

SAND abstract No.95 from the BEACH program 2006–07

Subject: Cultural background of patients attending general practice

Organisations supporting this study: Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre (AGPSCC)

Issues: The proportion of people attending general practice who were born in and/or have parents born in countries outside Australia; distribution of type of cultural background; the proportion who self identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people; the proportion who speak a language other than English in the home.

Sample: 6,035 respondents from 202 GPs; data collection period: 20/07/2004–23/08/2004.

Method: Detailed in the paper entitled 'SAND Method 2006–07' on this website:
<www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND_abstracts.htm>

Summary of results

Fifty-eight per cent of respondents were female which is comparable with the total BEACH sample. There were a greater proportion of patients aged 65 years and over in this SAND sample (31.7%) compared with the total BEACH sample (26.8%).

Nearly a quarter of respondents (25.4%) were themselves born overseas. Patients born overseas were most often born in England (n=333, 5.5%), Italy (n=131, 2.2%) and New Zealand (n=79, 1.3%). More than one-third (36.1%) of patients had their mother born overseas and 38.2% had their father born overseas. At least one parent was born overseas for two out of five respondents (41.5%).

Ninety-five (1.6%, 95% CI: 0.7–2.5) respondents identified as being of either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Seventeen per cent (17.1%, 95% CI: 14.1–20.0) of respondents reported speaking a language other than English at home. Southern European languages (for example, Italian, Greek, French, Spanish) were the most common, spoken by 5.7% of respondents, followed by Eastern Asian Languages (for example, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese) with 2.6%, Southwest Asian and North African Languages (for example Arabic, Farsi) (2.1%) and Eastern European Languages (e.g. Russian, Czech, Croatian, Armenian) (2.0%).

Correspondence to: Helena Britt, AGPSCC

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about **PATIENT CULTURAL BACKGROUND**.
 You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please ensure that you ask the patient all questions exactly as they are worded on the form. It is important that the responses are based on the patients' answers rather than assumptions or impressions.

ASK THE PATIENT

Please ask the patient **where they were born**. If their country of birth is **not** on the list provided, please tick the box labeled **'other'** and **write in the country of birth**.

Ask the patient about where their **parents were born**. If the patient was **adopted** they should answer for their **natural parents if known**. If **not known**, leave this question blank.

Please ask the patient **"are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?"**

For persons of **both** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, **mark both 'Yes' boxes**.

Please ask the patient if they speak **a language other than English at home**. If more than one language (other than English) is spoken in the home, write the **one that is spoken most often**.

Include **Indigenous languages** in **'other'**. Include **sign languages** in **'other'** if these apply in the home.

For **babies and young children**, or **people who cannot speak**, write **"Not able to speak"** in the space provided.

<p>In which country were you born? <i>(tick <u>one</u> box only)</i></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Australia <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand <input type="checkbox"/> England <input type="checkbox"/> Viet Nam <input type="checkbox"/> Scotland <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Greece (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Italy _____ </p>	<p>Was your father born in Australia or overseas?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Australia <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas </p>	<p>Was your mother born in Australia or overseas?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Australia <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas </p>	<p>Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? <i>(Mark both 'Yes' boxes if both apply)</i></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander </p>	<p>Do you speak a language other than English at home? <i>(tick <u>one</u> box only)</i></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> No, English only <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Italian <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Greek <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, other <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Cantonese (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Mandarin _____ </p>
--	---	---	--	--