

Research Matters

News from the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Spatial Analysis and Research

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Introducing 'Dwelliographics'

'Dwelliographics' is a stream of research that *Spatial Analysis and Research* has been pursuing over the last year which looks at the relationship between changing household types and changing dwelling construction and consumption patterns. Are, for example, the new apartments in Southbank and Docklands being entirely consumed by young singles or childless couples (eg DINKs) as is commonly believed, or is there a more complex picture of dwelling consumption?

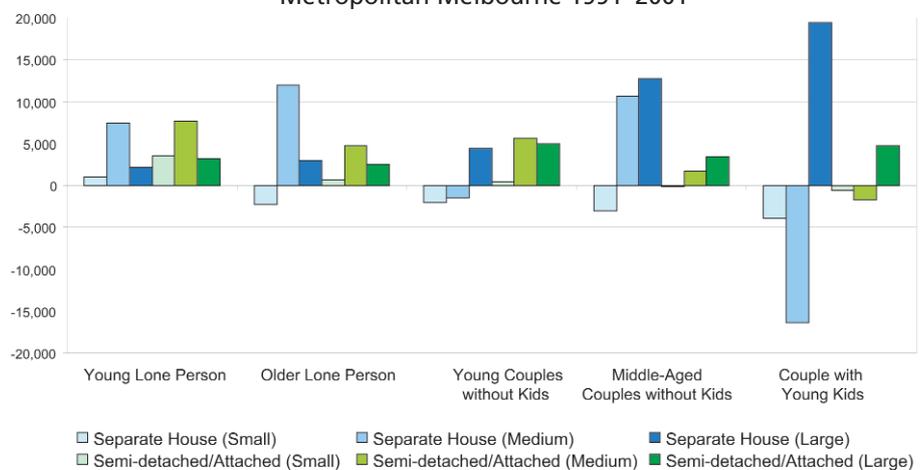
The objective has been to gain a better understanding of these trends using ABS Census information as base data. The first phase of the research was completed recently and considered change of ten key household types and six dwelling types between 1991 and 2001. This analysis looked at Melbourne-wide and local area patterns of change.

The above graph, while at first complex, shows a number of key highlights from this analysis:

- Smaller households are consuming larger dwellings;
- Medium and higher density dwellings have a diverse consumer profile;
- Significant declines of couples with kids in medium (3 bedroom) sized separate houses, compensated by substantial uptake of large (4 bedroom) dwellings – reinforces the findings of increasing dwelling sizes.

Online Dwelliographic resources will soon be available from the Spatial Analysis and Research group's website which will include a metropolitan overview report and a 2001 Dwelliographic Profile for each of the 31 metropolitan municipalities. In addition, upcoming *Research Matters* will illuminate certain key Dwelliographics findings in more depth.

Net Change in Key Household Groups by Dwelling Stock Type, Metropolitan Melbourne 1991–2001



Source: ABS Census 1991 and 2001

New Contact Details!

In the September edition of *Research Matters* we chronicled our change of name to Spatial Analysis and Research, this quarter we have gone full circle and changed the rest of our contact details, including our phone and fax numbers, with our move to Nicholson Street. If you are having trouble contacting a particular staff member please try our general contact number or email and we will pass on their new details.

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Australia-New Zealand Population Workshop

The Demographic Research Unit of Spatial Analysis and Research recently hosted the 28th annual Australia New Zealand Population Workshop. This three day workshop provided representatives from New Zealand, the Commonwealth and all eight Australian State and Territory agencies with a forum to discuss the latest demographic developments and issues. The workshop was followed by a one-day technical session hosted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) that included representatives from the eight State and Territory and Commonwealth Treasury Departments.

Hot topics on the workshop agenda included the challenge of communicating our work, particularly in relation to the raft of recent population-related policy initiatives around the nation. The need for qualitative data was highlighted by the strong support for a National Internal Migration Survey which aims to understand the motivations for people changing residence (see below). Other items were more technical in nature, from a discussion on population projections methodology to the use of Medicare data in estimating internal migration. The latest fertility trends were also of interest; was the recent increase in births historically significant and would this trend continue?

The workshop included a number of new initiatives with an open session held in conjunction with the Victorian branch of the Australian Population Association and a site visit of Footscray, the Edgewater Estate on the Maribyrnong River and the Docklands with addresses from the Maribyrnong Council, Delfin/Lendlease and the Melbourne Docklands Authority.



Demographers on tour at Edgewater Estate on the Maribyrnong River.



Demographic Researcher Dee Johnson speaks about the latest fertility trends

A National Survey of Migration within Australia

While Australia is generally blessed with a good range and quality of demographic statistics, there have been gaps in tracking movements of people within Australia and importantly, why they move. There is increasing interest in population issues: fast population growth in cities and along coasts creates infrastructure and environmental pressures; while population losses or the difficulties in attracting skills to some regions undermine their development potential.

At the recent ANZ Population Workshop, Professor Graeme Hugo and Dr Errol Bamford from the University of Adelaide presented initial findings of a survey co-funded by DSE and the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services. The pilot research uses Australia Post's change of address database and allows not only for moves to be tracked but also for a qualitative survey to be conducted.

The change of address database has proven to be a reliable tool for estimating movements of people and households. It should therefore be possible to monitor movements of people to and from different areas of interest such as coasts, metropolitan growth areas, regional centres and so on.

The qualitative survey of 32,000 households around Australia yielded mixed results. Response rates for people, who had requested being surveyed via email were unacceptably low. However, the response rate from the normal postal survey methods was acceptable. The analysis of motives is, at this stage, very preliminary but shows the potential to yield rich results. There are clearly different reasons for moves at different scales. The survey was stratified on five types of move – interstate, capital city to country, country to capital city, within capital city and within country.

Where to now? The University of Adelaide will present its report to DoTaRS and the DSE in December. Discussions are occurring with other States and Territories, all of which have expressed interest, about how various research, institutional and financial issues can be sorted out. Updates will be provided in future issues of *Research Matters*.

Matters

Focus on Fertility – Part 2: Fact versus Fiction

In Part 2 of our focus on fertility statistics, we look at fertility trends in Victoria and Australia.

At 66, Adriana Iliescu, a Romanian university professor, is believed to be the world's oldest woman to give birth. While this takes older childbearing to the extreme, the trend to older childbearing is critical to fertility rates in Australia. The average age of mothers has been on the increase for a while; in 2004 it was 30.6 years for Australia and 31.3 years for Victoria. At what age will it stop?

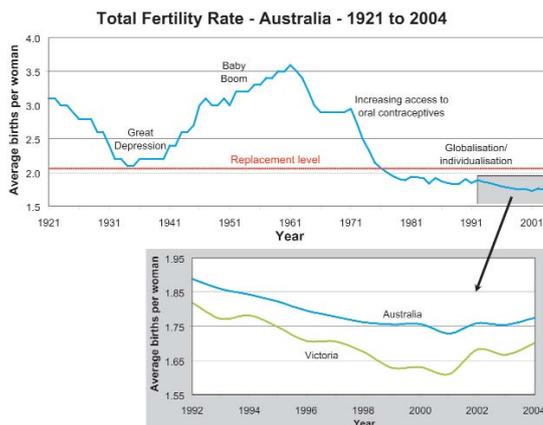
Questions such as this were raised in a recent review of fertility trends undertaken by the Demographics Team, prompted by stories in the press about a "baby boom". Conclusions included:

There has been no sustained increase in fertility.

Total fertility rates (TFRs) indicate the average number of children a woman can expect to have over her life, based on current rates of child bearing. In Victoria and Australia TFRs generally fell in the decade to 2001 and increased from 2001 to 2004, to 1.70 in Victoria and 1.77 in Australia. Is this the beginning of an upward fluctuating trend? A few more years of data will be required to determine this. Within the longer term context (1921-2004), these changes present as minor fluctuations (see graph). By world standards Victoria and Australia's total fertility rates are moderately low, similar to Sweden and the United Kingdom. Greece, Germany and Italy have very low rates under 1.5.

There have been changes in the structure of fertility with an increasing shift to older childbearing

Age-specific fertility rates in Australia and Victoria in recent years show a shift to older mothers. In 2003 the peak age group was the 30-34 year olds. In Victoria, 1998 was the year births in this cohort first outnumbered births to the 25-34 year age group. Older mothers mean fewer births (eg fertility



Source: ABS catalogue Nos. 3311.2 and 3301.0

difficulties may prevent subsequent births for older first time mothers). This trend is also evident in other countries. Germany, Italy, Sweden and UK for example all have between 16% and 20% of births to women aged 35 and over in 2003.

There have been changes made to fertility policy in Australia

The Australian Government introduced a direct fertility policy in 2004 with the Treasurer encouraging, "You should have one for the father, one for the mother and one for the country". Measures include the baby bonus, changes to the family tax benefit and 30% cash rebate on childcare expenses. Most analysts agree that work family policies are important in influencing the fertility decision. Impacts of these policies could begin to be monitored with 2005 births data, although specific research about fertility decision making at a particular time and the influence of government policy would be need to be undertaken.

Changing Faces Changing Places: Future Population Changes in Victoria

As part of Planning Week 2005, Manager of Demographics, Jeremy Reynolds, gave a free public lecture on past and projected population change in Victoria. The presentation included a screening of *Victoria: Changing Faces, Changing Places*; a DVD featuring historical footage of Melbourne at key points throughout history, such as the influx of migrants during the 50s as well as new footage of our growing outer suburbs.

A PDF version of Jeremy's presentation is available on our website by following the links to 'Demographics' and then 'Demographic Presentations' at www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional

Free copies of *Victoria: Changing Faces, Changing Places*; available in DVD or interactive CD-Rom format can be obtained by emailing spatialanalysis.research@dse.vic.gov.au



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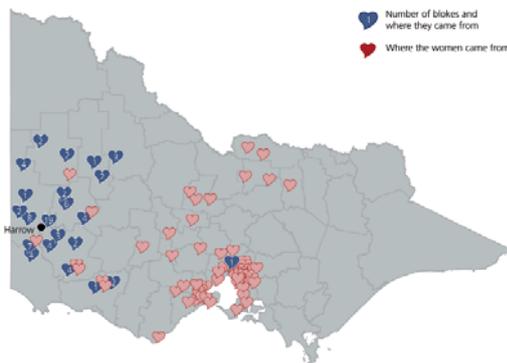
Atlas Update

Looking for a Beaut Bloke? Try the second edition of *Regional Matters, An Atlas of Regional Victoria*, due to be released early next year. The new edition contains an impressive range of information about demographic, social, environmental and economic trends.

Demographic data shows that many rural areas have an imbalance in the numbers of single men and women, with migration data revealing that more young women are moving to the cities and leaving the blokes behind. These changes in demographic and migration patterns highlight specific challenges for rural communities in attracting and retaining young females.

The *Beaut Blokes* program was established to combat this trend with a weekend of events aimed at attracting single women to rural areas to meet the local bachelors. The Beaut Blokes

'Beaut Blokes' attendance in 2003



Note: The program also hosted attendees from New South Wales and South Australia

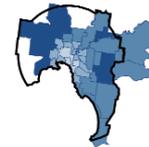
Sources: Newton, 2005;
www.beautblokes.com.au

map from the new *Regional Atlas* shows the areas where women, pink hearts are coming from to meet the men, blue hearts.

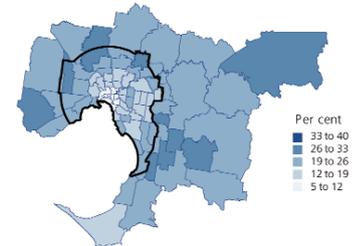
The first edition of the *Melbourne Atlas* is being compiled alongside the new edition of the *Regional Atlas*. The *Melbourne Atlas* highlights Melbourne's growth in population and size over the past fifty years through a continuing process of young families moving outwards. In 1951, Melbourne's children lived in the outer suburbs – and they still do – but much further from the centre of town, as you see in the maps from the Atlas.

Additional analysis on Melbourne's growth and the challenges it provides for the city will be found in the *Melbourne Atlas*. Like the *Regional Atlas*, it is expected to be available in early 2006.

Percentage of population aged under 15 years
Melbourne Local Government areas, 1954



Percentage of population aged under 15 years
Melbourne Statistical local areas, 2001



Source: Census 1954 and 2001

Urban and Regional Research online

The Spatial Analysis and Research web page can be accessed at www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional

Available now:

- The latest editions of *Research Matters & Local Connections*
- The 2005 *Urban Development Program Report*

Coming soon:

- The September 2005 *Residential Land Bulletin*
- The Melbourne and Regional Atlases

Know Your Area

Know Your Area (KYA) is an online database that provides information about the people of an area and how they live. KYA can be accessed via www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional

Recent data updates include:

- Residential land development data (September quarter 2005)
- Unemployment figures from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (June 2005)
- Residential property prices (revised 2004 and preliminary 2005)

If you would like to be notified when new data sets are added to *Know Your Area* join the mailing list by contacting Christina Inbakaran on tel. 9637 9570 or christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au.



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