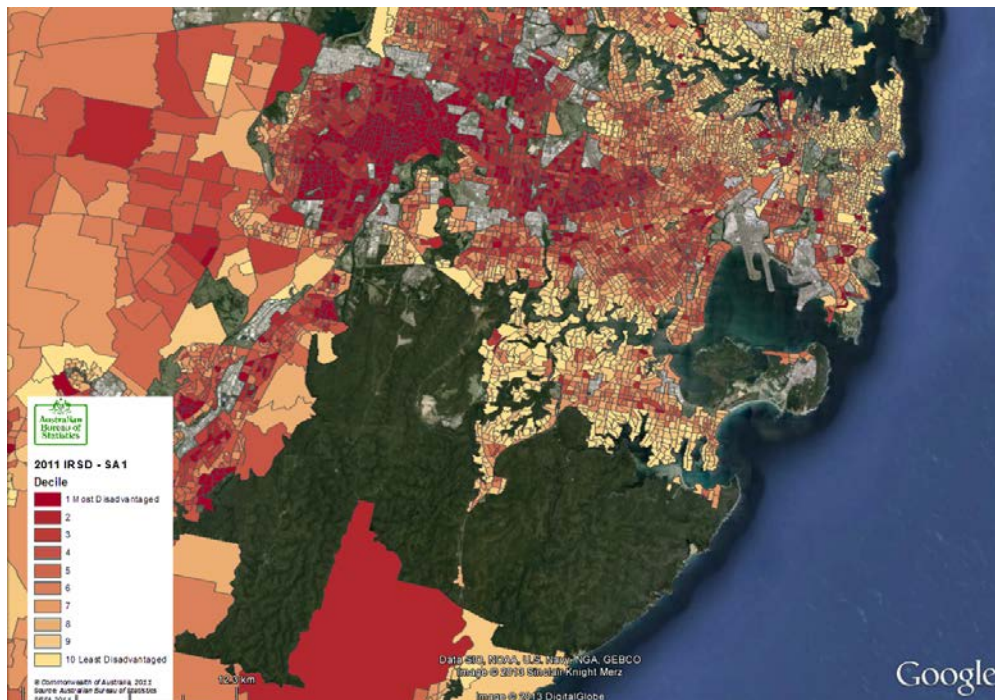
	2011 State Suburb	Resident Population	SEIFA - IRSD score
1	Barangaroo	109	688
2	Daceyville	1165	762
3	Riverwood	10217	888
4	Eastlakes	6922	907
5	La Perouse	415	918
6	Hillsdale	4970	942
7	Haymarket	5391	964
8	Narwee	4947	964
9	Arndcliffe	8419	966
10	Rockdale	14023	986

Source: ABS 2033.0.55.001 - Census of Population and Housing: SEIFA, Australia, 2011, accessed 8 August 2013
 @<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2033.0.55.0012011?OpenDocument>
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Map 4 a & b: SEIFA 2011 – Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage within SESLHD:
 Top: SEIFA by Statistical Area Level 1. Bottom: SEIFA by SLA (showing SLA & Suburb boundaries)



Disadvantage at smaller area level

When socioeconomic disadvantage is considered below the Suburb level within SESLHD, even greater variation in socioeconomic disadvantage is evident, as shown in Map 4.

Most small areas of relative socioeconomic disadvantage are within SLAs and/or Suburbs which are, on average, relatively disadvantaged. However, many pockets of disadvantage are not, i.e. they lie within SLAs and/or Suburbs which are, overall, not disadvantaged relative to the average for NSW.

Some definitions

Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)

- 2nd smallest geographic area defined in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), the smallest being the Mesh Block.
- Smallest unit for the processing and release of Census data.
- Designed to remain relatively constant over several Censuses.
- Approximately 54,000 throughout Australia. Average population 400, with optimal range 200 – 800

State Suburbs

- Part of the ASGS
- Non-ABS structures, i.e. Contain regions that the ABS does not define or maintain
- State Suburbs have a code and a name that is based on the most recent gazetted locality boundaries current at the time of a Census.

Source: ABS 2033.0.55.001 - Census of Population and Housing: SEIFA, Australia, 2011, accessed 8 August 2013
 @http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2033.0.55.0012011?OpenDocument_via_Google_Earth